

## **Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Program – 2014 Allocation Recommendations**

<b>Date:</b>	May 7, 2014
<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>	18702

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends funding under the 2014 Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR) Investment Program. Of the 80 applications received, 23 are recommended for funding in the amount of \$805,000.00 with \$40,000.00 held for appeals.

The purpose of the AEHR Program is to provide time-limited funding to community-based organizations and residents to act on human rights, accessibility, equity, discrimination and hate crime concerns in their communities. Funded projects help to achieve a positive race relations and human rights climate and promote community participation by equity-seeking groups.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council approve the 2014 Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Program allocations totalling \$805,000.00 to 23 organizations as recommended in Appendices A and B;
2. An amount of \$40,000.00 be held for appeals.

### **Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2014 Operating Budget for Social Development Finance and Administration. This report

recommends allocations for 23 organizations totalling \$805,000.00 with an appeal fund of \$40,000.00.

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 2014 Approved Operating Budget includes funding AEHR program. The budget amount includes an economic factor increase as approved by Council at its meeting of January 29 and 30, 2014.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=7848>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The City's motto is "Diversity is our Strength". Toronto is a growing and changing community and its diversity has been celebrated as a key factor in ranking the city as a desirable place to live, visit and do business. While Toronto is well respected as a welcoming city for diverse groups, there is need for continuing attention to ensure equity-seeking groups are able to participate fully in the social, economic and civic life of the community.

The AEHR program was initiated in 1981 with a focus on community support for addressing racism and discrimination issues. In 2004, City Council expanded the program mandate to address human rights issues related to the Aboriginal community, women and gender issues, disability issues, sexual orientation, literacy, and language equity.

By providing funding to community organizations, the City is able to promote access, equity and respect for human rights in more ways than it would be able to accomplish on its own.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Application Process**

Organizations applied for AEHR funding through the City's online funding database. Guidelines and on-line registration for AEHR were available in January 2014 with a submission deadline of February 19, 2014. Approximately 50 people attended an information session on the purpose and process of the investment funding programs in February 2014.

Staff provided support to applicants to help them determine the funding programs best suited to the needs and priorities of their communities, talk about their project idea, and answer questions about program criteria.

A total of 133 groups registered for access to the AEHR online application form (compared to 135 in 2013). 80 organizations completed and submitted the application by the deadline, an 11% increase over last year.

In order to help assess the changes piloted in the AEHR application process for applicants, registered organizations have been asked to complete a survey on their experience and suggestions. Staff will use the responses to continue improvements to the program and application process.

## **Assessment of Applications**

80 applications were assessed. In order to be recommended for funding, applicants must meet common eligibility criteria, which are provided in the AEHR program guidelines<sup>1</sup>. 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 project rationale, work plan, project budget, audited financial statements, operating budget and the applicant's capacity to carry out the proposed project.

Assessment of previously funded applicants considers their track record in providing progress and final reports on the implementation and outcomes of previously funded activities.

The assessment process determines which requests address a clearly identified access, equity and human rights issue through outcome-focused activities. Assessment criteria included project impact, project need, readiness and feasibility, as well as organizational capacity.

## **2014 Allocation Recommendations**

Of the 80 applications received, 23 are recommended for funding and 58 are not recommended. This is equivalent to an approval rate of 29%.

The 23 projects requested a total of \$967,326.06, with an average request of \$43,436 and recommended average grant amount of \$35,000.

Seven projects received funding in 2013 for a multi-year grant: these projects are meeting their goals, and continued funding is recommended. 70% (16) are piloting new initiatives, and 30% (7) are expansions and enhancements of existing successful projects.

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<sup>1</sup> Program guidelines can be found at

<http://www1.toronto.ca/City%20Of%20Toronto/Social%20Development,%20Finance%20&%20Administration/Shared%20Content/Grants/Docs%20&%20Excels/Access%20Equity%20Human%20Rights%20Guidelines%202014.pdf>

Recommended AEHR projects will address a variety of access, equity and human rights issues by:

- Addressing gaps in access to services for non-status and precarious migrant populations;
- Increasing knowledge, awareness and support to ensure fair work and workplace rights of immigrant and racialized workers;
- Increasing civic engagement of people with disabilities and their allies; and,
- Developing recommendations to influence policy-makers, practitioners, and public debate about the increase in attacks against, and deaths of, people with mental health issues.

The following are some of the highlights of the 23 projects:

- A total of 18,072 people from across Toronto will be engaged;
- 10 projects will be delivered in a Neighbourhood Improvement Area<sup>2</sup> (many serve multiple NIAs), one of which will be implemented in an emerging NIA;
- The investment of \$805,000 will leverage an additional \$431,785.00 in in-kind support; and,
- 679 volunteers will support the work of 27 (full-time equivalent) staff.

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

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Chris Brillinger, Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

## ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR) Investment Program – 2014 Allocation Recommendations

Appendix B: Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR) Investment Program – 2014 Detailed Summary Sheets and Summary of Declined Applicants

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<sup>2</sup> Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA) referenced here are the 13 Priority Neighbourhood Areas for Investment approved by Council under the 2005 Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy.

## **Appendix A**

### **Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Program 2014 Allocation Recommendations**

<u><b>Applicant Group</b></u>	<u><b>Trustee Organization (if provided)*</b></u>	<u><b>Ward **</b></u>	<u><b>2013 Approved Allocation</b></u>	<u><b>2014 Amount Requested</b></u>	<u><b>2014 Amount Recommended</b></u>
Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation		19	\$ 0.00	\$ 45,463.40	\$ 30,000.00
Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (C.I.L.T.)		27	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 47,560.00	\$ 30,000.00
Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario		20	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Everdale - Black Creek Community Farm		08	n/a	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
FCJ Refugee Centre		17	\$ 0.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
FoodShare Toronto		18	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Hospice Toronto		22	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Malvern Family Resource Centre		42	n/a	\$ 36,940.00	\$ 32,000.00
Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto		32	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Newcomer Women's Services Toronto		30	n/a	\$ 49,830.00	\$ 35,000.00
Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)		16	\$ 0.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Parkdale Community Legal Services		14	n/a	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,100.00
Passerelle Integration et Developpement Economiques		27	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 54,330.00	\$ 30,000.00
ProudPolitics Leadership Organization	Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives	20	n/a	\$ 9,920.00	\$ 9,920.00
Scadding Court Community Centre		20	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 43,411.55	\$ 35,000.00
SKETCH Working Arts		19	\$ 24,070.00	\$ 49,285.00	\$ 45,000.00
Toronto Coalition for Better Child Care		19	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 15,600.00
Toronto Neighbourhood Centres		30	n/a	\$ 49,240.00	\$ 45,000.00
Toronto Women's City Alliance	North York Women's Centre	15	\$ 49,800.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Urban Alliance on Race Relations		20	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Vermont Square Parent-Child Mother Goose Program		19	n/a	\$ 14,304.54	\$ 13,695.00
Workers' Action Centre		20	\$ 38,400.00	\$ 40,941.57	\$ 40,000.00
Youth Action Network		19	\$ 0.00	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 38,685.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$412,870.00</b>	<b>\$967,326.06</b>	<b>\$805,000.00</b>
		<b>Appeal Fund</b>			<b>\$40,000.00</b>
		<b>Total Available</b>			<b>\$845,000.00</b>