



## Allocation of Capacity Building and Youth Identify and Impact Grants

**Date:** November 14, 2019

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

**Wards:** All

### SUMMARY

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This report recommends approval of the 2019 Identify 'N Impact youth-led grants to be made from Community Investment Funding, a project-based funding stream. A total of fifteen (15) projects are recommended for funding by a selection panel of six (6) youth community leaders for a total 2019 investment of \$139,494.00.

This report also includes information about a project that will work with African, Caribbean and Black Queer and Trans Youth to increase social service system capacity to address their unique needs, in support of the [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#).

This report speaks to two other actions related to city priorities: the disbursement of grants in 2020 to fund actions developed through Social Development and Action Plans in four (4) community revitalization neighbourhoods, and the disbursement of 2019 funds related to the TO Wards Peace program.

Providing community grants is one way the city is working towards a future where all Torontonians live in vibrant, equitable, inclusive, safe neighbourhoods and communities where the needs of vulnerable people and communities are met.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve total funding of \$139,494 allocated from the 2019 Identify 'N Impact investment program to fifteen (15) youth-led projects, as set out in Appendix A

from the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration

2. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to re-allocate, or approve and disburse one-time Community Investment grants in 2020, with funding allocation to be subject to the annual budget process.

3. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to re-allocate, or approve and disburse one-time grants totalling \$125,000 in support of the 2019 implementation of the TO Wards Peace program.

4. City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report back annually to the Economic and Community Development Committee on the grants approved through authority provided in recommendations 2 and 3.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report. This report recommends funding of \$139,494 allocated from the 2019 Identify 'N Impact investment program to 15 youth-led projects, to lead and deliver projects promoting youth empowerment and community safety. Funding for the allocations is already included in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

In addition, this report recommends granting authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to re-allocate, or approve and disburse one-time grants in support of the: 1) 2019 implementation of the TO Wards Peace program, and 2) one-time Community Investment grants in 2020, pending Council approval of the budget. This report does not seek funding for these programs, but instead seeks authority to approve and disburse funding.

1) The expected 2019 allocation to one-time grants for the TO Wards Peace program is \$125,000 to increase local violence intervention and interruption. Funding for this program has already been included in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

2) Funding for Social Development Plan Revitalization Grants is included in the 2020 Base Operating Budget Submission for Social Development, Finance & Administration and is subject to the 2020 budget process. If approved, the expected 2020 allocation to one-time Community Investment grants is \$725,000 to enhance safety, inclusion, and wellness within four community revitalization neighbourhoods: Downtown East, Regent Park, Alexandra Park and Lawrence Heights.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

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There are more than 350,000 youth in Toronto. In developing the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, the City of Toronto identified that the youth most in need of supportive interventions are those who face the most barriers to accessing the services that exist. An intersectional analysis reveals that this segment of the youth population - particularly Black and racialized youth - face significant barriers which lead to increased and disproportionate social and economic marginalization, and greater vulnerability to violence and crime. The cycle of violence negatively impacts individual and community perceptions of safety and social cohesion, and increases the stigmatization of youth, communities and neighbourhoods.

The Identify 'N Impact grant program has been analyzed for potential impacts on equity-seeking groups, youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime, and racialized youth in Toronto and is determined to have a positive impact on vulnerable youth. Since 2014, the Identify 'N Impact grant program has provided youth with the opportunity to design and lead the programs they identify as needed within their communities while also increasing their infrastructure, capacity and leadership skills.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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In 2006, Council approved the Identify 'N Impact Youth Investment Program to fund youth-led projects.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/cms/cms060608/it014.pdf>

In October of 2019, Council approved the implementation of the TO Wards Peace program. This approval included an increase in funds to the 2019 Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration, as well as direction to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to include year two funding for TO Wards Peace as part of the 2020 Budget submission.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM10.2>

In July of 2019, Council approved the Community Services Partnership Renewal report, which outlined a plan for 2020-2021 use of Projects and Events funds

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC6.20>

In March of 2017, Council approved a new framework for Community Investment Funding which included the Identify 'N Impact funding program.

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

In December of 2017, Council adopted the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX29.11>

## COMMENTS

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The Identify 'N Impact program provides youth-led groups with one-year grants of up to \$10,000 to lead and deliver projects promoting youth empowerment and community safety. The Community Funding Unit and the Youth Development Unit collaborated to implement the 2019 Identify 'N Impact program, ensuring that the funding stream aligns with divisional priorities and the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

Projects were given priority for Identify 'N Impact funding if they:

- Demonstrated that youth are the leaders in project design, planning, management and delivery
- Involved youth from and/or are based in a Neighbourhood Improvement Area
- Were led by or worked with youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime, as referenced in the [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#)
- Worked to advance issues outlined in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy including: skills development, increasing access to educational attainment, community safety, youth friendly spaces, arts programming, and mental health
- Were run by groups that did not receive Identify 'N Impact funding in the previous grant year.

