



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Community Investment Funding Programs – 2015 Allocation Recommendations (Access, Equity & Human Rights, Community Safety, and Pan Am Festivals)

Date:	September 2, 2015
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	20871

SUMMARY

This report recommends funding for the following two Community Investment Funding programs: Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR), and Community Safety Investment (CSI). This report also recommends the reallocation of \$27,000 in unused funds to one organization for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration.

Of the 189 applications received for these two programs, 39 are recommended for funding of \$1,532,000 with an additional \$80,000 held for appeals.

Grants help the City of Toronto achieve its social, economic and cultural goals for its residents. The City's goals are better achieved by supporting the work of organizations that are closer to the communities they serve. Community Investment Funding programs provide time-limited funding to established or emerging not-for-profit groups in the City of Toronto to test new ideas or enhance existing models that lead to meaningful change in organizations and communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve allocations for the following Investment Funding programs, as recommended in Appendices A and B, from the 2015 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration:

- a) \$814,000 to 21 organizations for the 2015 Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR) Investment Program,
 - b) \$718,000 to 18 organizations for the 2015 Community Safety Investment (CSI) Program;
 - c) \$80,000.00 be held for appeals for Access, Equity & Human Rights and Community Safety Investment Programs;
 - d) Reallocation of \$27,000 in unused funds from the previously allocated funding to Pan Am Festivals and Events to one organization for the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration.
2. City Council direct Social Development, Finance and Administration staff to review the five Community Investment Funding programs and report on the results of the review prior to the 2017 funding cycle;
 3. City Council approve delegated authority to enable the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused Access, Equity and Human Rights (AEHR) and Community Safety Investment (CSI) funds during the funding period to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to reallocate to applicants that were rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints; and,
 4. City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report on any re-allocation of 2015 Access, Equity and Human Rights (AEHR) and Community Safety Investment (CSI) funds as part of the 2016 grants allocation recommendations report.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report will have no financial impact beyond what is included in the 2015 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA).

This report recommends allocations for 39 organizations totalling \$1,532,000 with an appeal fund of \$80,000, and a reallocation of \$27,000 to one organization.

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)

The 2015 Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) includes funding for the Community Funding programs. The budget amount includes an economic factor increase. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX3.4>

In July 2013, Council approved the "Toronto Community Grants Policy" which includes the core value of Responsiveness that guides its grant-making activities by involving the community in the ongoing review of community needs and to ensure that its Grants Programs are able to meet new and emerging needs. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX32.1>

In June 2008, City Council approved the report "Options to Streamline and Improve Funding Administration" that provides a number of recommendations that streamline the grants administration process and reduce the burden on applicants. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2008.CD16.5>

On June 10, 2014, City Council requested staff to explore new strategies to incubate and build capacity of new and emerging groups and communities. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD29.12>

On June 10, 2015, City Council directed Social Development, Finance and Administration staff to explore ways to increase funding to new and emerging groups through a targeted approach and report back in 2016. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD4.6>

In December 2013, City Council approved delegated authority to Division heads to approve recommendations from Appeals Panels to ensure that appeals funds are expended in a timely manner. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX36.12>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Allocation recommendations for the following Investment Funding grant programs for approval are provided in this report: 2015 Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR), and 2015 Community Safety Investment (CSI). Also included is a recommended re-allocation of an used grant in the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration grant program.

Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Funding Program

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.

Community Safety Investment Funding Program

The Community Safety Investment (CSI) program provides time-limited funding for activities that build community capacity for violence prevention and increase safety for most vulnerable groups in Toronto. CSI criteria encourages applicants from organization that work actively to build on the

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

COMMENTS

2015 Allocation Recommendations

The Access, Equity and Human Rights (AEHR) grant recommendations were based on the extent to which proposed projects increase community participation by members of equity-seeking groups by providing information, skills and/or supports that address underlying issues and work to eliminate barriers related to access, equity and human rights; and b) increase the capacity of communities to eliminate barriers faced by members of equity-seeking groups through advocacy and community engagement.

