Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 17, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 12 Building Safer Communities Fund: 2025-2026 Funding Increase

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That the receipt of an additional contribution from the Government of Canada (Public Safety Canada) for the Building Safer Community Fund ("BSCF") in the amount of up to a maximum of $1,055,305.45 be approved.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement or an amendment to the existing BSCF contribution agreement with the Government of Canada, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That an increase of $1,055,305.45 to the Operating Budget for Building Safer Communities Fund within the Community Development Division of the Chief Administrative Office be approved.

4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve a contribution agreement, amending contribution agreement, and the Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report, and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

5. That, subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, Council approve grants to the proponents ("Intermediaries") in the amounts listed below, in order to further support or extend BSCF program activities for the period commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026:

    A. Anishiative Inc. – $71,445
    B. Community Helpers Unite Inc. – $96,188
    C. Downtown Community Safety Partnership Inc. – $171,600
    D. Elmwood Community Resource Center Inc. – $24,649
    E. Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba, Inc. – $97,474
    F. Ma Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata Centre Inc. – $222,582
    G. Resource Assistance for Youth, Inc. – $30,836
    H. Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. – $24,091
    I. Spirit Horse Initiative Inc. – $11,431
    J. The Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development – Facilitation and Management Services Inc. – $219,072

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

6. That the City enter into, execute and deliver such grant agreements, or amendments to existing grant agreements, with the Intermediaries and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City (the "Additional Ancillary Agreements").

7. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the grant agreements, amending grant agreements, and the Additional Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

8. 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 Duncan,

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

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Building Safer Communities Fund: 2025-2026 Funding Increase

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Authors	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Brens	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of Public Safety Canada (PSC), the City of Winnipeg administers the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) which is a granting program intended to address gun and gang violence by supporting prevention and intervention initiatives in jurisdictions across Canada. This multi-year grant program began in April 1, 2022, and will end on March 31, 2026.

Winnipeg's initial annual funding amounts from PSC for the BSCF are listed below. It is important to note that unspent funding cannot be carried forward into future years, and that the Federal Government's fiscal year runs from April to March, while the City's fiscal year runs from January to December:

- Year 1 – April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 - (10 percent): $454,413
- Year 2 – April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 - (35 percent): $1,590,448
- Year 3 – April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025 - (35 percent): $1,590,448
- Year 4 – April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026 - (20 percent): $908,827

As part of the final year of the program, the Federal Government approached the City of Winnipeg with an offer to increase the total funding for the program in Year 4 by $1,055,305.45. This would provide the BSCF program a total of $1,964.132.46 for the period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. As this granting program does not have a granting by-law associated with it, the Public Service recommends Council approval to update the City's existing contribution agreement with PSC to increase the City's total Year 4 funding by $1,055,305.45, and to amend the City's existing funding agreements with the BSCF Intermediaries in response to this increase.

Council approval of the recommendations of this report will allow the Public Service to move forward to amend its existing grant agreements with the Intermediaries and enhance the program during its final year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the receipt of an additional contribution from the Government of Canada (Public Safety Canada) for the Building Safer Community Fund ("BSCF") in the amount of up to a maximum of $1,055,305.45 be approved.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement or an amendment to the existing BSCF contribution agreement with the Government of Canada, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That an increase of $1,055,305.45 to the Operating Budget for Building Safer Communities Fund within the Community Development Division of the Chief Administrative Office be approved.

4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve a contribution agreement, amending contribution agreement, and the Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report, and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

5. That, subject to the approval of Recommendation 1, Council approve grants to the proponents ("Intermediaries") in the amounts listed below, in order to further support or extend BSCF program activities for the period commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026:

    A. Anishiative Inc.- $71,445
    B. Community Helpers Unite Inc. - $96,188
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    J. The Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development – Facilitation and Management Services Inc. - $219,072

6. That the City enter into, execute and deliver such grant agreements, or amendments to existing grant agreements, with the Intermediaries and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City (the "Additional Ancillary Agreements").
7. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the grant agreements, amending grant agreements, and the Additional Ancillary Agreements in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The ability to approve individual grant recipients and the amount of the funding that each recipient will receive can only be achieved in two ways: either an administrative report seeking Council approval for individual grant recipients, or through the creation of a program by-law for that purpose which also requires Council approval. As such, this report is seeking Council approval in amend existing funding agreements with the above noted organizations in the amounts included in Recommendation 5 above.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon approval of the recommendations, the City will prepare the necessary amendments to the existing grant agreements for execution. Funding will be released to the Intermediaries outlined in Recommendation 5 for project delivery upon approval of the grant agreement. It is important to note that an agreement for the Recreation Services Division within Community Services is not required; however, the Department will be subject to the same requirements as the other Intermediaries.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

History and Context
Public Safety Canada ("PSC") launched the Building Safer Community Fund (BSCF) in 2022 to support municipalities and Indigenous communities in developing community-based prevention and intervention strategies and initiatives to tackle gun and gang violence. The Federal Government identified Winnipeg as a priority municipality, allocating up to $4,544,138 in new funding for community-based projects based on Winnipeg's population and crime severity index.