A two-stage application process was implemented to reduce the administrative burden for applicants.

### Funding Allocation Recommendation Statistics for Identify 'N Impact Funding

Table 1: Number of Applications at Each Stage of the Assessment Process

Stage of Assessment Process	Number of Applications
Stage 1: Eligibility Self- Assessment and Project Idea Form	158
Eligible/Shortlisted Applications	147
Stage 2: Full Applications Submitted	99
Shortlisted and Declined Applications (Appendix B)	84
Applications Recommended for Funding (Appendix A)	15

Forty-eight (48) groups that were invited to proceed to Stage Two either chose not to submit a full application or submitted incomplete applications.

Overall, ten percent (10%) of eligible applications were recommended for funding in this year's grant call, compared to eighteen percent (18%) in 2018 and fourteen percent (14%) in 2017. The lower approval rate for 2019 is demonstrative of the increased

interest in the grant stream and corresponding community need. A list of groups invited to submit full applications but unsuccessful in receiving a grant has been attached as Appendix B.

A selection panel of six (6) youth community leaders between the ages of 16 – 29 reviewed and assessed the 99 eligible full applications submitted. All panel members have lived experience and/or strong familiarity with the issue areas identified in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, and some are also members of the Toronto Youth Cabinet, the Poverty Reduction Office's Lived Experience Advisory Group, and the Confronting Anti Black Racism Capacity Building Planning Group.

### **Applicant Support**

Eligible shortlisted applicants were invited to attend workshops which included a grant writing 101 session and the provision of one-on-one application support. The workshops were offered in partnership with St. Stephens Community House. A total of eighty-eight (88) youth leaders attended these workshops, representing a total of thirty-five (35) youth-led groups.

St. Stephen's Community House will continue to provide mentorship to funded groups through the life-cycle of the grant, and will ensure the funded projects are successfully implemented.

### **Allocation Recommendations**

Recommended projects will reach young people who are reflective of a number of equity-seeking groups and communities. Project examples include:

- The development of a resource booklet and workshop series for Somali youth that will help address trauma while building skills to navigate conversations on community safety and violence
- A mentorship program for newcomer Afghan youth living in east Scarborough that will provide life and leadership skills to address issues of domestic and gang violence
- Opportunities for female youth to learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) post-secondary opportunities;
- Co-ed boxing classes and certification for youth with experiences in the criminal justice system and those experiencing mental health challenges, and
- A four (4) week workshop series for Queer and Trans People of Color that will promote conversations on TGBTQ2S self-love from African-Canadian and Indigenous perspectives

Over 445 youth will be reached by the projects and all projects will engage youth living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Some of the anticipated benefits for youth involved in the recommended projects include:

- Increased community safety and community healing activities
- Increased understanding of available mental health resources
- Increased literacy skills for youth living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas

- Increased sector, organizational and ally capacity to improve LGBTQS inclusivity and access to resources

A list of projects recommended for funding is provided in Appendix A (2019 Identify 'N Impact Allocation Recommendations Summary). A list of the shortlisted and declined projects is provided Appendix B (2019 Identify and Impact Shortlisted and Declined Applicants).

### **Allocation to provide support to African, Caribbean and Black Queer and Trans Youth**

The Community Funding Unit, in partnership with the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit and the Youth Development Unit, will provide funding to engage African Caribbean and Black Queer and Trans youth to:

- Increase the capacity of Black Queer and Trans youth to effectively engage service providers and advocate for services that are more responsive to their needs
- Increase access to safe and inclusive programs and spaces for Black Queer and Trans youth
- Provide opportunities for Black Queer and Trans youth to experience the benefits of mutual support through peer navigation services.

### **Social Development Plan Revitalization Grants**

As noted in the Community Services Partnership Renewal report adopted by Council in July, 2019, Projects and Events funding in 2020-2021 will be used to action items identified in the Social Development Plans that seek to enhance safety, inclusion, and wellness within the identified communities. Funds will be dedicated for use in four community revitalization neighbourhoods: Downtown East (\$500,000), Regent Park (\$75,000), Alexandra Park (\$75,000), and Lawrence Heights (\$75,000). To ensure high impact, staff recommends two years of funding, subject to annual approval of the City budget.

The Community Funding Unit is working with key stakeholders in each neighbourhood to design place-based implementation strategies that maintain open and accountable grant-making processes. Further, investments are being coordinated with other funders in order to ensure all funds invested achieve maximum impact.

### **TO Wards Peace Program**

The Community Funding Unit, in partnership with the Youth Development Unit and the Community Crisis Response Program, will disburse 2019 funds allocated towards the implementation of the TO Wards Peace program to:

- Increase capacity for local community-led intervention
- Support locally designed violence intervention and interruption approaches that reduce violence.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Denise Andrea Campbell  
Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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APPENDIX A - 2019 Identify and Impact Allocation Recommendations Summary  
APPENDIX B - 2019 Identify and Impact Shortlisted and Declined Applicants