For the Community Safety Investment (CSI) grant program, grant recommendations were based on the extent to which proposed projects increase access for communities to information, skills and supports that prevent violence and increase safety, and to increase the capacity of communities to address systemic causes of violence.

Priority was given to applications that advances the following Council approved strategic directions: Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy 2020, Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Seniors Strategy, Undocumented Workers, Human Trafficking, and Newcomer Strategy. Project activities that served Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and equity seeking groups were also prioritized.

Assessment of returning applicants were completed on the outcomes of funded activities, and work plans and budget for next year's activities.

Access, Equity and Human Rights (AEHR)

100 applications were received with a total request of \$3,793,533. The total available for funding is \$854,000 including \$40,000 held for appeals. This is equivalent to an approval rate of 24%. Of the 100 applications received, 21 are recommended for funding. The 21 projects recommended for funding requested a total of \$911,446 with an average request of \$43,402.

\$814,000.00 is recommended for funding with the average grant amount of \$38,762. Of the 21 recommended for funding, eight are returning projects previously approved for multi-year funding.

Of the 79 declines, 25 were assessed as high priority but due to budget constraints, could not be recommended. The funding requested for the high priority projects totaled just over \$993,000.

Community Safety Investment (CSI)

89 applications were received with a total request for funding of \$3,754,349. The total available for funding is \$758,000 including \$40,000 held for appeals. This is equivalent to an approval rate of

21%. Of the 89 applications received, 18 projects are recommended for funding. The recommended projects requested a total of \$805,394 with an average request of \$44,744.

\$718,000 is recommended for funding with an average grant amount of \$39,890. Of the 18 recommended for funding, ten are returning projects previously approved for multi-year funding.

Of the 71 declines, 16 were assessed as high priority but due to budget constraints, could not be recommended. The funding requested for the high priority projects totaled just over \$630,000.

Community Impact

The following are some of the anticipated benefits of the 39 projects recommended for funding:

1. Of the 39 projects recommended, 23 will take place in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (many serve multiple NIAs and neighbourhoods). Nine projects have a city-wide focus;
2. Through AEHR grants, nearly 16,276 vulnerable people from across Toronto, including parents and children from the Latin American community, youth who are incarcerated and involved in serious violence, LGBTQ youth, newcomer women who are deaf and hard of hearing fleeing domestic violence, and youth involved in foster care will be supported to increase their capacity and access to effective supports;
3. Through CSI grants, over 6,240 people from across Toronto will be engaged, including trafficked persons in need of immediate and ongoing assistance, vulnerable seniors living in high rise buildings, youth involved in the criminal justice system, women at risk of 'honour violence' and domestic abuse within the South Asian community, and women engaged in sex work will be engaged to increase their safety and reduce violence in the community;
4. The City's investment of \$1,532,000 will leverage over \$558,000 in in-kind support from project partners; and,
5. A total of 791 volunteers will support the work of a projected 31 (full-time equivalent) staff to implement projects across Toronto.

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

Community Investment Funding Program Review Plan

On March 2013, City Council approved the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy. The policy commits the City to the ongoing review of its community funding programs to ensure that its grant programs are aligned with community needs and emerging issues and trends.

On June 10, 2014, City Council directed S DFA to explore new strategies to incubate and build the capacity of new and emerging groups and communities. Council furthered this directive on June 10, 2015, where it directed staff to explore ways to increase funding to new and emerging groups, develop a targeted approach and report back in 2016.

In response, S DFA is requesting Council approval to undertake a comprehensive review of the Community Investment Funding programs over the next 18 months.

Last year, approximately \$17.5M in grants were allocated to over 290 organizations from across Toronto through Community Service Partnership (CSP) and five grant streams in Community Investment Funding. CSP allocates approximately \$15M to ensure the community is provided with ongoing, core, and stable funding to 198 organizations. The Community Investment Funding program invested over \$2.6M in 96 organizations for time-limited projects.

The Community Investment Funding program provides time-limited funding to established and emerging not-for-profit groups in the City of Toronto to test new ideas or enhance existing models that lead to meaningful change in organizations and communities.

