



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 6, 2005
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Social Planning
SUBJECT: Child Development Hub Infrastructure Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the release of funds received from the Provincial Ministry of Family and Child Development (MCFD) in the amount of \$85,000 to complete the Child Development Infrastructure Proposal as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1990, Council approved the Civic Childcare Strategy that set out to:

- support the viability, accessibility and quality of existing child care services;
- assist child care initiatives in high need areas;
- encourage and support efficient, coordinated administrative services required for a child care system in Vancouver to lever other sources of child care funding, whenever possible.

Council approved "Moving Forward Childcare: A Cornerstone of Childhood Development" in April, 2002, which set out a strategic plan for child care and child development services for the City.

In 2003, Council, Park and School Boards adopted the Childcare Protocol that includes the objective to maintain and expand child care by 5% over the next two years.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request that Council release funds given to the City of Vancouver from the Province of British Columbia to complete the Child Development Infrastructure Proposal.

BACKGROUND

Building on the 1990 Civic Childcare Strategy, in 2002 Council approved the strategic child care plan, "Moving Forward." The strategic plan makes a shift from isolating child care from other child development services (e.g. family place, drop ins) to work with other funding partners in the planning, funding and delivery of service within a hub. It proposes a more holistic and integrated approach and utilizes the facilities and expertise in the existing child care system to deliver a continuum of services for families and children from birth to 12 years of age. The plan is based on the understanding that quality childhood experiences maximize success in later childhood and adulthood, and that these experiences are relevant to parental and non-parental care situations (e.g. childcare). It is also based on the knowledge that families and children need a range of supports during the developing years. The proposed City's role, in partnership with other funders, was set out to:

- Improve service coordination/collaboration;
- Establish priorities and a planning process;
- Facilitate stable, flexible, quality child care;
- Strengthen public and private partnerships; and
- Facilitate effective communication.

MCFD and the City agreed to partner with the Province and regional staff in Vancouver-based proposal development.

DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Children and Family Development has agreed to fund the development of a proposal to further demonstrate the steps necessary to create and sustain child development hub models, costs, benefits and policy implications nationally, provincially and locally, to adequately provide the following infrastructure functions:

- service planning and development;
- service coordination and financial management;
- program consultation (e.g., quality);
- neighbourhood networking and outreach;

- increased licensed capacity;
- pilot projects, which would include flexible models, mixed age groupings, continuous quality improvement, administrative management agreements with stand-alone programs, interagency collaboration agreements and the consortium model of delivery.

Though the City's strategic plan is based on hubs in urban areas, hubs are also found in middle-urban and rural communities. Two other communities in Kelowna and Terrace area will participate in the proposal development.

Through its existing partnership with the University of British Columbia - C.H.I.L.D Project - the City would work closely with C.H.I.L.D. to ensure a research and evaluation component for the Child Development Hub project that could provide information for future Federal and Provincial policy development. The City of Vancouver believes it can assist in developing this framework, which will support future policy work based on:

- public accountability;
- cost effectiveness;
- strengthened community capacity;
- evidence-based research; and
- replicability

The proposal will be submitted for federal and provincial consideration to fund action research to advise future policy development and funding of child care infrastructure hub models.

Social Planning staff intend to issue a request for proposal to retain a consultant to complete the hub proposal, establish a Project Steering Committee and a Local Advisory Committee. The project timeline is September, 2005 to December, 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City has deposited the funding received from the Provincial Government to fund the proposal to research the infrastructure requirements for child development hubs via a City Managers Authorisation subject to a report to Council to release this funding.

The current proposed budget for this proposal is as follows:

Revenue/Recovery	Budget
Funding already received from Provincial Government	\$85,000
Expenditure	
Consultant Fees - subject to the request for proposal process	\$50,000
Steering And Advisory Committee Costs	\$20,000
Staffing support and administrative costs within Social Planning	\$15,000
Net Budget	\$0

This report is requesting that Council approve an Expenditure Budget of \$85,000 for this proposal

CONCLUSION

The Province of British Columbia has issued a cheque for \$85,000 to fund a proposal to research the infrastructure requirements for child development hubs. The City plans to hire a consultant to complete some of this work with Council approval. Staff will report back to Council for permission to proceed with the Federal/Provincial request for funding.

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