

## **Community Safety 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>	18701

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends funding under the 2014 Community Safety Investment (CSI) Program. Of the 84 applications received, 19 are recommended for funding of \$690,000.00. An amount of \$35,000.00 has been held for appeals.

The Community Safety Investment (CSI) program provides time-limited funding for activities that build community capacity for violence prevention and increase safety for the most vulnerable groups in Toronto. CSI criteria encourage applications from organizations that work actively to build on the strengths of neighbourhoods and communities.

The two primary goals of this funding program are to: 1) increase access to information, skills and supports that prevent violence and increase safety; and, 2) increase the capacity to address systemic causes of violence.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council approve the 2014 Community Safety Investment Program allocations totalling \$690,000.00 to 19 organizations as recommended in Appendices A and B;
2. An amount of \$35,000.00 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 19 organizations totalling \$690,000.00 with an appeal fund of \$35,000.00.

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 for the Community Safety Investment (CSI) 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 Community Safety Investment program supports projects that work to prevent violence. By working through community-based organizations, the City is able to support a broader range of safety and violence prevention opportunities including for ethno-cultural communities and equity-seeking groups, than it would be able to offer on its own.

The Community Safety Investment (CSI) program provides time-limited funding to community-based projects that help to create safe communities for people in Toronto. CSI funds are awarded to applications for enhancements, developments and/or expansions to existing programs, and for new project requests. Funding is intended to increase the capacity of organizations and communities to address safety and violence-prevention issues through outcome-focused activities.

In order to ensure that the CSI project funding will meet the greatest need and have a significant impact, grants are directed to vulnerable communities. As outlined in the CSI guidelines, priority is given to projects addressing the safety and violence prevention needs of children and youth, women and girls, people with disabilities, seniors, the Aboriginal community, immigrants and refugees, undocumented Torontonians, LGBTTTQ community and neighbourhoods.

## COMMENTS

### Application Process

Organizations applied for CSI funding through the City's online funding database. Guidelines and on-line registration for CSI 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.

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 150 groups registered for access to the CSI online application form (compared to 121 in 2013). 84 organizations completed and submitted the application by the deadline date (compared to 72 last year), representing an increase of 17%.

In order to help assess the changes piloted in the CSI 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 grant program and application process.

### Assessment of Applications

In order to be recommended for funding, applicants must meet common eligibility criteria, which are provided in the CSI 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.

Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) Community Crisis Response and Community Development staff were consulted on project models and provided input on local community safety needs to inform the assessment.

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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/Community%20Safety%20Guidelines%202014.pdf>

## 2014 Allocation Recommendations

Of the 84 applications received, 19 are recommended for funding which is equivalent to an approval rate of 23%. The 19 projects requested a total of \$858,312, with an average request of \$45,174 and average recommended grant amount of \$36,316.

Four projects received funding in 2013 for a multi-year grant: these projects have been determined to be meeting their goals, and continued funding is recommended. 68% (13) are piloting new initiatives, and 32% (6) are expansions and enhancements of existing successful projects.

Recommended CSI projects will address a variety of community safety issues by:

- Piloting a staff team of child protection and domestic violence workers to offer safety and assistance to Aboriginal women who have, or are, experiencing violence at home;
- Strengthening a multi-sector partnership to address human trafficking in Toronto, including linking the private sector with community and social services;
- Researching elder abuse and neglect in the Chinese community and its impact on Chinese Canadians living in Toronto;
- Reducing recidivism through the provision of post-incarceration support services to young adults released from provincial custody facilities; and,
- Strengthening community and police relations to reduce tensions between Toronto Police Service and members of the Somali community.

Highlights of the 19 projects include:

- A total of 9,219 people from across Toronto will be engaged, including Aboriginal women and their children, young adults released from jail, newcomer men, seniors, and youth including transgendered youth;
- 12 projects will be delivered in a Neighbourhood Improvement Areas<sup>2</sup> (many serve multiple NIAs), four will work in other neighbourhoods, and three have a city-wide focus. Four of the 10 projects delivered will be engaging residents in two emerging NIAs;
- The investment of \$690,000 will leverage an additional \$312,344.00 in in-kind support; and,
- A total of 828 volunteers will support the work of 28.7 (full-time equivalent) staff.

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

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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.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Community Safety Investment Program 2014 – Allocation Recommendations

Appendix B: Community Safety Investment Program 2014 – Detailed Summary Sheets and Summary of Declined Applicants

## **Appendix A**

### **Community Safety Investment Program 2014 Allocation Recommendations**

**Community Safety Investment Program  
2014 Allocation Recommendations**

<u>Applicant Group</u>	<u>Trustee Organization (if provided)*</u>	<u>Ward**</u>	<u>2013 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2014 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2014 Amount Recommended</u>
1 Agincourt Community Services Association		41	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 47,000.00
2 Alexandra Park Community Centre		20	n/a	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
3 Bay Mills Youth Council	Agincourt Community Services Association	40	n/a	\$ 30,066.00	\$ 26,000.00
4 Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter		20	\$ 0.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
5 Community Action Resource Centre		12	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
6 FCJ Refugee Centre		17	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
7 FRESH Collective	Youth Action Network	20	n/a	\$ 48,484.35	\$ 40,000.00
8 John Howard Society of Toronto		27	\$ 0.00	\$ 49,304.00	\$ 40,000.00
9 Native Child and Family Services of Toronto		27	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 35,586.00	\$ 28,000.00
10 Native Womens Resource Centre of Toronto Inc.		27	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 21,521.44	\$ 18,000.00
11 Nia Centre for Arts		33	n/a	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
12 North York Womens Centre		15	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
13 Ontario Justice Education Network		27	\$ 0.00	\$ 48,250.00	\$ 40,000.00
14 Opportunity for Advancement		20	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 44,000.00
15 Positive Change	Urban Alliance on Race Relations	26	n/a	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
16 Scarborough Women's Centre		38	\$ 0.00	\$ 48,200.00	\$ 40,000.00
17 The Film Stars Project	Canadian Training Institute	30	n/a	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
18 Unison / York Community Services		15	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
19 Urban Non-Violent Initiatives Through Youth (UNITY)		16	n/a	\$ 44,900.00	\$ 39,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>296,100.00</b>	<b>858,311.79</b>	<b>\$ 690,000.00</b>
<b>Appeal Fund</b>					<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>
<b>Total Available</b>					<b>\$ 725,000.00</b>