It has been several years since a comprehensive review of Community Investment Funding has been conducted. Toronto's funding landscape, community priorities and population are shifting. The opportunity to leverage \$2.6M in investments that will focus on the City's priorities is timely. Staff anticipate that service levels and total allocations made to benefit the community will not be reduced as a result of the program review. The CSP program will not be included in this review.

SDFA will seek approval from Council for any new or revised grant programs that may result from the review prior to the 2017 funding cycle.

Program Review Purpose

SDFA proposes to undertake a comprehensive review of five grant programs over the next 18 months, with the roll out of the new and/or revised grant programs in spring 2017. The purpose of the review is to:

- Ensure that Community Investment Funding programs are aligned with and advances the City's strategic priorities;
- Find ways to better support new and emerging community groups; and,
- Respond to the changing needs of the community sector.

City's strategic directions include: Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy 2020, Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Seniors Strategy, Undocumented Workers, Human Trafficking, and Newcomer Strategy.

Grant Programs Under Review

The following grant programs will be under review: Community Recreation, Community Festivals, Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR), Community Safety Investment (CSI), and Service Development & Improvement Program (SDIP).

Depending on consultation results and findings, SDFA may need to consider rolling out new funding streams and new branding, or potentially consider a re-design of current funding streams.

Community Engagement Framework

The framework for the community consultations and program development are as follows:

- Current City strategies will form the lens of the refined and/or new programs;

- Fund for community and resident impact;
- Fund for equitable outcomes.

The consultation will include meaningful involvement from stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of any new approach. The process will be a co-creation with the community, be engaging and creative, be iterative, and ensure a feedback loop to enhance accountability to the community.

SDFA will engage grant recipient organizations, applicants, residents, City funders, external funders and Councillors. Staff will assess and learn from grant reviews and program development conducted by other funders and City divisions, to attain different models and elements that can help in developing funding programs. Proposed methodology includes:

- Key informant interviews
- Literature and jurisdictional review
- Roundtable consultations
- Forum
- Surveys

Transition Plan

To ensure seamless transition to the revised and/or new grant programs in 2017, the 2016 grant programs will cap multi-year funding to two years instead of three. Allocation in the 2015 AEHR and CSI projects are recommended for two years. Communication tools and processes will be developed to support internal and external change processes.

Delegated Authority for Re-Allocation of Investment Funding Grants

During the course of a grant period, some organizations may encounter difficulties that can negatively impact the successful implementation of a funded project. Where there are challenges, City staff provide supports to ensure the success of the funded project. In some situations, groups may not be able to make use of their allocation. The City is currently unable to re-allocate unused funds in a timely manner so that the community continues to benefit.

This report requests delegated authority to allow the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused Access, Equity and Human Rights (AEHR) and Community Safety Investment (CSI) funds during the funding period to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to reallocate to applicants that were rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints. A requirement to report on any reallocations in a subsequent allocations report is also recommended. A similar delegated authority was approved by Council in 2011 for Community Service Partnership (CSP) funds not used during the funding period. (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/ci/bgrd/backgroundfile-40303.pdf>)

Grant Re-Allocation

On March 31, 2015, City Council approved a total of \$560,000 to 23 organizations from the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration (Pan

Am Festivals and Events) grant program. Pan Am Festivals and Events grants distributed \$140,000 to each of the four Community Council Districts to ensure funded activity takes place in neighbourhoods across the City of Toronto.

A recipient organization and its collaborative partners from the Toronto and East York District was approved for \$27,000 but withdrew their application. To ensure Pan Am Festivals grants are equitably distributed across Districts, and allocated to the approved target area, staff considered applications from organizations that were deemed high priority and located in the target community.

