Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – June 18, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 4 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program be approved as outlined in this report.

2. That upon the approval by Council of individual grants, the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements with the recipients of grants approved by Winnipeg City Council, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to manage, negotiate, and approve the terms and conditions of agreements with grant recipients, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 20, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee as amended, which included the following recommendation:

1. O. That Council direct the Public Service to report to the appropriate committee of Council within 90 days outlining the creation of a grants program to support the delivery of $1,000,000 in new funding over four years to provide 24/7 safe space supports and services in Winnipeg. Informed by End Homelessness Winnipeg's 2019 review entitled "Safe Spaces in Winnipeg: A Brief Review of Existing Reports and Services", the report must outline the parameters for the grants program, including but not limited to, the program's purpose, objectives, application criteria, selection process, and timelines for this initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Brens	C. Fernandes	P. Olafson, Interim CFO	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides recommendations to guide the distribution of $1,000,000 of funding, over four years, to support the 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program (the "Program"). The Program's purpose and objectives, applicant eligibility, application criteria, selection process and timelines, and reporting requirements are outlined herein. Individual Program applicants may be approved for funding of up to $75,000 per application, per year for four years, while applications with two or more partnering agencies may be approved for up to $175,000 per application, per year for four years. For exceptional partnership applications, the entirety of the $250,000, per year for four years, could be awarded.

A call for applications (the intake period) will take place from July 1 – 31, 2020, with an application review to take place throughout August. A report outlining recommended Program grant recipients will be submitted in September to Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council for final review and approval. Following this timeline, it is anticipated that successful grant applicants will be notified in October 2020.

Input from End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority were considered during the development of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program be approved as outlined in this report.

2. That upon the approval by Council of individual grants, the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements with the recipients of grants approved by Winnipeg City Council, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to manage, negotiate, and approve the terms and conditions of agreements with grant recipients, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That the proper officers of the City be required to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 20, 2020, as part of the 2020-2023 multi-year budget process, Winnipeg City Council directed the Public Service to report back within 90 days outlining the creation of a grant program to support the delivery of $1,000,000 in new funding over four years to provide 24/7 safe space supports and services in Winnipeg. Through this Program, up to $250,000 in funding would be available each year for four years, beginning in 2020 and ending in 2023. This report outlines the parameters for the Program, including but not limited to, the Program's purpose and objectives, applicant eligibility, application criteria, selection process and timelines, and reporting requirements.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation 1 defines the program and process and grants will be awarded in the future based on this. On March 20, 2020 Council adopted the 2020-2023 multi-year budget which includes annual grants of up to $250,000 in each of the years 2020-2023 to support the establishment of a 24/7 Safe Space grant program.
- The 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program is intended to provide core funding to successful applicants for four years.
- Each year, up to $250,000 in total funding is to be allocated to successful grant applicants identified in the first year of the Program (2020).
- Following the intake period and evaluation of applications, The Grant Program Review Committee is responsible for providing recommendations to Council for consideration.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In December 2018 Mayor Bowman, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen, and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre Robert-Falcon Ouellette announced the creation of the Illicit Drug Task Force. The goal of the Task Force was to identify recommendations to reduce the use and effect of illicit drugs in Manitoba.

In June of 2019, the Illicit Drug Task Force published its report entitled *"Recommendations to Reduce the Use and Effects of Illicit Drugs within Manitoba's Communities"* (See Attachment A). The report identified 11 recommendations. Of these, the third recommendation of the report called for the improved management of mental health and addictions through 24/7 safe spaces. More specifically the report stated:

> *"There is a need for expanded services for individuals (including youth) who use substances, both in Winnipeg and across the province, that offer safe environments and foster positive relationships in neighbourhoods where they are most needed. These centres should provide respective services within their agency's mandate and targeted to their clients… such as food, shelter and a staffed environment where people can feel safe… participate in recreation and also access community mental health services. The goal is to provide neighbourhood safety spaces off hours and year round in a welcoming "street credible" environment where people have relationships, can access safety and do not feel judged or stigmatized."*

In response to this recommendation, in July of 2019, the Executive Policy Committee passed a motion to bring forward options in the 2020 multi-year budget process to fund additional 24/7 safe spaces in Winnipeg through the Community Services Department. EHW was asked to provide a brief scan of existing services, resources, gaps, and capacity for new or expanded 24/7 services. In September of 2019, EHW provided their report "*24/7 Safe Spaces in Winnipeg: A Brief Review of Existing Reports and Services"* (See attachment B). Within this report EHW recommended that Winnipeg City Council consider funding, through a multi-year grant, 24/7 safe space services provided by an existing agency, or agencies, that:

- Maintain a credible reputation within the community, and
- Whose mandate it is to work with one or more of the following priority populations: Indigenous people, women, people who use drugs, youth, 2SLGBTQ+, and sexually exploited girls and women.

EHW also recommended that the grant should ensure that the successful applicant(s) be able to satisfy identified best practices including:

  - Provide services 24 hours a day
  - Identify as an Indigenous organization or provide Indigenous led services
  - Offer a harm reduction and trauma-informed approach to the service
  - Hire and retain staff within the organization with lived experience
  - Provide access to on-site skilled mental health and addictions services

In response to EHW's report, and as noted above, on March 20, 2020 with the adoption of the 2020 budget, Winnipeg City Council directed the Public Service to draft a report outlining the creation of a grant program to support the delivery of $1,000,000 in new funding over four years to provide 24/7 safe space supports and services in Winnipeg. This report therefore outlines the parameters for the Program, including but not limited to, the Program's purpose and objectives, applicant eligibility, application criteria, selection process and timelines, and reporting requirements.

It is important to note, this report aligns with the 2017 report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), entitled *Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global Results Report.* As a Champion City of the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative, this initiative positions Winnipeg as a leader in supporting key priority populations including women and sexually exploited women and girls.

24/7 Space Spaces Grant Program Parameters

Purpose and Objectives

The Program is intended to support community-level activities that:

- Align with the recommendation of the 2019 report of the Illicit Drug Task Force to expand services for priority populations in Winnipeg by offering 24/7 safe environments that foster positive relationships in neighbourhoods where most needed.
- Enhance the hours of operations.
- Provide mental health and/or addictions support services to clients.
- Directly support members of priority populations including: Indigenous people, women, people who use drugs, youth, 2SLGBTQ+, and sexually exploited girls and women.
- Provide services during winter months specifically between November and March.

Eligibility Criteria

Program applicants are required to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Program applicants must be an incorporated community organization.
- Funded activities must take place in the City of Winnipeg.

Application Criteria

Program applicants must demonstrate how they meet the following application criteria:

- Applicants must demonstrate how they will use grant funding to support at least one of the following:
    - Expand hours of service to provide full 24/7 safe space services
    - Enhance existing 24/7 safe space service operations
    - Create a new 24/7 safe space service in partnership with one or more partnering agencies.
- Applicants must demonstrate how they satisfy at least one of the following:
    - Provide services 24 hours a day
    - Provide services in the winter, specifically between November and March
    - Identify as an Indigenous organization or provide Indigenous-led services
    - Offer a harm reduction and trauma-informed approach to service
    - Hire and retain staff within the organization that have lived experience
    - Provide access to on-site mental health and/or addiction support services
    - Expand areas of expertise or services to enhance mental health and/or addiction supports for clients
- Applicants must demonstrate how they will directly support at least one, of the following priority populations:
    - Indigenous people
    - Women
    - People who use drugs
    - Youth
    - 2SLGBTQ+
    - Sexually exploited girls and women
- Applicants must demonstrate how they align with End Homelessness Winnipeg's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Selection Process and Timelines

- This Program is intended to provide core funding to successful applicants for 4 years.
- Each year, up to $250,000 in total funding is to be allocated to successful Program applicants identified in the first year of the Program (2020).
- Individual Program applicants may be approved for funding of up to $75,000 per application, while applications with two or more partnering agencies may be approved

for up to $175,000 per application. For exceptional partnership applications, the entirety of the $250,000 could be awarded.

