



REPORT FOR ACTION

2016 Allocations Recommendations: Identify 'N Impact (INI)

Date: November 10, 2016

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report recommends the following funding from Community Investment Funding:

Of eighty-eight (88) eligible submissions from youth-led groups to the Identify 'N Impact (INI) program, twenty (20) were shortlisted by a youth panel to proceed to the second stage of the application process. Ten (10) projects are recommended by a panel of youth and youth sector grantmakers for funding total of \$97,814.

This report recommends funding a total of \$100,000 to expand the hours of operations at a community hub in Rexdale so that an increased number of youth and families can access the facilities and services.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve allocations for the following Investment Funding program, as recommended in Appendices A, B and C, from the 2016 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration:

- a) Total funding of \$97,814 allocated from the 2016 Identify 'N Impact Investment Program to ten (10) youth-led projects;
- b) Total funding of \$100,000 allocated from the 2016 Community Investment Funding to one (1) organization to expand their hours of operations to increase services to youth and families at a community hub in Rexdale.

2) City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused 2016 Identify 'N Impact funds during the funding period to organizations that can implement the approved project, or to reallocate to applicants.

3) City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration report on any re-allocation of 2016 Identify 'N Impact funds as part of the 2017 grants allocation recommendations report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been included in the 2016 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

This report recommends allocations for eleven (11) organizations totalling \$197,814.

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>

On June 7, 2016 City Council approved Social Development, Finance and to pilot and evaluate a funding model for capacity-building supports (organizational mentors) to City-funded emerging/grassroots groups.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD12.4>

COMMENTS

The Identity 'N Impact (INI) Investment funding program provides one-year grants of up to \$10,000 to youth-led groups to lead and deliver projects that promote youth empowerment and broader community safety with other youth participants aged 13-29 years.

INI funding priorities includes projects that:

- engage youth from and/or based in one of the City's 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas;
- work with racialized youth leaders, particularly African-Canadian youth;
- are led-by and work with MVP youth (youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence & crime); and/or

- work to advance Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) priorities, including educational attainment, community-based training, and mentorship.

Program Efficiencies: The Youth Development Unit (YDU) that oversees the implementation of the TYES strategy, and the Community Funding Unit that manages the INI grant program continued a second year of collaborating to deliver the 2016 INI program. This year, the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) increased their involvement in implementing INI. Staff identified this inter-unit collaboration as a service enhancement and will continue partnering to leverage the expertise of YDU's staff in in the outreach and application stages of the grant program.

1a. Application Process & Applicant Support

A total of eighty-eight (88) eligible submissions were received by the deadline date of August 22, 2016, a 44 % increase (compared to 57 in 2015).

A two-stage application process helped to reduce the administrative burden for applicants, and provide them more effective ways to communicate their project idea:

- *Letter of Intent & Shortlisting:* the first stage was a call for submission through an online form that included eligibility questions and short application about the group's project idea. A panel of youth from TYC and TYES Community Panel (that includes MVP youth) reviewed and assessed eighty-eight (88) eligible applications to recommend a shortlist of twenty (20) projects. Members provided insight on youth priorities, challenges and opportunities.
- *Full Application & Instagram Video:* twenty (20) shortlisted applicants were required to provide a more detailed work plan budget and a 1-minute Instagram video pitch on their INI project. Seventeen (17) groups submitted completed documents by the deadline date.

Capacity Building Supports:

- Youth members from the 20 shortlisted groups were invited to a free training session delivered by a social media expert and staff from the City Clerk's Office. In addition, shortlisted groups were also provided with a technical guide created in partnership with the TYC. The groups received information and support on how to prepare their pitch idea, create a compelling video, and help with their work plan and budget.
- The supports provided to the INI grant recipients will be strengthened through the new Council-approved Organizational Mentor Pilot Project. Two community organizations with expertise providing capacity building supports to youth leaders and youth-led groups will mentor the youth leaders through the life of the grant and ensure the funded projects are implemented successfully.

Judging Panel:

The 17 short-listed projects' video, budget, and work plan were reviewed and recommended by the INI Judging Panel. The Panel was composed of: Sean Twyford, Director, Youth Strategies Branch, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Government of Ontario; Khadija Aziz, Former Toronto Youth Cabinet member & Youth representative; Tabish Surani, Lead, Program Delivery, Youth Opportunities Fund, Ontario Trillium Foundation; Nikki Browne, Not-for-profit youth sector leader & Youth

representative; Hanifa Kassam, Laidlaw Foundation Board Chair; Community Development Officer - Poverty Reduction Strategy Office, SDFA; Chris Brillinger, Executive Director, SDFA.

