



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Community Investment Funding Programs – 2015 Allocation Recommendations (Identify 'N Impact, Emerging Neighbourhoods Fund)

<b>Date:</b>	November 10, 2015
<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>	21609

#### SUMMARY

---

This report recommends funding from the following two Community Investment Funding programs: Identify 'N Impact (INI), and Emerging Neighbourhood Fund (ENF).

*Identify 'N Impact:* Of 56 submissions from youth-led groups, 10 were shortlisted by a youth panel to proceed to the second stage of the application process. Of the 10, five are recommended by a panel of sector leaders for funding total of \$50,000. *Emerging Neighbourhood Fund:* This report recommends funding for a total of \$300,000 to four groups approved for two-year funding, for the second and final year of the initiative.

This report also recommends delegated authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Administration and Finance to reallocate unused Investment Funding Program funds in 2015 to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to applicants that advance City's strategic directions and were rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints.

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:

- Identify 'N Impact funds youth-led groups to create meaningful opportunities for community involvement;
- Emerging Neighbourhood Fund funds a two-year initiative to support four neighbourhoods transitioning out of the Neighbourhood Improvement Area designation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

---

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

1. City Council approve allocations for the following Investment Funding programs, as recommended in Appendices A, B and C, from the 2015 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration:
  - a) Total funding of \$50,000 allocated to 5 organizations for the 2015 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program;
  - b) Total funding of \$300,000 allocated to 4 organizations for the 2015 Emerging Neighbourhood Fund (ENF) Program, comprising the second and final grant.
2. City Council approve delegated authority to enable the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate any unused Investment Funding Program funds as at December 1, 2015 to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to applicants that advance City's strategic directions and rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints.

### **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 9 organizations totalling \$350,000, and a reallocation of any unused Investment Funding Program funds as at December 1, 2015 to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to applicants that advance City's strategic directions and rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints. The Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration will report back on the allocation of the unused Investment Funding Program funds as part of the annual program reporting.

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)

As a part of the 2014 Operating Budget process, Council approved an additional \$300,000 in Community Funding to support emerging needs in underserved areas. In 2014 and 2015, these funds are allocated to support the 8 neighbourhoods that are transitioning from the *Neighbourhood Improvement Area* portfolio.

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

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>

On February 19, 2014 City Council approved the implementation of all Toronto Youth Equity Strategy actions, and referred all Toronto Youth Equity Strategy actions requiring additional resources to the respective program areas for consideration and potential inclusion in future operating and capital budgets.  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD26.2>

On September 30, 2015, City Council approved delegated authority to Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused Access, Equity and Human Rights and Community Safety Investment 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.  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD6.2>

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Community Funding supports and sustains the well-being of Toronto's communities by providing funding to community-based organizations for programs that improve social outcomes for racialized communities and equity-seeking groups.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Allocation recommendations from the following Investment Funding grant programs for approval are provided in this report: 2015 Identify 'N Impact, and 2015 Emerging Neighbourhood Fund.

### **Identify 'N Impact (INI)**

The Identify 'N' Impact (INI) Investment program funds 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 of 15 – 24 years of age, to address the challenges they face in accessing education and employment and connecting to their communities.

Since the creation of INI in 2006, over 120 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.

## **Emerging Neighbourhoods Fund (ENF)**

The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy was first adopted by Council in 2005 premised on the understanding that an historic under-investment in the community infrastructure for some Toronto neighbourhoods had resulted in a variety of challenges, particularly in the area of community safety, and particularly for racialized youth. The TSNS 2020 Strategy builds on the success of the 2005 Strategy and focuses on improving equitable outcomes for all neighbourhoods and monitors their well-being. TSNS 2020 uses the Urban HEART@Toronto data to assign a Neighbourhood Equity Score for each neighbourhood in five domains: Economic Opportunities, Social Development, Health Lives, Participation and Decision-Making and Physical Surroundings. 31 of 140 neighbourhoods were designated as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs).

In 2014, four projects from eight neighbourhoods, combined into four geographically appropriate areas that are transitioning from the NIA portfolio were approved for two-year funding. The funding will be used to help ensure that support exists within these transitioning neighbourhoods to continue local planning and coordination. The funding will also help to ensure that the gains made in the 2005 Strategy are maintained and strengthened.

## **COMMENTS**

### **1. Identify 'N Impact (INI)**

#### **1a. Program Enhancements**

The INI funding program provides grants of up to \$10,000 to youth-led groups to lead and deliver projects up to one year in length that promote youth empowerment and broader community safety in Toronto.

