



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Community Recreation Investment Program – 2013 Allocation Recommendations

Date:	May 8, 2013
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	17118

SUMMARY

This report recommends funding under the 2013 Community Recreation Investment (Community Recreation) Program. Of the 57 applications received, 14 are recommended for funding of \$449,800.00. An amount of \$30,200.00 has been held for appeals.

Community Recreation provides short-term funding to time-limited and outcome-focused projects that contribute to the City's goal of increasing participation in recreation activities that support social and physical development. The program makes resources available to community-based, not-for-profit groups that are in a unique position to reach those with the greatest need and ensure recreational activities reflect diverse needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the 2013 Community Recreation Investment Program (Community Recreation) allocations totalling \$449,800.00 to 14 organizations as recommended in Appendices A and B;
2. An amount of \$30,200.00 be held for appeals.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2013 operating budget.

This report recommends allocations for 14 organizations totalling \$449,800.00 with an appeal fund of \$30,200.00.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agree 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)

The Social Development, Finance and Administration Division's 2013 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$480,000.00 for the Community Recreation Investment program. The approved budget amount includes an increase of \$45,000.00 representing the economic factor increase as approved by Council at its meeting of January 15 and 16, 2013

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=5669>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

A key priority of the Recreation Service Plan approved by City Council in November 2012¹ is to increase participation in recreation in order to help Toronto residents live long, healthy, active and fulfilling lives.

Community-led efforts to increase participation in recreation activities help create opportunities for people to work together to address a clearly identified recreation service gap or issue.

Projects supported through Community Recreation are time-limited and outcome focused. Through the initiatives, participants will gain new capacities (e.g. skills, knowledge, relationships, and partnerships) that lead to sustained and independent participation in recreation activities after the project activities are completed.

¹ Recreation service plan can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/parks/engagement/serviceplan/>

COMMENTS

Application Process

Organizations applied for Community Recreation funding through the Corporate Grants Information System, the City's online funding database. Applicants were required to register to access the application forms from any internet-based computer. The online funding system is part of the City's plan to manage its funding program requests and grant recipient reporting more efficiently.

Guidelines and on-line registration for the 2013 Community Recreation Investment Program were available in January with a submission deadline of March 5, 2013. Six information sessions on the purpose and process for the Community Recreation program and three other community investment funding programs were provided in January and February. These sessions enabled groups to determine which funding program best suited the needs and priorities of their communities and their organization. Each information session included time for attendees to talk one-on-one with Community Funding staff about the program criteria and their project ideas. 164 people attended the six information sessions. Applicants were also able to speak with staff by telephone or schedule meetings to ask questions or get help with their applications.

A total of 145 groups registered for access to the Recreation online application form. 8 online training sessions were delivered to 19 organizations that were first-time users of the online funding system 57 organizations completed and submitted the application by the deadline date.

In order to help assess the application process for applicants, registered organizations were asked to complete a survey on their experience and suggestions. Of the 62 organizations that have completed the survey to date, more than two-thirds indicated that they were satisfied with the experience and the support provided. Respondents were asked to provide their preferences and suggestions for alternative delivery of information sessions and system training. Staff will use the detailed survey responses to continue improvements to the on-line process for the 2014 funding cycle.

Assessment of Applications

57 applications were assessed. In order to be recommended for funding, applicants must meet common eligibility criteria, which are provided in the Community Recreation program guidelines². Core eligibility requirements include: non-profit status, located in the City of Toronto and demonstrated financial accountability. Organizations not incorporated as a not-for-profit must partner with an incorporated trustee organization to provide the financial accountability.

The assessment process includes a review of the following information: project description and rationale, work plan, project budget organization's documents (audited

² Program guidelines can be found at <http://www.toronto.ca/grants/community-recreation/index.htm>

financial statements, bylaws, budget), progress reports (for returning applicants), and the applicant's administrative and human resource capacity to carry out the proposed project.

The assessment process may include site visits, telephone calls or meetings with applicants, with particular attention to new applicants and applications from emerging communities. Community Recreation Managers and Supervisors of Parks, Forestry & Recreation division provided input on proposed project models and local Recreation needs to inform the assessment.

