



## REPORT FOR ACTION

### 2019 Allocation of Community Events Grants

**Date:** February 15, 2019

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

**Wards:** Wards: All

#### SUMMARY

---

This report recommends the following 2019 allocations for Community Events in the Community Investment Funding (CIF) program. Twenty-five (25) proposals are recommended for funding by a grant review panel for a funding total of \$370,596 and a total of \$54,404 be held for Appeals.

The balance of the 2019 funding for Community Projects (\$1,000,000) is being allocated to the seven (7) organizations funded in 2018 in the Rapid Response Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Grant as well as three (3) additional grantees who were recommended for funding in the grant call but did not receive an allocation due to insufficient funding.

Additionally, a one-time capacity building grant is recommended to support CSP funded organizations to fully meet CSP eligibility requirements and be able to apply for funding later this year in the next funding cycle (2019-2022).

Appendix C provides the list of reallocations and grants made through the delegated authority of the Executive Director SDFA.

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 (SDFA) recommends that:

1. City Council approve allocations for the following Community Investment Funding (CIF) program, Community Events as recommended in Appendix A from the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA):

- Total funding of \$370,596 to twenty-five (25) community organizations for the Community Events grant stream;
- Funding up to a total of \$54,404 be held for Appeals for Community Events grant stream
- City Council authorize the Executive Director SDFA, to allocate, issue and enter into agreements for up to \$120,000 for a one-time capacity building grant to support CSP funded organizations to fully meet CSP eligibility requirements and be able to apply for funding later this year in the next funding cycle (2019-2022)

2. City Council authorizes the Executive Director, SDFA to re-allocate or approve and disburse one-time grants to Council-approved Community Investment Funding grant programs in 2019.

3. City Council request the Executive Director, SDFA to report back to the Economic and Community Development Committee on the grants approved through delegated authority as part of the 2020 grants allocation recommendations report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been included in the 2019 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

This report recommends allocations totalling \$545,000.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

---

The City of Toronto provides support to the for public benefit 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).

On March 28, 2017 City Council approved the introduction of three grant streams: Community Projects & Events, and Neighbourhood Micro Grant (rebranded to Neighbourhood Grants), and Capacity Building as part of the new Community Investment Funding framework to advance Council approved social development strategies and support City divisional service plans.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD18.5>

On July 24, 2018 City Council authorized the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to apply for, enter into any necessary agreements, receive, and allocate Federal Government funding for an amount of \$1.050 million in 2018 to immediately implement the Youth Violence Prevention Initiatives and expand the Community Crisis Response Program, as detailed in Revised Appendix B, #1, #3, #4 and #16 to the report (July 17, 2018) from the Interim City Manager. The approved

funding includes \$500,000 in one-time funds for the Community Funding Unit to invest in agencies and grassroots groups, where possible, with a strong record of partnership and collaboration to enhance their youth programming designed to curb youth violence. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CC44.14>

## **COMMENTS**

---

### **1. Community Projects & Events - Community Investment Funding Program**

On March 28, 2017 City Council approved a new Community Investment Funding (CIF) grant program - Community Projects & Events. The Community Investment Fund grants mandate is to fund one-off and stand-alone initiatives; funding is not for ongoing programs and services.

The Community Projects funds typically allocated to this stream are being reallocated to a critical area of need in the community: youth gun violence prevention and intervention. The balance of the 2019 funding for Community Projects (\$1,000,000) is being allocated to the seven (7) organizations funded in 2018 in the Rapid Response Youth Gun Violence Prevention and Intervention Grant as well as three (3) additional grantees who were recommended for funding in the grant call but did not receive an allocation due to insufficient funding. This funding strategically deepens the City's commitment to responding to issues impacting equity seeking groups and is needed to sustain current responses to youth gun violence.

#### **Community Events Grant Goals**

Community Events Grants support resident engagement and leadership by funding grassroots organizations to create neighbourhood events or activities that bring different groups of people together to strengthen neighbourhoods, keep people active, or help residents learn new skills and build leadership.

One-time funding of \$5,000 to \$20,000 is available for activities beginning in June, 2019 and ending in May, 2020. Only grassroots group and groups with less than \$500,000 in annual operating budgets are eligible to apply.

#### **Grant Process**

*Grant Need:* Four (4) information sessions, one (1) Application Clinic and one (1) Drop-In Day for application support were offered across the city to applicant organizations.

Of the one hundred and sixty-three (163) initial applications deemed eligible for Community Events funding, fifty-nine (59) were shortlisted by City staff, fifty-five (55) were submitted to proceed to the full application stage of the grant process, and twenty-five (25) are recommended for funding.

*Targeted supports for applicants:* Four (4) information sessions, one (1) Application Clinic and one (1) Drop-In Day for application support were offered across the city to applicant organizations.

*Application Process:* To streamline the grants process, staff implemented a two-stage submission process. Only initial applications that best fit the funding criteria were invited to submit a full proposal which consisted of a detailed budget and work plan. The average approval rate of organizations that submitted full proposals is 43%.