In 2015, the INI funding priorities was expanded and program administration fine-tuned with the goals of:

- better aligning funding goals with the City's Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES); and,
- creating program administration efficiencies to increase capacity-building supports to youth applicants and grant recipients.

*City of Toronto Strategy Alignment:* The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) was unanimously adopted by City Council on February 19, 2014. TYES seeks to support youth who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime both by taking steps to better coordinate youth service delivery in Toronto, and by identifying specific service enhancements directed at those youth.

Within current resources, the INI grant program was identified to support the implementation of the Council approved TYES Action 9J and 9K for investment in educational attainment, and community based training. Two changes were made to the 2015 INI program to better align INI program with TYES:

- a) TYES goals were included for the first time in the list of funding priorities in the 2015 INI call for applications;
- b) The eligibility criteria of the age range for INI youth was expanded from 15-24 years to 29 years. The age extension is in keeping with other youth serving programs across the City, and

a recognition that youth who are involved in serious violence or crime and/or have experienced trauma may need supports into their mid-twenties and later.

*Program Efficiencies & Strengthening Capacity Building Supports:* The Youth Development Unit that oversees the implementation of the TYES strategy, and the Community Funding Unit that manages the INI grant program collaborated on delivering the 2015 INI program. Staff identified this inter-unit collaboration as a service enhancement and will continue partnering to leverage the expertise of YDU's staff in providing capacity building supports to youth-led groups.

### **1b. Application Process & Applicant Support**

The INI grant guidelines were released on August 20, 2015 with a grant deadline of September 14, 2015. A total of 57 submissions were received by the deadline date (compared to 48 in 2014), of which 56 were eligible. In 2015, staff instituted a three-stage application process to reduce the administrative burden for applicants, and provide them more effective ways to communicate their project idea:

1. *Shortlisting:* the first stage was a call for submission through an online form that included eligibility questions and four questions about the group's project idea. A panel of five youth from the Toronto Youth Cabinet and TYES Community Panel reviewed and assessed 56 eligible applications to recommend a shortlist of 10 projects. Members provided insight on youth priorities, challenges and opportunities.
2. *Full proposal:* 10 shortlisted applicants were required to provide a more detailed work plan and budget. Staff also provided them with capacity-building supports.
3. *Pitch Forum:* 10 shortlisted applicants attended a Pitch Forum held in Council Chambers on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to present their idea to a panel of sector leaders. Five projects of \$10,000 each are recommended by the panel for funding approval.

*Outreach:* A targeted approach was undertaken to ensure youth-led groups that are eligible to receive INI funding put the time and effort required into a full grant application. Representatives from the City's TYES Community Panel were invited to promote the grant opportunity to their networks of youth-led groups working with youth most vulnerable to serious violence and crime (MVP youth).

*Capacity Building Supports:* Youth members from the 10 shortlisted groups were invited to a free *Pitch for Success* training session delivered by a media expert. The youth were provided with coaching, information and support on how to prepare their pitch idea, create a compelling presentation, and help with their work plan and budget.

*Judging Panel:* The 10 youth-led groups pitched their project ideas on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to the INI Judging Panel of high-profile Torontonians. The Panel was composed of: Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager; Femi Lawson, Social Media Personality; Amanda Parris, host of CBC's *Exhibitionist*; and, Orville Wallace, Ontario Trillium Foundation.

### **1c. Allocation Recommendations**

Of the 10 shortlisted applications, five are recommended for one year funding of \$10,000 each by the INI Judging Panel.

Projects will reach young people who are reflective of a number of equity-seeking communities including, for example: youth affected by parental incarceration, youth on probation or reintegrating into society after incarceration, newcomer and racialized youth living in a Toronto Community Housing community. Total of 500 youth from across Toronto will be engaged; and all five projects will engage youth living Neighbourhood Improvement Areas<sup>1</sup> (many serve multiple NIAs).

The following are some of the anticipated benefits the five recommended projects will provide youth:

- leadership, life skills, education, employment;
- knowledge and skills of the creative industries;
- increased capacity of community based youth arts leaders to manage projects; and,
- a youth-led curriculum and conference that explores issues relating to rape and consent through mainstream media.

Brief summaries of the five projects recommended are provided in Appendix B.

## **2. Emerging Neighbourhoods Fund (ENF)**

### **2a. Two-Year Initiative**

As part of the 2014 Operating Budget process, Council approved an additional \$300,000 in Community Funding in Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFa) to support continued emerging needs in underserved areas.