Winnipeg's current funding allocation for the four years of the BSCF is outlined below. It is important to note that unspent funding cannot be carried forward into future years, and that the Federal Government's fiscal year is from April to March, while the City's is from January to December:

- Year 1 – April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023 - (10 percent): $454,413
- Year 2 – April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 - (35 percent): $1,590,448
- Year 3 – April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025 - (35 percent): $1,590,448
- Year 4 – April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026 - (20 percent): $908,827

Following Council recommendations in July 2022, the Community Development (CD) Division, on behalf of the City, submitted an initial proposal to PSC that included two principal activities: hiring a Project and Research Facilitator to administer the fund and launching an expression of interest (EOI) process to solicit proposals from community organizations. This initial proposal was submitted to PSC in August 2022.

PSC delivery of the BSCF was slower than anticipated. Due to significant delays, the City of Winnipeg finalized its initial contribution agreement on June 7, 2023, well into Year 2 of the program. Because of this, the City was unable to leverage funding from Year 1. On January 18, 2023, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) sent a request to Canada's Minister of Public Safety requesting Winnipeg's Year 1 BSCF allocation be rolled into subsequent years, however, this request was not approved.

On May 19, 2023, the Public Service launched a call for expressions of interest. By the closing date of June 16, 2023, the Public Service received 29 expressions of interest and convened a representative advisory committee to review and prioritize projects. On August 31, 2023, a finalized application including 12 community-based organizations and the City's Recreation Services Division, with associated schedules, activities, outcomes and detailed budgets, was submitted to the PSC, and was subsequently approved. For complete details and history about the BSCF, please see the *Building Safer Communities Fund: Initial Proposal Overview* Administrative Report received by Council on July 21, 2022, and the *Building Safer Communities Fund: Projects and Intermediaries* Administrative Report received by Council on December 14, 2023.

Prior to the final year of the BSCF Program, representatives from PSC reached out to staff within CD to identify that the City would be provided with additional funding of up to $1,055,305.45 if accepted by the City, and agreed to enter into an updated contribution agreement between the City and PSC. City staff agreed to move forward with the increase but identified that this change would require Council approval. If the recommendations of this report are approved, the City is seeking to leverage this funding to increase the total available funding amounts for each of the participating Intermediaries (as set out in Recommendation 5).

Recommended Funding Increase for Intermediaries
As outlined above, the total funding initially committed to the City from the PSC for Year 4 of the BSCF Program was $908,827. Adjusting for an increase of $1,055,305.45, if approved, the City will have up to $1,964.132.46 to leverage for the program. A listed in Recommendation 5, this additional funding will be used to extend the timelines of several existing programs into Year 4 that were otherwise scheduled to end in Year 3, and to broaden the Intermediary projects that were previously approved for Year 4.

To determine how much funding each Intermediary should receive as part of this increase, the Public Service assessed a number of allocation methodologies. Through this analysis, it was determined that the most efficient and equitable way to distribute this funding was to use the budgeted amounts allocated to each agency in Year 3 of the program plus 20 percent.

It is important to note that the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres chose not to proceed in future years with their purposed project.

As well, and as noted above, due to the availability of the funding increase the Downtown Community Safety Partnership Inc., the Ma Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata Centre Inc., and The Holistic Ongoing Opportunities Development – Facilitation and Management Services Inc. were all extended into Year 4 of the program, as they were initially only to participate in Years 1, 2, and 3.

Finally, an increase of $68,615.89 will be allocated to the Community Development Division for administration and operating costs, while an increase of $17,320.60 will be allocated to Recreation Services Division (RSD) within the Community Services Department for the expansion of RSD programming associated with the BSCF.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** May 22, 2025

Project Name: **First Year of Program** **2025**

Building Safer Communities Fund: 2025-2026 Funding Increase

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 1,055,305	$ -			
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	1,055,305	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	$ -	$ -			
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct Costs represent the increase in operating expenditures for the Building Safer Communities Fund program as outlined in the report. Incremental Revenue represents the additional contribution from the Government of Canada (Public Safety Canada).

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services (as to legal matters)
- Corporate Finance

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Goal: Leadership and Good Governance
Objective 3: Achieve community-responsive service delivery through an aligned, integrated, collaborative and results-oriented organizational culture.

Goal: Good Health and Well-being

Objective 1: Enable access to basic needs for good physical and mental health.

Objective 3: Proactively identify and address threats to community safety and well-being.

4.3 Proactive Health Intervention
Utilize social determinants of health to understand and achieve poverty reduction, crime prevention and harm reduction. Practice early intervention and engage in community partnerships that fully leverage wrap-around supports, recreation and resources, and enable opportunities for all, and especially for those who are systemically disadvantaged.

4.6 Community Safety
Facilitate a culture of safety and crime prevention across the City and community, by building trusting relationships to enable collaborative action.

4.7 Community Safety
Provide capacity to prepare, mitigate, assess risk, respond to and recover from the impacts of climate change, extreme weather, human or natural emergencies, disasters, and diseases, to promote community resilience within a changing hazard landscape.

Goal: Social Equity
Objective 3: Build social cohesion through community development solutions, coordinated, effective partnerships, and responsive service delivery.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

GOAL 4 - Community Well-Being Supports for those in Greatest Need are Increased.

GOAL 8 - Equity in Community Safety is Increased through Collaboration.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the CAO
Division: Community Development
Prepared by: Chris Brens
Date: 2025-05-23
File No: N/A