



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 20, 2006
Author: Carol Ann Young
Phone No.: 604.871.6042
RTS No.: 6369
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: December 12, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Social Planning
SUBJECT: 2006 Civic Child Care Grant Report - Allocation 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve a Research and Innovation Grant of \$7,000 for Vancouver Society of Children's Centres (VSOCC), as described in this report. Source of funds: 2006 Child Care Grants Fund, 2006 Operating Budget;
- B. THAT Council approve a Research and Innovation Grant of \$10,000 to Collingwood Neighbourhood House, as described in this report. Source of funds: 2006 Child Care Grants Fund, 2006 Operating Budget;
- C. THAT Council approve a Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 to Sunset Child Care Society, as described in this report. Source of funds: 2006 Child Care Grants Fund, 2006 Operating Budget;
- D. THAT Council approve a Program Development Grant of \$5,000 to Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, as described in this report. Source of funds: 2006 Child Care Grants Fund, 2006 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.

In November, 2005, Council approved the revised criteria for the Childcare Enhancement grant.

In March, 2006, Council approved the 2006 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,075,300, which included a 2% cost of living increase, for the Civic Childcare Grants.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for two Research and Innovation Grants, one Program Stabilization grant and one Program Development Grant, for a total of \$27,000.

The first Research and Innovation Grant for \$7,000 to the Vancouver Society of Children's Centres (VSOCC) is to develop protocols to support coordinated efforts among the community partners in the downtown area to build a multi-purpose addition onto the Elsie Roy Elementary School/Dorothy Lam Children's Centre.

The second Research and Innovation Grant of \$10,000 to Collingwood Neighbourhood House is to enhance the administrative infrastructure at Collingwood Neighbourhood House through improved enrolment management and automated centralized fee collection. The information and experience gained will be transferable to other agencies as they seek to improve their own infrastructure and systems.

The Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 to Sunset Childcare Society will assist with offsetting some of the extra staffing costs incurred during the construction of their new facility at 8064 Buscombe Street.

Finally, the Program Development Grant of \$5,000, to Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House is to assist with costs associated with program development of a new out-of-school program at Florence Nightingale School. This is a high need area of the City and is very much in need of out-of-school programs.

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GRANTS

1. *Vancouver Society of Children's Centres - \$ 7,000*

The request for \$7,000 is to enable Vancouver Society of Children's Centres (VSOCC) to work with community partners to further develop the existing hub of childcare/child development services in downtown Vancouver. This funding will enable a number of community partners to work toward the goal of developing a new childcare/child development hub adjacent to Elsie Roy Elementary School.

New high density residential developments in the downtown core have resulted in a population increase of over 100% in the last few years. Many of these new residents are families with young children and there is an ever increasing demand for services. Existing services including Elsie Roy Elementary School and VSOCC's childcare centres are full, with waiting lists. The Roundhouse Community Centre programs for young children are operating at capacity. School space could potentially be used in "non-school" hours, but work is needed to develop protocols to accomplish this.

VSOCC is proposing to work with the Vancouver School Board, the Roundhouse Community Centre, Three Bridges Health Centre, the City of Vancouver, the YMCA and others, to develop an innovative coordinated response to serving families and children in the downtown area and potentially influence the planning of new facilities.

The goal is to build a new facility on land that is adjacent to the Elsie Roy Elementary School and Dorothy Lam Children's Centre. This facility would be designed to accommodate formal elementary school education, licensed child care, children's programs, parenting support services and arts and recreation services for families with young children. This enhanced service hub would offer additional services to these growing neighbourhoods and develop a model that can be used in other parts of the city as well as the Province. The partners have indicated support for this initiative and have committed to work collectively to deliver additional programs and services out of the new space.

The grant to the Vancouver Society of Children's Centres (VSOCC) will assist with the development of a detailed program plan, an operating agreement, a set of protocols and a draft three-year operating budget for the newly proposed multi-service facility. This project demonstrates collaboration; community involvement; benefits for families and children in high density neighbourhoods; and effective use of physical, financial and human resources.

The total cost for the project is \$25,000. VSOCC has received \$15,000 from the United Way to assist with this project and should Council approve the \$7,000, the Society will fund raise the remaining \$3,000.

2. *Collingwood Neighbourhood House- \$ 10,000*

This \$10,000 grant is to enhance the administrative infrastructure at Collingwood Neighbourhood House through improved enrolment management and automated centralized fee collection. The information and experience gained will be transferable to other agencies as they seek to improve their own infrastructure and systems.

The proposal is to create a computerized children's data base and centralized enrolment system. A computerized system would greatly improve the accessibility of demographic information on the families enrolled in and waiting for childcare and would enable staff to more effectively and efficiently match children's needs and spaces as they become available. The new system would also improve the management and tracking of parent fees and deposits.

PROGRAM STABILIZATION GRANT

Sunset Child Care Society requests \$5,000 to assist with offsetting some of the additional staff costs and loss of revenue incurred while relocating to a temporary site and then moving to their newly constructed facility at 8064 Buscombe Street. The relocation of the child care program required additional staffing and marketing of the program to rebuild enrolment. This one-time grant will help stabilize their operations.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House requests \$5,000 to assist with costs associated with program development of a new out-of-school program in one of the highest need areas of the city. Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House will work with Vancouver School Board, Florence Nightingale School, Vancouver Coastal Health and the City of Vancouver to support the children and families in this program. The January start-up of the new program requires special efforts particularly in building the enrolment. This area of the City is very much in need of out-of-school programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2006 Operating Budget for Civic Childcare Grants is \$1,075,300. With the implementation of the new Enhancement Grant strategy, this year staff initially allocated \$20,000 to Program Stabilization in the event that some programs would experience a significant decrease in their grants and need one-time assistance to transition to the new grant strategy. This, however, was not required. This report recommends one Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000, two Research and Innovation grants totalling \$17,000 and one Program Development Grant of \$5,000. The balance remaining in the 2006 Childcare Grants budget is \$5,000.

Program	2006 Budget	Proposed Allocation per Report	Previously Approved Allocation	Remaining Budget
Childcare Enhancement Grant	\$670,098		\$670,098	\$0
Program Stabilization	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$5,000.	\$0
Program Development	\$5,000	\$5,000		\$0
Research & Innovation	\$12,000	\$17,000		\$0
City-Wide/Administration of City-Owned	\$368,202		\$368,202	\$0
Total	\$1,075,300	\$27,000	1,043,300	\$5,000

CONCLUSION

This is the third of three reports related to the allocation of the 2006 Childcare Grants. Social Planning Department is recommending Council approval for:

- Research and Innovation Grant - \$7, 000 for VSOCC
- Research and Innovation Grant - \$10,000 for Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Program Stabilization Grant- \$5,000 for Sunset Childcare Society
- Program Development Grant - \$5,000 for Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

* * * * *