Assessment of previously funded applicants considers their track record in providing progress and final reports on the implementation and outcomes of previously funded activities. Staff may also attend annual general meetings and other programs offered by organizations as well as contact other funders for budget or project related information.

The assessment process determines the extent to which proposed projects address a clearly identified recreation service gap or issue using a community development approach. The activities must have a clearly defined start and end date and be incremental to an organization's ongoing programs and services. As well, the project must be delivered in line with the established quality and standards for the recreation activity.

The implementation strategy for the Recreation Service Plan will inform the 2014 Community Recreation Funding Program in order to ensure alignment with the City's broader recreation strategy.

Recreation Funding Consolidation

Starting with the 2011 funding cycle, Parks, Forestry and Recreation transferred the administrative responsibility for the Major and Community (formerly Minor) Recreation funding programs to the Social Development, Finance and Administration division. This transfer was consistent with previous administrative changes that brought the Food Security Investment Program and the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program into the Community Services Partnership (CSP) program. As part of the transition, allocations for organizations that received ongoing partnership funding through the Major Recreation program were administered through the Community Recreation program and the funding and the corresponding amounts were approved as part of the Community Recreation allocations.³

Further review was done to determine the appropriate funding program and allocation level for the organizations. Eligible, ongoing programming is supported through Community Services Partnership program and project based activity through the Community Recreation Investment program. This restructure achieves greater transparency, accountability and program alignment.

³ . <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.CD5.14>

In 2013, Cabbagetown Youth Centre is being recommended to have its funding administered through the Community Services Partnership (CSP) program and the corresponding allocation \$35,000 is being recommended through the 2013 CSP allocations report. This completes the consolidation of the recreation funding.

2013 Allocation Recommendations

Of the 57 applications received, 14 are recommended for funding and 43 are not recommended for support. The average grant size in the program is \$32,128. Of the 14 projects recommended, six will be delivered in a neighbourhood improvement area, seven will work in other neighbourhoods and one has a city-wide focus. The Community Recreation investment of \$449,800.00 will leverage an additional \$150,000.00 in funding from other sources, as well as the engagement of 500 volunteers. The recommended project activities are expected to involve more than 3,000 participants.

Below are two charts detailing the recommended allocations by focus community and project model:

2013 Allocations by Focus Community	# of Recommended Allocations
Newcomer and racialized communities	5
Youth	3
Seniors	3
People with disabilities	1
Women	1
Neighbourhood	1

Allocations by Project Model	# of Recommended Allocations
Outreach & Partnerships	6
Sport Development / Skills for Participation	7
Training & Certification	1

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Recreation Investment Program – 2013 Allocation Recommendations

Appendix B: Recreation Investment Program – Detailed Project Summaries

Appendix A
Community Recreation Investment Program
2013 Allocation Recommendations

<u>Applicant Organization</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>2012 Recommended Allocation</u>	<u>2013 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2013 Recommended Allocation</u>
1 3T Program (Toronto Teen Track Program)	42	n/a	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
2 519 Church Street Community Centre	27	\$35,000.00	\$48,726.80	\$0.00
3 Albion Neighbourhood Services	1	n/a	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
4 Art Starts Neighbourhood Cultural Centre	16	\$0.00	\$44,778.00	\$40,000.00
5 ArtHeart Community Art Centre (ArtHeart)	28	\$5,000.00	\$6,300.00	\$0.00
6 Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services	31	\$4,000.00	\$11,300.00	\$0.00
7 Bikes Without Borders	18	\$16,800.00	\$27,220.00	\$0.00
8 Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre	36	n/a	\$32,510.00	\$32,000.00
9 Blind Sailing Association of Canada	24	n/a	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
10 Canadian Centre for Women's Education and Development	35	\$0.00	\$14,220.00	\$0.00
11 Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre	38	n/a	\$35,770.00	\$0.00
12 Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association	39	n/a	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
13 Chinese Cultural Association of Toronto, The	41	n/a	\$40,281.00	\$0.00
14 Community Outreach Programs in Addictions (COPA)	20	\$32,100.00	\$31,864.44	\$0.00
15 CultureLink Settlement Services of Metro Toronto	14	n/a	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
16 Don Mills Family Health Team	25	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
17 Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services	7	n/a	\$48,250.00	\$0.00
18 East Scarborough Storefront (Tides Canada Initiatives Society)	43	\$46,600.00	\$49,875.00	\$49,800.00
19 Eritrean Canadian Association of Ontario	19	n/a	\$27,500.00	\$0.00
20 Etobicoke Future Stars Soccer Club	1	n/a	\$10,000.00	\$0.00