- The Program application, included as Attachment C, intake period will occur between July 1 and July 31, 2020.
- The review of Program applications will take place between August 1 and August 31, 2020.
- The Community Services Department is responsible for the identification of committee members, and leadership of, the 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program Review Committee.
- The Committee of six individuals will be comprised of the following membership:
    - Two representatives from the Community Services Department
    - One representative from EHW
    - One representative from a community service provider
    - One representative from the WRHA Housing Support Service Integration Team,
    - One representative with lived experience.
    - In addition, at least two committee members will be an Indigenous person.
- The Committee is responsible for the evaluation of all applications, and is expected to provide the Director of Community Services with recommendations of successful applicants by August 31.
- In September, the Community Services Department will provide a report to EPC with recommendations on which applications should move forward.
- Concurrently, the Community Services Department will notify Program applicants that their application will move forward for review.
- Successful applicants are to be notified in October 2020.
- A four year grant agreement must be developed with each successful applicant and is subject to Council's annual budget approval.
- Successful Program applicants are not required to reapply each year. However, as noted below, applicants are subject to annual reporting requirements that could result in an operational review and possible termination of funding if the grantee is unable to meet the requirements of their funding agreement.
- With a four-week intake period and timely promotion and information sharing of this funding opportunity between the Public Service and its community partner agencies, it is expected that only one call for applications is required.

<u>Program Reporting</u>

Within 60 days of the conclusion of each calendar year that the Program is operational, grantees are required to provide a progress report to the City of Winnipeg submitted to the grant agreement contract administrator, with the following information:

- A statement outlining the use of grant monies including activities and operations conducted.
- A summary of participation rates, including:
    - The approximate number of Winnipeg citizens served by the activity
    - The number of monthly visits
    - The number of individuals served by priority population
- Any observable positive outcomes and impacts that reflect successful implementation of the funded activity;
- Any lessons learned by the organization in developing and implementing the funded activity;

- An overview of activity and operation plans for the following year, including any changes from the preceding year to implement the sustainability plan (as described below); and
- Other reporting as requested by the City of Winnipeg.

It is important to note that successful Program grant applicants are not required to reapply each year. However, grantees are subject to the annual reporting requirements noted above. If the grantee is unable to meet the requirements of their funding agreement, this could result in an operational review and possible termination of funding.

In addition to the above, following the first year of the Program, grantees are required to submit to the grant agreement contract administrator a sustainability plan for the conclusion of grant funding in 2023. This plan must either identify the continuation of services developed through the Program, or a planned reduction in services as funding ends. No additional funding for this grant is planned for after the 2023 calendar year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: June 2, 2020

Project Name:
24/7 Safe Space Grant Program

First Year of Program **2020**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: There are no financial implications as a result of the Recommendations of the Report which provide for a grant evaluation framework. On March 20, 2020 Council adopted the 2020-2023 multi-year operating budget which includes annual grants of up to $250,000 in each of the years 2020-2023 to support the establishment of a 24/7 Safe Space grant program.

"Original signed by K. Lemoine"
Kelly Lemoine, CPA, CA
Manager, Finance and Administrative Services
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This report was prepared in consultation with:

- End Homelessness Winnipeg
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- Legal Services (as to Legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

With a focus on supporting the homeless and vulnerable communities in Winnipeg, the 24/7 Safe Space Grant Program is in line with the following Our Winnipeg themes:

- Theme 3-1 - Opportunity:
    - Direction 3: Work with community partners to foster an inclusive and equitable community &
    - Direction 4: Work within municipal service areas as a collaborator on poverty reduction.
- Theme 01-2a - Collaborate to Make Safe Communities -
    - Direction 6: Take a broad-scaled, complete and collaborative approach to crime prevention.
- Theme 1-4 - Housing
    - Direction 3: Establish partnerships with the private, not-for-profit and government sectors to provide affordable housing throughout the city

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Community Development
Prepared by: Chris Brens, Manager, Community Development
Date: June 3, 2020
File No: CMS-2020-9

Attachments:

A: 2019 Report of the Illicit Drug Task Force

B: End Homelessness Winnipeg, 2019 Report on 24/7 Safe Spaces

C: Program Application Form