Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 20, 2011

REPORTS

Minute No. 239 Authorization to Respond to Federal "Homelessness Partnering Strategy" Expression of Interest

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommends to Council:

1. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to enter into negotiation with or respond to an Expression of Interest or Request for Proposals request by the Federal Government regarding becoming a delivery entity for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy for the City of Winnipeg which provides funding ($5-6M/year) for housing and programming for individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Becoming the delivery entity is contingent on availability of Federal program funding.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: ***Authorization to Respond to Federal "Homelessness Partnering Strategy" Expression of Interest***

Critical Path: **Executive Policy Committee - Council**

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
S. Dueck	D. Joshi	N/A	P. Sheegl, Deputy CAO

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the CAO be delegated authority to enter into negotiation with or respond to an Expression of Interest (EOI) or Request for Proposals (RFP) request by the Federal Government regarding becoming a delivery entity for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for the city of Winnipeg which provides funding ($5-6M/year) for housing and programming for individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Becoming the delivery entity is contingent on availability of federal program funding.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The federal government, through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), has identified plans to issue a request for Expressions of Interest from organizations (including the municipality) to become a "Community Entity" that delivers HPS funding in Winnipeg. The Public Service is requesting delegated authority to respond and to enter into negotiations with HRSDC if and when such a request is issued. Final agreement for the City to become the delivery agent for this funding would be contingent on approval by Council, as recommended by the Public Service.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

By becoming the delivery agent for these funds as have many large municipalities, the City would have influence over how funding for homelessness is directed in Winnipeg.

Assuming that it was selected to be the Community Entity, the City would administer direct funding for solutions for homelessness with no requirement for contribution from its operating budget.

It is likely that the administration fees that the City would be able to negotiate as part of its contract will result in administrative cost neutrality to the City's budget.

The City would have certain restrictions on funding criteria from Service Canada regarding how it can process, approve and monitor applications and funding recommendations.

Assuming an EOI by the Federal government in Q2, 2011, actual administration of program funding would likely only begin for the 2012 funding year.

HISTORY

The Federal Government, through HRSDC, has funded proposals for projects related to housing support for homelessness through its Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) since 2007[1]. The most recent completed funding commitment allocated $5.75M/ year from 2007 to 2011. Service Canada recently announced a further commitment of funding of $17M for the 3 years of April 2011 – April 2014 ($5.75M / year) allocated as $6.6M for Aboriginal Homelessness Funding and $10.6M for Designated Communities Funding.

The current administrative process for these funds is that the federal HPS office publishes a Call for Proposals. Proponents submit proposals for capital (including housing development), programming and research projects. These proposals are reviewed by a Community Advisory Board (CAB). Endorsed projects are then further reviewed by Service Canada staff who submits the proposals for final approval in Ottawa. Service Canada staff is directly involved in managing the funding process, from the Call for Proposals to the evaluation of proposals to establishment of legal agreements, delivery of funding for accepted proposals and project monitoring.

This model currently employed for Winnipeg (Manitoba / Saskatchewan) is somewhat unique. In many municipalities the federal government operates this funding under a Community Entity Model under which a local entity would be selected to assume these administrative responsibilities in cooperation with the CAB and with Service Canada. The federal government is now planning to move to a consistent delivery model for HPS across Canada, which means that the Winnipeg delivery model will change and a local entity (or entities) will be selected to administer this program. This change will establish a higher degree of local influence over the selection and funding process.

[1] The previous generation program was the National Homelessness Initiative which operated since 1999.

A "Community Entity" can be the municipality or it can be a non-profit organization with the capacity to deliver this service. The Province would not be eligible to take on this role. Of the 61 communities in which HRSDC provides HPS funding, 32 use the Community Entity Model. In those communities using the Community Entity Model, 24 of the Community Entities are the local municipality. These include municipalities in Ontario, Alberta, and B.C. Three of the remaining 29 Shared Delivery Model communities are shifting to the Community Entity Model as of April 1, 2011, and the rest are encouraged/directed to make this shift in the next 2 - 3 years. The Community Entity in Winnipeg will likely be selected through a Call for Proposals in mid-2011, and selection will in part be based on a recommendation by the CAB to HRSDC.

It is also important to note that the Community Entity will receive part of the funding allocated for the region for administration and delivery costs. This funding does not need to be cost matched, but it is helpful if the Community Entity offers some support (staff, office space, etc.) in its proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** March 21, 2011

Project Name:

Authorization to Respond to Federal "Homelessnes Partnering Strategy" Expression of Interest

COMMENTS:

The recommendation contained in this report is that the Public Service be delegated authority to enter into negotiation with or respond to an Expression of Interest (EOI) request by the Federal Government regarding becoming a delivery entity for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) which provides funding ($5-6M/year) for housing and programming for individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

Final agreement for the City to become the delivery agent for this funding would be contingent on approval by Council, as recommended by the Public Service.

As such, there are no financial implications associated with this recommendation.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with:

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department:	Planning, Property and Development
Division:	Housing Development
Prepared by:	Stan Dueck
Date:	March 29, 2011
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