<u>Applicant Organization</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>2012 Recommended Allocation</u>	<u>2013 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2013 Recommended Allocation</u>
21 Evergreen	29	\$0.00	\$49,800.00	\$35,000.00
22 F.E.A.T. for Children of Incarcerated Parents	6	n/a	\$22,550.00	\$0.00
23 Family Inter-Generation Link	26	n/a	\$32,870.00	\$0.00
24 FCJ Refugee Centre	17	\$0.00	\$18,900.00	\$0.00
25 FutureWatch Environment and Development Education Partners	13	\$0.00	\$48,941.00	\$0.00
26 Good Neighbours Club, The	27	n/a	\$35,284.20	\$0.00
27 Greenest City Environmental Organization	14	n/a	\$25,000.00	\$15,000.00
28 Harriet Tubman Community Organization	33	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
29 Heritage Skills Development Center	44	\$7,500.00	\$34,997.00	\$0.00
30 INUA Community Assistance and Development Service Inc.	6	n/a	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
31 Iranian Women's Organization of Ontario	33	n/a	\$35,388.50	\$0.00
32 Just BGRAPHIC	8	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
33 Korean Senior Citizens Society of Toronto	19	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$15,000.00
34 Lao Association of Ontario	9	n/a	\$10,500.00	\$10,000.00
35 Malvern Family Resource Centre	42	\$0.00	\$44,568.00	\$44,500.00
36 Moshava Ba'ir Day Camp of Toronto	n/a	n/a	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
37 North York Community House	15	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$44,500.00
38 North York Seniors Centre	23	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00
39 P.O.I.N.T. Inc. (People and Organizations in North Toronto)	16	n/a	\$14,653.00	\$0.00
40 Parkdale Intercultural Association	14	n/a	\$49,986.00	\$0.00
41 Pine Point Community Tennis Club	2	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
42 Rexdale Women's Centre	1	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
43 Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre	30	n/a	\$41,976.00	\$41,000.00

<u>Applicant Organization</u>	<u>Ward</u>	<u>2012 Recommended Allocation</u>	<u>2013 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2013 Recommended Allocation</u>
44 S.E.A.S. Centre (Support Enhance Access Service Centre)	28	n/a	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
45 Scarborough Swim Club	38	n/a	\$8,960.00	\$0.00
46 Self-Help Resource Centre (Self-Help Clearing House of Metro Toronto)	22	n/a	\$33,768.00	\$33,000.00
47 STEPS (Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Space) Initiative, The (Centre for Social Innovation)	20	n/a	\$44,800.00	\$0.00
48 Thorncliffe Neighbourhood Office for Social & Multicultural Development (TNO)	26	n/a	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
49 Toronto Community & Culture Centre	20	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
50 Toronto Multicultural Youth Council	n/a	n/a	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
51 Trailblazers Tandem Cycling Club	3	\$8,285.00	\$22,675.00	\$0.00
52 Valley Park Community Association	26	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
53 Victoria Park Cricket Club	38	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
54 Weston Frontlines Centre	11	n/a	\$20,105.00	\$0.00
55 WoodGreen Community Services	30	n/a	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
56 World Body Boxing Association	25	n/a	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
57 YouthLink	35	\$36,300.00	\$34,626.00	\$0.00
Grand Total:			\$1,758,742.94	\$449,800.00
Appeals Fund:				\$30,200.00
2013 Approved Budget:				\$480,000.00