Staff recommends the re-allocation of \$27,000 to Children's Peace Theatre, as outlined in Appendix B. The application was originally assessed as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints. To accommodate the delayed allocation due to the Council approval process, staff recommends the timeline for the use of funds to be extended to the end of December, 2015.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2015 Allocation Recommendations – Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR), Community Safety Investment (CSI), 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration
- Appendix B: 2015 Detailed Summary Sheets and Summary of Declined Applicants – Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR), Community Safety Investment (CSI), 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events - Local Animation Through Collaboration
- Appendix C: Application Process and Assessment - 2015 Access, Equity & Human Rights (AEHR) & Community Safety Investment (CSI)

Appendix A

2015 Allocation Recommendations

**Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Program
Community Safety Investment Program
Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events – Local
Animation Through Collaboration**

Access, Equity & Human Rights Investment Program

2015 Allocation Recommendations

	<u>2015 AEHR Applicant Group</u>	<u>Ward*</u>	<u>2014 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2015 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2015 Amount Recommended</u>
1	Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation	19	30,000.00	34,854.00	30,000.00
2	Delta Family Resource Centre	07	0.00	39,641.00	35,000.00
3	Eritrean Canadian Community Centre of Toronto	30	0.00	41,673.00	38,000.00
4	Everdale - Black Creek Community Farm	08	40,000.00	48,912.00	40,000.00
5	FoodShare Toronto	18	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
6	Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto	32	n/a	50,000.00	45,000.00
7	Nikki Knows	28	n/a	50,000.00	46,000.00
8	Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)	16	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
9	Passerelle Integration et Developpement Economiques	27	30,000.00	41,000.00	30,000.00
10	Ralph Thornton Centre	30	n/a	50,000.00	40,000.00
11	REX Pride	01	0.00	37,708.00	35,000.00
12	Self-Help Resource Centre	22	n/a	47,430.00	40,000.00
13	Silent Voice Canada Inc.	22	0.00	47,100.00	40,000.00
14	SKETCH Working Arts	19	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
15	South Asian Women's Rights Organization	35	n/a	46,128.00	43,000.00
16	The Film Stars Project	19	n/a	32,000.00	30,000.00
17	The Rhema Foundation Canada	09	n/a	50,000.00	40,000.00
18	Thornccliffe Neighbourhood Office	26	0.00	40,000.00	35,000.00
19	Toronto Neighbourhood Centres	30	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
20	Toronto Women's City Alliance	15	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
21	Urban Alliance on Race Relations	27	n/a	50,000.00	42,000.00
				\$ 911,446.00	\$ 814,000.00
				Held for Appeals	\$ 40,000.00
				Total AEHR Budget	\$ 854,000.00

* Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably.

Community Safety Investment Program

2015 Allocation Recommendations

2015 CSI Applicant Group	Ward*	2014 Approved Allocation	2015 Amount Requested	2015 Amount Recommended
1 Agincourt Community Services Association	41	47,000.00	47,000.00	47,000.00
2 Alexandra Park Community Centre	20	40,000.00	60,000.00	40,000.00
3 Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter	20	35,000.00	57,000.00	35,000.00
4 FCJ Refugee Centre	17	n/a	50,000.00	46,000.00
5 FRESH Collective	20	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
6 John Howard Society of Toronto	27	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
7 Nia Centre for Arts	33	33,000.00	33,000.00	33,000.00
8 Ontario Justice Education Network	27	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
9 Operation Springboard	27	n/a	39,881.76	36,000.00
10 Promoting Education and Community Health (PEACH)	07	n/a	50,000.00	45,000.00
11 Scarborough Women's Centre	38	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
12 South Asian Women's Centre	18	0	50,000.00	40,000.00
13 Street Health Community Nursing Foundation	28	n/a	39,300.00	35,000.00
14 The Dream Team	14	n/a	40,000.00	35,000.00
15 The Neighbourhood Group Community Services	28	n/a	50,212.00	44,000.00
16 Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape	20	n/a	50,000.00	43,000.00
17 Unison Health and Community Services	15	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
18 Urban Non-Violent Initiatives Through Youth (UNITY)	16	39,000.00	39,000.00	39,000.00
		Totals	\$805,393.76	\$718,000.00
		Held for Appeals		\$40,000.00
		Total CSI Budget		\$758,000.00

* Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably.

**2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Festivals and Events –
Local Animation Through Collaboration**

2015 Re-Allocation Recommendation

	<u>Pan Am Festival 2015 Applicant Group</u>	<u>Ward*</u>	<u>2015 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2015 Amount Recommended</u>
1	Children's Peace Theatre	31	40,000.00	27,000.00

* Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably.