

Toronto Grants Policy: Update

Date: June 5, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: Ward(s) affected or All

SUMMARY

Council directed staff to update the Toronto Grants Policy (2013) to reflect the City's responsiveness to Indigenous Peoples and Equity, Diversity and Human Rights. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD18.5> . The Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee, comprised of staff representatives from all of City of Toronto grant programs, has updated the Policy. The Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee also added an appendix to the Policy to reflect how the grant principles of openness, transparency and accountability will be reflected in the application of the Policy to City grant making activities. The Policy was informed by consultation with Indigenous organizations and those serving equity seeking groups. The policy is also supported with an implementation plan that includes staff training.

Grants are vital to the City of Toronto's ability to achieve its health, social, economic, environmental and cultural goals for its residents. City grants support a vibrant "for public benefit sector" that is responsive to community needs and builds resident leadership and civic engagement. City grants enable organizations to further leverage other financial and in-kind resources to respond to the needs of Torontonians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the Toronto Grants Policy, including the City of Toronto Grant Principles, outlined in Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendation in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been included in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At their March, 28, 2017 meeting, City Council directed the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration and the Director, People, Equity and Human Rights to work with the Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee to review and recommend changes to the Toronto Grants Policy and to report to the October 23, 2017 meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee. City Council recommended changes to include the City's Statement of Commitment to the Aboriginal community (approved by Council on July 6, 2010) and the Statement of Relationship (pending) and any other changes the Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee deems necessary to reflect the City's responsiveness to Indigenous Peoples and Equity Diversity and Human Rights.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD18.5>

On December 5, 2017, City Council approved the report *For Public Benefit: Whole-of-Government Framework to Guide City of Toronto Relationship with the Community-Based Not-for-Profit Sector*.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD24.4>

On July 16, 2013 Council approved the current Grants Policy which integrated and updated existing complementary policies and guidelines. These included the revised *Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation and City Policy*, amended *Human Rights and Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Policy*, and amended *Hate Activity Policy*. This integrated Grants Policy enhanced the administration of City grants and ensured City funded activities and events were in accordance with the City's objectives of promoting respect, tolerance and diversity.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-58132.pdf>

The Toronto Grants Policy, adopted by Council in 1998

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/agendas/committees/sp/sp981117/it005.htm> and

amended in 2008 <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-13493.pdf>, provides a framework that guides the City's partnership and investment

funding activities. It also establishes the roles, responsibilities, priorities and standards for the effective administration of community grants.

The City of Toronto provides support to the for public benefit 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).
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06c11#BK103>.

COMMENTS

Policy Development

To develop the policy Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee struck a working group who consulted with City Divisions and Community agencies serving Indigenous Communities and Equity seeking groups.

Working Group

The Working Group consisted of membership from Community Funding in the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, Student Nutrition in Toronto Public Health (), the Toronto Arts Council, City Legal Services, People, Equity and Human Rights and subsequently the Indigenous Affairs Office.

The Policy was streamlined to reflect the City's contractual requirements with grant applicants and recipients. An appendix was also added that reflects the Policy's Guiding Principles to further operationalize the Policy which increases openness, transparency and accountability.

The Policy is intended to provide guidance and direction to all City staff who administer a city-funded grant program. Grant programs administered on behalf of other levels of government are not covered by the Policy but City staff who administer these grants may use the Policy to support their practice. The Policy also provides flexibility for all City grants covered by the Policy to adapt further requirements and processes specific to their respective grant programs. The appendix on the Policy's Guiding Principles provides guidance to the operationalization of the Policy.

Consultation

The first draft was circulated to Alternative Planning Groups funded by Social Development, Finance and Administration who support various equity seeking groups (Hispanic, South Asian and Chinese communities). It was also circulated to the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council. Both provided several comments and edits.

The second draft was circulated again to the Alternative Planning groups, as well as the Ontario Council of Agencies Servicing Immigrants (OCASI), People, Equity and Human Rights, Indigenous Affairs Office, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council and Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee. Again, their edits were incorporated into the final version. The final version of the Policy was shared with these groups.

Overarching changes to policy

The Policy and its Guiding Principles Appendix addresses Council direction with the inclusion of language specific to equity considerations and to Indigenous groups. The Policy format is streamlined to include all eligibility-related items in one place and includes language related to granting to both individuals and organizations, where applicable. One of the criticisms of the existing Policy is that broad principles such as transparency and accountability were not described in a way that supported grant recipients and other City of Toronto residents. This concern has been addressed both in the Policy and the Guiding Principles which outline granting standards that apply to all City grants. Finally, the Policy further delineates the delegated authority of Division Heads including the authority to waive eligibility requirements.

Implementation Plan

Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee members contributed to the development of an implementation plan which identifies actions that align with and support the updates to the Policy and Guiding Principles. The actions build on work that is already underway for many Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee members, such as implementation of the Toronto Arts Council Equity Framework that guides Toronto Arts Council granting, and the development of the Granting Equity Framework in the Economic Development and Culture Division. Other actions in the implementation plan include enhanced training in the application of the equity lens in granting and granting to Indigenous communities.

A link to the approved Grant policy will be shared by Toronto Grants Co-ordinating Committee members with their respective grant recipients and shared through individual Division channels as well as intranet and the external Grants web page.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Toronto Grants Policy and Appendix City of Toronto Grant Principles