



CITY OF VANCOUVER

A8

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 17, 2005
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CC File No.: 2402
Meeting Date: November 1, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Social Planning
SUBJECT: 2005 Civic Child Care Grant Report - Allocation 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve a Research and Innovation Grant of \$5,000 for Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre to develop costed menu plans for licensed child care programs; source of funds: 2005 Child Care Grants Fund, 2005 Operating Budget.
- B. THAT Council approve a Research and Innovation Grant of \$22,000 to St. James Child Care Centre for the initial stages of creating a child development network for 10 licensed child care programs on the west side of Vancouver; source of funds: 2005 Child Care Grants Fund, 2005 Operating Budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 for East Side Family Place Child Minding Program; source of funds: 2005 Child Care Grants Fund, 2005 Operating Budget.
- D. THAT Council approve a Program Development Grant of \$5,850 for Network Two Society; source of funds: 2005 Child Care Grants Fund, 2005 Operating Budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A, B, C and D.

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1990, Council approved the Civic Child Care Strategy which 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.

In 2003, Council approved the strategic plan "Moving Forward" - Child Care a Cornerstone of Child Development Services, which set out a vision of child development hubs in each community in Vancouver.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for:

- Research and Innovation Grant to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre to provide costed menus for hot lunch programs for licensed child care in the inner city;
- Research and Innovation Grant to St. James Day Care Society for documenting the stages, issues and challenges in establishing a community network hub;
- Program Stabilization Grant to East Family Place for child minding, and
- Program Development Grant to Network Two Society for the planning and development of 717 Princess St.

BACKGROUND

Since the early 1990s Council has provided funding for a number of small one-time-only grants to non-profit societies to facilitate local research and innovation, assist with new program development and support programs that experience financial instability as a result of unusual circumstances. Each year, staff receive requests from non-profit societies for these project funds. Grant categories and specific requests are described below.

DISCUSSION

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GRANT

This grant is to encourage and support new child care research policy or support service initiatives. The first Research and Innovation Grant is to Westcoast Child Care Resource and Referral to develop costed nutritious menus for hot lunch programs in the inner city. Civic Child Care grants have historically provided funding for licensed child care programs in high need areas to help offset the costs of providing hot lunch programs for children using their services. Over the past few years, Social Planning staff have worked closely with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority nutritionists to review and provide input into menu improvements.

Nutritionists have also worked with Westcoast Child Care Resource and Referral to deliver workshops on menu planning. In addition, the nutritionists have worked with the child care programs, to review their menus and make recommendations to enhance the nutritional quality of their hot lunch and snack programs. This has helped improve the nutritional value of food programs supported by City funding.

Programs have indicated the limitations they face financially in providing the quality of menus they would like or that are proposed by the nutritionists. One suggestion from the community and staff to help gain a better understanding into these costs would be to have a few menus costed in order to determine real costs. Staff are recommending that Westcoast be approved for a \$5,000 grant to secure the services of a qualified nutritionist to provide this detailed costing.

The second Research and Innovation Grant is for St. James Day Care Society to provide leadership in the creation and documentation of a west side child care network/hub. In 2003, Council approved the strategic plan "Moving Forward" - Child Care a Cornerstone of Child Development Services. This plan set out a vision of child development hubs throughout the City, the need for support to communities in planning, development and resources to improve service coordination and collaboration, improve communication, establish priorities and create efficiencies in service delivery.

This grant would enable 10 small child care operators to undertake a facilitated process to create a framework and agreement for working together in a coordinated and collaborative manner with the goal of improving service efficiencies and quality. Funding would support the hiring of a facilitator, back fill for program staff to participate, staff time for the lead person at St. James to coordinate and document process and outcomes. Staff are recommending a grant of \$22,000 to St. James Day Care Society for this initiative.

STABILIZATION GRANT

The Stabilization Grant is allocated to programs that have experienced significant hardship and may need one-time assistance to increase viability. The East Side Family Place Child Minding Program serves a number of high need families; however, did not qualify for the Civic Child Care Grant this year, given competing interests and, as a result of the City's criteria for assessing child care grants. The Stabilization Grant is required in order for the child minding program to maintain qualified staff to deliver this program. Staff are recommending a one-time grant of \$5,000 to East Side Family Place to offset operational costs of the child minding program.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Program Development Grant is to provide assistance to non-profit societies with non-capital costs associated with developing new child care services, particularly in high need areas of the city. Network Two Society has taken the lead in developing the 717 Princess Street site into child development hub, which will include 89 licensed child care spaces and ancillary services for early childhood development. It is located in the Strathcona community, one of the city's highest need areas in terms of vulnerable children. This grant would help to support staff time in conducting community forums, developing a Parent Advisory Committee and participating in overall development for centre opening in Fall 2006. Staff are recommending a grant of \$5,850 to Network Two Society.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2005 Operating Budget for Civic Childcare Grants is \$1,054,200, with \$25,000 proposed for Research and Innovation Grant, \$5,000 for Program Stabilization Grant and \$5,850 for Program Development, as shown below. This report recommends that Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre receive \$5,000, St James Day Care Society receive \$22,000; \$5,000 to East Side Family Place Child Minding Program and \$5,850 to Network Two Society.

This would leave \$0 funds remaining in the 2005 Childcare Grants budget.

Program	2005 Proposed	2005 Allocated Previously	2005 Recommended in this report
Program Enhancement	\$250,400	\$247,380	
Inner City Sustaining	\$249,000	\$235,000	
Inner City Bursary	\$150,000	\$141,670	
Program Stabilization	\$ 5,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000
Program Development	\$ 16,500		\$ 5,850
Research & Innovation	\$ 20,000	\$ 9,000	\$27,000
City-Wide/Administration of City-Owned	\$363,300	\$363,300	
Total Budget	\$1,054,200		
Total Allocated		\$1,016,350	\$37,850
Remaining Funds		\$ 37,850	\$ 0

CONCLUSION

This is the third of three reports related to the allocation of the 2005 Childcare Grants. Social Planning Department is recommending Council approval for:

- Research and Innovation Grant - \$5,000
- Research and Innovation Grant - \$22,000
- Stabilization Grant - \$5,000
- Program Development Grant - \$5,850

This leaves a balance of \$0 in the Childcare Grants budget.

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