



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Identify 'N Impact Investment Program – 2013 Allocation Recommendations

Date:	September 4, 2013
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS # 17127

SUMMARY

This report recommends funding for the 2013 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program (INI). Of the 55 applications received, 16 are recommended for funding of \$157,545.00. An amount of \$24,795.00 has been held for appeals.

With a focus on African-Canadian, racialized youth and youth living in neighbourhood improvement areas, funding supports youth to lead and deliver projects that will engage their peers. By investing in youth-led groups, the program creates opportunities for participants to develop skills and to increase the impact of their initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve the 2013 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment Program allocations totalling \$157,545.00 to 16 groups as recommended in Appendices A and B;

City Council direct that an amount of \$24,795.00 be held from the Identify 'N Impact 2013 Approved Budget for appeals of funding recommendations:

Financial Impact

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

The 2013 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration includes funding of \$182,340.00 for the Identify 'N' Impact Investment program. This report recommends allocations for 16 organizations totalling \$157,545.00. An amount of \$24,795.00 has been held 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>

At its meeting in June 2013, City Council directed to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to review the appeals process currently used for Community Partnership and Investment Programs and report on options to improve the process.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD21.10>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Identify 'N' Impact (INI) Investment program has funded youth-led groups to create meaningful opportunities for community involvement. INI funded projects help to promote healthy youth development and broader community safety in the City of Toronto.

INI provides resources for youth to address the challenges they face in accessing education and employment and connecting to their communities.

Since the creation of INI in 2006, over 100 projects received funding through the program. These investments have supported 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;
- Opportunities to work with other groups through partnerships, alliances and coalitions.

COMMENTS

Application Process & Applicant Support

The INI program aligns with the City's Investment program model, which provides funding for short-term projects through a competitive grants process. The process is geared to the experience level of

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youth. Staff provide outreach and support to help youth develop the skills and capacity needed to submit strong grant applications.

For 2013, a two-step application process was introduced to ensure only groups that are eligible to receive INI funding put the time and effort required into a full grant application. 79 applicants completed a simple form to confirm their eligibility, including whether or not youth are the leaders in the project planning, management and delivery. 67 eligible groups were then invited to provide additional information for consideration, including a project work plan and budget. Of these, 55 full applications were received on the deadline in early August.

Prior to the deadline, funding and community development staff promoted the program through the Toronto Youth Cabinet, community partners and youth service providers.

The guidelines were posted on the City web site at <http://www.toronto.ca/grants/ini/fund.htm> .

Assessment and Review of Applications

55 applications were assessed. For the purposes of the INI program, youth are defined as people 15 – 24 years of age, and a project is defined as time-limited activity that does not result in the loss of service when the project is over.

As with previous years, a youth panel supported the INI assessment process. Members provided insight on youth priorities, challenges and local opportunities to that is currently not available within the city. The panel selection and approval process follows approved policy for a City advisory panel model.

For 2013, panel members were recruited through the Toronto Youth Cabinet, Prevention Intervention Toronto (PIT), Community Development Officers as well as previous INI grant recipients. Ten young people were selected to serve on the panel with four returning members from last year.

Participants received training to develop the necessary skills and knowledge required to review applications fairly and equitably and within the guidelines of the City's grant policies and practices.

Allocations Recommendations

The 16 recommended projects will provide youth with:

- Peer support as youth transition from adolescence to adulthood;
- Employment skills such as event organizing, goal setting, teamwork, time management, conflict resolution
- Life skills around healthy eating, body image, advocacy, building bridges with police;
- Media skills such as research, writing, video and magazine production; and,
- Civic and community engagement opportunities through volunteerism.

Projects will reach approximately 700 diverse youth across the city. These young people are reflective of a number of equity-seeking communities including: Latino/Spanish-speaking, young black women and

men, youth from families who are/have been incarcerated; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered; Aboriginal; youth with disabilities; and newcomers and refugees.

Established community organizations play a critical role in supporting Identify 'N' Impact youth leaders and their funded projects. The INI investment leverages a range of support from these organizations including:

- Free space, supplies and equipment to hold meetings, project activities and events;
- Mentorship;
- Project management and issue expertise; and,
- Project and administration oversight.

Below is a chart identifying the recommended allocations by the neighbourhoods where the activity will take place:

	Number of Recommended Projects Serving Neighbourhood Improvement Areas*
Crescent Town	2
Eglinton East-Kennedy Park	1
Jamestown	4
Jane-Finch	7
Kingston-Galloway	1
Lawrence Heights	1
Malvern	2
Scarborough Village	2
Steeles-L'Amoreaux	1
Weston-Mt. Dennis	1
Other neighbourhood(s)	4

*Note: Some recommended projects will serve multiple neighbourhoods.

Detailed summaries of all recommended projects along with a summary of declined applications are provided in Appendix B.

Appeals

The appeals process provides applicants the opportunity to clarify information or provide new information to demonstrate the proposal's fit with the funding program criteria and goals. Projects that were not recommended in 2013 include proposals that 1) appeared to deliver ongoing programs; 2) presented a good idea that needed more work. As in previous years, there were significantly more applications than could be supported through the INI funding stream.

In 2012, the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration was granted authority to hear the appeals and approve the allocation of the appeal fund. This process is recommended for this year as well.

The INI appeal meeting will be held in the late afternoon in order to make the process accessible for youth, many of whom are in school during the day. Panel members will be invited to provide input.

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

CONTACT

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2013 Identify 'N' Impact Investment Program Allocation Recommendations
Appendix B: 2013 Identify 'N' Impact Investment Program – Detailed Summary Sheets and Summary of Declined applications