

## **Identify 'N Impact Investment Program – 2012 Allocation Recommendations**

<b>Date:</b>	October 30, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	AFS#15773

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report recommends allocations for funding for the 2012 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program (INI). Of the 65 applications received, 15 are recommended for funding of \$143,100.00. An amount of \$28,660.00 has been held for appeals.

The Identify 'N Impact Investment program promotes healthy youth development and broader youth well-being in the City of Toronto. Funding is used to support youth to lead and deliver projects that will engage other youth, particularly African-Canadian and racialized youth and youth in neighbourhood improvement areas. By supporting youth-led groups, the INI program helps create opportunities for youth to develop their skills and get the resources they need for successful projects that improve their communities.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

**The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:**

1. City Council approve the 2012 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment Program allocations totalling \$143,100.00 to 15 groups as recommended in Appendices A and B;
2. City Council direct that an amount of \$28,660.00 be held from the Identify 'N Impact 2012 Approved Operating Budget for appeals of funding recommendations;

3. City Council grant authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to hear the appeals of funding recommendations and approve the allocation of the appeal fund prior to December 31, 2012.

### **Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The 2012 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration includes funding of \$171,760.00 for the Identify 'N Impact Investment program. This report recommends allocations for 15 organizations totalling \$143,100.00. An amount of \$28,660.00 has been set aside for appeals.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

The City of Toronto provides support to the not-for-profit sector through funding programs under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c.11).

In 2006 Council approved the Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund for youth-led projects <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/cms/cms060608/it014.pdf>

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Youth face many challenges, and youth who are racialized and / or living in poverty face even greater challenges.

The INI program provides resources for youth across the city who want to contribute to their communities and help other youth overcome the challenges they face in accessing education and employment and connecting to their communities. INI funding supports youth to build their skills by managing projects focused on leadership, arts, health, social/recreation activities, education, entrepreneurship, employment skills/job readiness, and peer mentoring. The youth engagement opportunities provided through INI funding help to connect youth with their communities and see beyond themselves as individuals. Youth are able to develop skills for becoming a productive member of society: interpersonal skills, organizing and planning, time management, budgeting, networking as well as financial and program reporting.

Since 2006, 107 youth-led projects have been funded through the INI program, serving youth across Toronto. Projects have included a wide range of activities that offer one or more of the following benefits for youth:

- Leadership, decision-making and organizing skills;
- Peer-to-peer support, training or mentoring;
- Experiential learning in relationship building and accountability;
- Civic engagement and opportunity to be a social change agent to strengthen their community; and
- Working in partnerships, alliances and coalitions with other groups.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Application Process & Applicant Support**

Applications for the 2012 INI program were available for download from the City's website or by email in July 2012, with a submission deadline of September 19, 2012. A total of five information sessions were held in libraries across the city attended by more than seventy individuals. Four of the information sessions were held in or adjacent to neighbourhood improvement areas. The fifth information session was held downtown at the Toronto Reference Library. Groups were able to consult with staff about their project idea at the information sessions or by phone, email and meetings.

In addition to information sessions, resources for potential applicants included a flyer with a checklist to guide applicants in turning their project idea into a viable project submission. Frontline youth workers and community workers in various City divisions (including Public Health and Parks, Forestry & Recreation) and Toronto Community Housing Corporation were engaged to promote the call for applications and support local youth groups.

### **Program Funding Model**

The INI program aligns with the City's Investment program model which provides funding for short-term projects through a competitive grants process. INI program guidelines are geared to the experience level of youth and the application format works to guide youth in understanding the purpose of questions and the steps in preparing for program implementation. The INI program includes staff outreach and support to applicants that is tailored to youth needs to help youth develop the skills and capacity to submit a strong grant application.

### **Assessment and Review of Applications**

A total of 65 applications were considered for assessment. All applications were reviewed for eligibility, including whether or not youth are the leaders in the project planning, management and delivery. For the purposes of the INI program, youth are defined as people 15 – 24 years of age, and a project is defined as activities with a start and end point, that do not result in the loss of service when the project is over. The guidelines are given to all applicants in the Application Form & Instructions posted on the city web site at <http://www.toronto.ca/grants/ini/fund.htm> .

