The City of Winnipeg- Community Incentive Grant Program

About Islamic Social Services Association Inc. (ISSA)

ISSA Canada operates as a non-profit, charitable organization and carries a mission to provide family, health, and social welfare services inclusive of the many cultural and ethnic groups that comprise the Muslim community in North America.

Mission:

Canadian society is inclusive and has a strengthened Muslim community, where cultural and ethnic groups and their members' social, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being is fundamental. Each persons' potential is achieved by accessing and receiving culturally, linguistically and spiritually appropriate health, social and economic services and supports

Mandate:

Canadian society is inclusive and has a strengthened Muslim community, where cultural and ethnic groups and their members' social, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being is fundamental. Each persons' potential is achieved by accessing and receiving culturally, linguistically and spiritually appropriate health, social and economic services and supports.

Incorporation Date: 01/11/1999

Charity Registration Number: 869288787RR0001

Project Name: Hiring a Coordinator to put together work of establishing Muslim Mental Health Institute

Project Description:

At this point we have consulted a strategic planner to help us build the project, how to run the program, the anchor project, budgets and funds. The consultant suggested we hire a coordinator to do the initial work of putting everything together, connecting the stakeholders, applying for grants, keeping up with the finances and budget.

We are hoping to receive support from CIGP fund to hire a coordinator who can implement the suggestions from the consultant and facilitate in establishing the Mental Health Institute.

The Coordinator will be hired for an Year, starting July 2022- June 2023 at the annual gross salary of $50000.00.

The coordinator will work from ISSA Office at 1200-191 Lombard Ave, Winnipeg Mb. R3B 0X1.

The coordinator will lay the foundation for the bigger project of Establishing Muslim Mental Health Institute, though the name suggests 'Muslims' the institute will cater to needs of 'Winnipeg Community' as a whole.

Details of the Institute:

The Institute for Muslim Mental Health - Canada will serve as an intermediary; a backbone organization. Rather than providing direct services to vulnerable people, the Institute will empower the Muslim community, its partners and stakeholders in the realm of mental health:

· Centre of Excellence: a small team of dedicated individuals coordinating and promoting the best in services among practitioners and their organizations.

· Hub for Research and Knowledge: a repository of best practices, a clearinghouse of knowledge and an online portal of expertise and training.

· Organizer: an event coordinator, setting up and managing large and small events.

· Connector: a source of support for system navigation that also links people and organizations to relevant programs and services.

· Architect of collaborations: coordinate current efforts, generate new synergies and spark creative innovation.

· Intermediary organization: liaising with other national and international bodies to advocate for and gain support for Muslim wellness initiatives across Canada

VISION STATEMENT

Muslim Canadians, and other visible minorities, their families and communities will experience healing, wellness and resiliency and be free of discrimination.

MISSION

Working collaboratively with its partners and stakeholders across Canada, and founded on evidence-based best practises, the Institute seeks to:

· Promote the best in Muslim mental health practices

· Improve healing, resiliency and wellness, especially mental health, and

· Promote intersectionality

Need: There is a growing prevalence of mental health issues among Muslim Canadians, including men, women and children. This is most poignant for immigrants and refugees from dissimilar ethnocultural backgrounds. It is particularly true for those trapped in abusive relationships, youth dispossessed from their parents, and refugees fleeing violence and suffering from PTSD.

KEY ACTIVITIES

The Institute plans to use these strategies and deliver these activities with partners to its stakeholders:

- **Support research:** Conduct and gather research and statistics on the psychological, economic and social impact, of
    - Mental health issues including Islamophobia affecting Canadian Muslims, inclusive of intersectionality of gender, age, race, socio-economic, special needs and resident status, and to
    - Develop a spiritual counselling model to address internalized Islamophobia, self-isolation and vicarious trauma of community members
- **Organize events:** hold national conferences, workshops and symposiums to share knowledge, create relationships and build trust between stakeholders and mainstream society
- **Promote best practises:** Scan, identify and promote successful strategies, models and methods that improve mental health among those with the most pressing needs
- **Spur growth:** Scaling and replicating successful models of mental health services
- **Develop and deliver training initiatives** that educate and support professionals among a variety of disciplines and faith leaders in their efforts to bring wellness through workshops, webinars, e-Learning, forums, and peer-to-peer networks
- **Develop collaborations** to increase mental health for Muslims
- **Advocate for change:** stem Islamophobia, by championing policies that increase equality and respect in education, employment, justice, policing and the courts

Initially, the Institute will run as a project of Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA), at ISSA's office which Is a rental space at 191 Lombard Ave, Suite 1200. Winnipeg with

Steering Committee consisting of members of the ISSA Board of Directors and other appointees.

The Institute is seeking to gain approximately $250,000/yr. for three years prior to start-up so that it can begin operating at a national level, developing resources for use nationally very quickly. With time, the Institute will become registered as a federal charity with approved organizational bylaws. The

Deliverables and Activities:

- Healing and Hope Toolkit
- Psychosocial education and fighting of stigma
- Train-the-Trainers
- Safe Spaces
- Building of Resources
- Referrals and Linkages

Services will be provided through a physical space when the preliminary work of setting up the institute is complete. The grant money will be utilized as an anchor funding to the development and establishment of the program and operational costs.