1b. Allocation Recommendations

Of the 17 completed shortlisted applications, 10 are recommended for one year funding of up to \$10,000 each by the INI Judging Panel.

Recommended Projects will reach young people who are reflective of a number of equity-seeking communities including, for example: Ethiopian, Eritrean and Harari youth from East Africa; racialized, queer and trans youth in South Etobicoke, youth who have been involved in violence and experienced trauma. Over 1,000 youth from across Toronto will be engaged; and all ten (10) projects will engage youth living Neighbourhood Improvement Areas¹ (many serve multiple NIAs).

The following are some of the anticipated benefits the ten (10) recommended projects will provide youth:

- opportunity to use technology to launch a digital arts and history museum on Toronto's Black history;
- meaningful engagement and exposure in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and,
- closer relationship with the police through facilitated workshops with 32 Division.

The list of projects recommended for funding are provided in Appendix A. Brief summaries of the 10 recommended projects are provided in Appendix B. Brief synopsis of the recommended declined shortlisted projects are provided in Appendix C.

2. Community Hub Support

The Rexdale Community Hub has been an important component of the City's Toronto Neighbourhood Improvement Strategy (TSNS 2020). The City of Toronto, United Way of Toronto and York Region, other levels of government, and foundations, partnered to transform the former high school (formerly Father Henry Carr Catholic School) into a new 77,000 sq. ft. community centre. The Hub opened in the spring of 2012 and is a home to over nine agencies working together to provide local residents with services, assistance and access to community space.

Rexdale is a Neighbourhood Improvement Area (NIA) and the Hub plays a critical role in enhancing community and social infrastructure of the neighbourhood.

Currently the Hub operates during business hours, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm and is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Over the years there has been increased demand from the community for enhanced services and extended hours at the Hub.

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

Staff is recommending additional investment to enable the Rexdale Community Hub to extend its hours of operations so that it can serve more vulnerable youth and families living in the NIA. Committed Hub partners and community agencies will provide the programming, however funds are required to enable the Hub to increase access to the City-owned facility by expanding its hours to operate Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm, and open on Saturdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

In order to increase the impact of the Rexdale Community Hub services, staff recommends an allocation of \$100,000 from the Community Investment Funding envelope to enable the Hub to reach more high-needs youth and families.

3. Delegated Authority for Re-Allocation of Investment Funding Grants

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.

This report requests delegated authority to allow the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to reallocate unused 2016 INI funds during the funding period to 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 2016 for other Investment Funding program funds not used during the funding period.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Chris Brillinger
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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2016 Allocation Recommendations – Identify 'N Impact (INI)
- Appendix B: 2016 Summary of Projects Recommended for Funding – Identify 'N Impact (INI)
- Appendix C: 2016 Summary of Shortlisted Projects Recommended for Decline – Identify 'N Impact (INI)

APPENDIX A

Identify 'N Impact Investment Program - 2016 Allocation Recommendations

	2016 INI Grant Recipients	Ward *	2015 Approved Allocation	2016 Amount Requested	2016 Amount Recommended
1	21 to 15	37	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
2	Champions	42	\$0.00	\$9,924.00	\$9,924.00
3	Harari Youth Committee of Toronto (HYCT)	35	\$0.00	\$8,040.00	\$8,040.00
4	Les Dancesoeurs	8	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
5	N.Y.C. (Neptune Youth Community)	15	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
6	PAERE	37	\$0.00	\$9,850.00	\$9,850.00
7	SEYA (South Etobicoke Youth Assembly)	6	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
8	Visions of Science Network for Learning	28	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
9	Young Decision Makers Youth Group c/o The Students Commission of Canada**	27	\$0.00	\$10,140.00	\$10,000.00
10	Young Diplomats Ethiopian Youth Development Group	30	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
11	Rexdale Community Hub			\$110,000.00	\$100,000.00
	Total			<hr/>	<hr/>
				\$207,954.00	\$197,814.00
	INI 2016 Budget				<hr/>
					\$200,00.00

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