In 2014, four projects from eight neighbourhoods (combined into four) that are transitioning from the Neighbourhood Improvement Area portfolio were approved for two-year funding. In 2014, \$300,000 of the additional funds supported the first year of the two year initiative.

### **2b. Application Process & Applicant Support**

On June 17, 2015, staff brought community leaders from the four transitioning neighbourhoods together for a half day in a community of practise workshop and networking session. Representatives from the four projects including neighbourhood staff coordinators, residents or steering committee members, and trustee organization leadership, were brought together to discuss and share their network's common needs, strengths, and best practices. The SDFa collaborated with Toronto Public Health (TPH) to deliver a comprehensive learning session on program evaluation, led by TPH staff.

*Sector Engagement:* Staff invited the community representatives to co-create the Emerging Neighbourhood Fund's year two assessment criteria. Through a 'dot-mocracy' exercise, representatives voted unanimously to split the emerging neighbourhood funds grants equally among the neighbourhoods for 2015 (\$75,000 per transitioning neighbourhood).

*Capacity Building & Building Networks:* City staff aims to reconvene representatives from the four neighbourhood initiatives again in 2016 to support the continued sharing and learning of best practices.

---

<sup>1</sup> Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA) referenced here are the 31 neighbourhoods approved by Council in April 1, 2014 under the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020.

## **2c. Allocation Recommendations**

Staff recommends allocating \$300,000 in 2015 to support the four projects for the second and final year of the two-year initiative. The recommendations are based on a renewal report, work plans and budget for next year's activities, along with other considerations such as SDIP funding and completed SDIP final reports.

The following are some of the anticipated benefits of the four ENF projects recommended for year two funding:

- development of community action plans;
- increase in network collaborations, and
- improvements in community network's governance structures.

Brief summaries of the four projects recommended for funding for the second and final year of the two-year initiative are provided in Appendix C.

## **3. 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.

Staff are currently working with three recipients from the 2015 Community Festivals, 2015 Community Recreation, and 2015 Service Development Investment Programs who are unable to use some or all of their grant, and who will be required to return the balance of their grants to the City.

To ensure all grant funds are expended before the end of the year to maximize benefit to the community, staff request delegated authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused Investment Funding program funds during the funding period to partner organizations that can implement the approved project, or to reallocate to applicants that both advance City approved strategies and were rated as high priority but not funded due to budget constraints.

A similar delegated authority was approved by Council in 2011 and on September 30, 2015 for Community Service Partnership and two Investment Funding programs respectively.

A requirement to report on any reallocations in a subsequent allocations report is also recommended.

## **CONTACT**

Mini Alakkatusery  
Acting Manager, Community Funding  
Social Development, Finance and Administration  
Phone: 416.392.8334 Fax: 416.392.8492 Email: [malakka@toronto.ca](mailto:malakka@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director  
Social Development, Finance and Administration

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: 2015 Allocation Recommendations – Identify 'N Impact (INI), and Emerging Neighbourhoods Fund (ENF)
- Appendix B: 2015 Summary of Projects Recommended for Funding and Declined Short Listed Applicants – Identify 'N Impact (INI)
- Appendix C: 2015 Summary Sheets Returning Applicants – Emerging Neighbourhoods Fund (ENF)



## **Appendix A**

### **2015 Allocation Recommendations**

#### **Identify 'N Impact Emerging Neighbourhood Fund**

## Identify 'N Impact Investment Program

### 2015 Allocation Recommendations

<u>2015 Shortlisted Group</u>	<u>Ward*</u>	<u>2014 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2015 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2015 Amount Recommended</u>
1 FEAT for Children of Incarcerated Parents	6	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
2 Lost Lyrics	20	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
3 RISE Edutainment	42	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
4 The Remix Project	14	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
5 Tobomory Youth Council	8	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
			<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
			<b>Total Balance of 2015 INI Budget</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>

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

## Emerging Neighbourhood Fund

### 2015 Allocation Recommendations

<b>2015 Returning Applicant</b>	<b>Ward*</b>	<b>2014 Approved Allocation</b>	<b>2015 Amount Requested</b>	<b>2015 Amount Recommended</b>
1 Bathurst-Finch Network	10	87,500	75,000.00	75,000.00
2 Malvern Stakeholder Group Dorset Park Neighbourhood Transition	42	87,500	75,000.00	75,000.00
3 Group Steeles L'Amoreaux Strength in	37	62,500	75,000.00	75,000.00
4 Partnership	39	62,500	75,000.00	75,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>
			<b>Total ENF Budget</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>

\* Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably within the Neighbourhood Improvement Area.