Two Review Panels were established, consisting of a total of twelve (12) members including City grants staff, external funders, and two 2018 Projects & Events grant recipients from grassroots organizations. Three (3) community residents who are sitting members of other City resident advisory committees will comprise the Appeals Review Panel.

*Grant Recommendations:* A total of twenty-five (25) applications that best met the grant program criteria are recommended for \$370,596 in funding by the Grant Review Panel.

*Appeals Recommendations:* Appeals are available only to applicants who have been invited to the full application stage, whose proposals meet most funding criteria and are recommended by the review panel for the appeals process. The Panel recommends a total of six (6) applications for the Appeals process for further clarification on their submissions. The combined budget available for appeals is \$54,404. The Appeals Review Panel will meet in April, 2019.

### **Funding Allocation Recommendation Statistics for Community Events Funding**

|                                                                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Funding Available                                                            | \$425,000   |
| Amount held for Appeals                                                      | \$54,404    |
| # letters of Initial Applications received                                   | 163         |
| \$ total requested from LOIs                                                 | \$2,544,030 |
| # and % applications shortlisted for full proposals and submitted for review | 59 (36%)    |
| \$ total requested from shortlisted applicants                               | \$842,279   |
| # applications recommended                                                   | 25          |
| \$ recommended for funding                                                   | \$370,596   |
| \$ average grant amount                                                      | \$14,824    |

### **Community Impact**

The following are some of the anticipated outcomes of the twenty-five (25) Events applications recommended for funding:

- Stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents and organizations in Parkdale, leading to the creation of an Indigenous community garden.

- Reduced barriers for survivors of sexual violence to access free intersectional, anti-oppressive and survivor centric education, resources and skill building and supports via a workshop series and the creation of a Survivor Handbook.
- Increased opportunities for youth-led dialogues on the topic of mental health in the KGO neighbourhood.
- Increased food security and access to healthy, locally grown foods through various initiatives, including the community-led development of two bee yards in Toronto Community Housing communities.
- The celebration of African historical, contemporary and futuristic arts via a community event that will feature collective works completed by racialized youth and adult ally residents.

*Other impacts include:*

Fifteen (15) Community Events will take place within or have a focus on Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (many serve multiple NIAs) and in Emerging Neighbourhoods; three (3) Community Events will have a city-wide focus.

- The Community Events activities will engage 6,623 residents from across Toronto in neighbourhood-based initiatives.
- The City's investment of \$370,596 will leverage \$131,777 in in-kind support from project partners.

*Advance City strategies:* Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy (TSNS) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) are two Council-approved strategies that are being advanced through the Community Events applications recommended for approval. Twenty-three (23) of the recommended events advance TSNS, while six (6) recommended events advance the PRS. Additionally, the City's Toronto Youth Equity Strategy and the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy are also supported through the 2019 Community Events grants.

*Population groups served:* All recommended Community Events initiatives will be serving a diversity of residents from high needs communities across Toronto. For example, twenty-two (22) recommended events will target racialized Torontonians, while twenty (20) will target youth.

The list of Community Events recommended for funding are provided in Appendix A. Brief summaries of the twenty-five (25) recommended applications for funding are provided in Appendix B, along with the list of applications recommended for Appeals, and the list of declined shortlisted applicants.

## **2. One-time Capacity Building Grant**

Additionally, a one-time capacity building grant is recommended to support CSP funded organizations to fully meet CSP eligibility guidelines and be able to apply for funding in the next funding cycle (2019-2022).

As part of the CSP renewal process, CSP organizations will have to develop and implement their CSP eligibility plans approved by Community Funding Unit in order to meet CSP eligibility requirements. These eligibility plans could be in the areas of governance, financial management, strategic planning and other areas of organizational

capacity. The grantee will coordinate matching these CSP organization, who chose to develop and implement CSP eligibility plans, with community based organizations who will serve as mentor organizations in this process. The grantee will also provide additional resources (tools, and templates) to support CSP organizations in fulfilling their eligibility plans.

### **3. Delegated Authority**

*List of Grants Approved Through Delegated Authority:* To ensure all grant funds are expended during the year to maximize benefit to the community, City Council approved delegated authority to allow the Executive Director, SDFA to a) approve Crisis Response Fund grant recipients to ensure timely response to trauma in the neighbourhood, b) reallocate unused 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, c) to approve recipients of Neighbourhood Grants, and, d) disburse funding to new initiatives approved by Council.

Appendix C provides the list of reallocations and grants approved through delegated authority.

## **CONTACT**

---

Barbara Powell, Manager, Community Funding  
Social Development, Finance and Administration  
Phone: 416.397.7302 Fax: 416.392.8492 Email: [barbara.powell@toronto.ca](mailto:barbara.powell@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

- Appendix A: 2019 Allocation Recommendations – Events
- Appendix B: 2019 Events - Summary of Shortlisted Applications Recommended for Funding, List of Applications Recommended for Appeals, List of Declined Shortlisted Applications
- Appendix C: 2018/2019 List of Reallocations and Grant Recipients Approved with Delegated Authority