Manitoba
Municipal Relations

Municipal Service Delivery Improvement Program

Application Package

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete all sections of the Application Form. Clearly identify how your project aligns with the program eligibility requirements outlined in the Program Guidelines.

2. Attach:
    a. A copy of the municipal Council resolution indicating support for the proposed review.
    b. Any other project details, such as a work plan, history of the program budget, case studies, or other supporting documents, if available.

3. Submit your application by email to MSDIP@gov.mb.ca

4. Contact MSDIP@gov.mb.ca if you have questions about applying.

APPLICATION FORM

Part 1: Applicant Information

Name of Municipality/Planning District(s):

City of Winnipeg

Name and position of primary contact person:

Moira Geer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Part 2: Project Description

What service, process and/or program will your review evaluate?

The study will evaluate processes to address the issue of vacant, derelict and high-risk problem properties in the City of Winnipeg. The review will include various City departments that deliver the service as well as community agencies and partners at the Province of Manitoba who respond to these issues.

High Risk' Problem Properties in this instance include those that:

- Could be vacant or occupied;
- Have a history of repeated or excessive neglect, disrepair and/or safety concerns;
- Are a significant public health risk and/or a higher risk for fires;
- Are known for repeated, ongoing criminal activity (e.g., trafficking, violent crime);
- Have a history of deliberate violations and/or noncompliance by property owners or tenants and often require a coordinated response from several agencies (e.g. various City departments, Winnipeg Police Service, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services (WFPS), Manitoba Public Safety Investigations Unit, Manitoba Health, Emergency, Office of the Fire Commissioner, etc.

Why have you chosen this area to review? (E.g. rising costs, research/data supporting alternatives, circumstantial opportunity)

These high-risk problem properties are a threat to public safety and beacons for criminal activity, squatting and arson.

Significant public resources (City and Province) are consumed in responding to emergencies and ensuring that these properties comply with all relevant by-laws and legislation. WFPS responds to roughly 800 vacant property fires per year and by-law enforcement completed nearly 900 inspections in 2022.

While the City has taken some steps to move to a more proactive than a complaint-based or emergency response system, this application would research best practices to implement a holistic approach to improving public and staff safety and reducing crime in collaboration with the Province of Manitoba and external agencies. Cities such as Edmonton and Toronto have implemented such measures.

The City of Winnipeg is addressing urgent needs but an ongoing program is warranted. The expectation is that an ongoing program would result in a more efficient and effective use of public sector resources and yield financial and community benefits.

Provide a summary of the objectives of your proposed service delivery review. Include a timeline and how you will use the report and recommendations. Please indicate preferred firm (250 words maximum).

The expected outcomes of this program:

- Increased public safety
- Reduced crime
- Better utilization of emergency response, enforcement and social services
- More efficient and effective use of public service and community agency resources
- Enhanced neighborhood live ability
- Improved housing for vulnerable peoples

The results of this study will inform City Council with a request from the Public Service to add operating funds to establish a program to address the issue of high-risk problem properties.

Part 3: Estimated Return on Investment (ROI)/Service Delivery Improvement

Estimated ROI calculation	
Current cost of the program ($)	$1,000,000
Total Investment ($)	
Return on Investment ($)	
Return on Investment (%)	
Payback Period (months or years)	
Or Estimated Service Delivery Improvement	
Service Delivery Improvement or savings:	The cost of current response is estimated at $1 million for City services and does not include costs incurred by the Province of Manitoba. The savings in emergency response costs would fund additional positions and budget to have an ongoing and would result in a net savings, to be determined by the proposed study.

Part 4: Certification

I have reviewed this application and the supporting material and certify that it is accurate to the best of my knowledge and understanding.
I guarantee that staff resources will be dedicated to completing this review in partnership with a third-party consultant.
I acknowledge that the consultant will produce a report with recommendations and it will be made public.

Name:

Moira Geer, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Position/title:

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Date: September 12, 2023

Part 5: Attachments

a. A copy of the municipal Council resolution indicating support for the proposed project.
b. Additional project details and/or supporting documents. This information will be used as part of the project evaluation.