The INI program operates with a youth panel to provide the City with expertise on youth priorities and engagement approaches, and to represent neighbourhood improvement areas. The panel members bring an understanding of youth issues, challenges and local opportunities to the assessment process that is currently not available within the City. The panel selection and approval process follows approved policy for an Advisory panel model.

For 2012, targeted recruitment of new panel members focused on using program relationships and peer outreach, including connections through the Toronto Youth Cabinet and Prevention Intervention Toronto (PIT) as well as previous INI grant recipients. Eleven young people were recruited to serve on the panel, including representation from Toronto Youth Cabinet and one returning panel member from last year. Panel members participated in interactive training to gain the skills and know ledge needed to review applications fairly and equitably and within the guidelines of the City's grant policies and practices.

## Allocations Recommendations

Of the 65 applications reviewed, 15 are recommended for funding and 50 are not recommended for support. The recommended allocations are included in Appendix A.

All 15 recommended allocations are to groups that have not received funding from the City before. The average recommended grant size is \$9,540.00. The recommended projects will engage more than 500 youth across the City. Detailed summaries of all applicants are provided in Appendix B.

<b><i>INI Recommended Group</i></b>	<b><i>Geographic Area Served by Recommended Project</i></b>	<b><i>Focus Community Served by Project</i></b>
<b>Ascend</b>	Jane-Finch	Under/unemployed African-Canadian youth
<b>Danzig Youth Leaders</b>	Danzig	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Encontrarte Youth Arts Collective</b>	Jane-Finch	Spanish-speaking youth
<b>Eritrean Youth Collective</b>	All Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and various other neighbourhoods	Eritrean youth
<b>Legacy ~ Dreams 2 Reality</b>	Malvern	African-Canadian male youth
<b>LetsStopAIDS</b>	Neighbourhood Improvement	Local neighbourhood youth

<b><i>INI Recommended Group</i></b>	<b><i>Geographic Area Served by Recommended Project</i></b>	<b><i>Focus Community Served by Project</i></b>
	Areas	
<b>Modern Batik Movement</b>	Steeles-L'Amoreaux, Dorset Park and adjacent neighbourhoods	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Native Visual Productions</b>	Regent Park and adjacent neighbourhoods	Aboriginal youth and young single mothers
<b>Out of the Box</b>	South and Central Scarborough	African-Canadian male youth
<b>Space for Arts and Youth (S.A.Y.) Vision Group</b>	Taylor-Massey	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Stemmatic: The Collective</b>	Kingston – Galloway and various downtown neighbourhoods	Young women of colour
<b>StepUp416</b>	Eglinton East – Kennedy Park	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Tennis Annex</b>	Jane - Finch	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Toronto Emerging ARTivists</b>	Flemingdon Park – O'Connor and St. Jamestown	Local neighbourhood youth
<b>Youth Unleashed Advisory Council</b>	Eglinton East – Kennedy Park	Local neighbourhood youth

## **Appeals**

The purpose of the appeals process is to provide applicants with an opportunity to raise issues related to the review of their submissions, to clarify information or provide new information to demonstrate the proposal's strength and relationship to the funding program criteria and goals. Projects that were not recommended include proposals that 1) appeared to deliver ongoing programs; 2) presented a good idea that needed more work; 3) did not demonstrate that they were youth led. In 2012, there were significantly more applications than could be supported through the INI funding stream.

In order to make the appeals process accessible for youth, many of whom are in school during the day, the INI appeal meeting is intended to be set up in a late afternoon time slot (4-6pm). Due to scheduling difficulties for the CPIP Appeals Subcommittee for the 2012 process, it is recommended that the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration be granted authority to hear the appeals and approve allocation of the appeal fund. The appeal meeting will be scheduled to accommodate youth applicants' school schedules, and youth panel members will be invited to attend

and provide input. This change will result in the timely hearing of appeals so that additional youth-led projects are able to start before the end of the year.

Information about all approved INI allocations will be posted on the City of Toronto web site to provide information on funded activities.

## **CONTACT**

Sue Kaiser, Manager, Community Funding  
Social Development, Finance and Administration  
Phone: 416-397-7302; E-mail: skaiser@toronto.ca

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: 2012 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program Allocation Recommendations  
Appendix B: 2012 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program – Detailed Summary Sheets