



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 26, 2007
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VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: December 11, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Director of Social Planning
SUBJECT: 2007 Civic Child Care Grant Report - Allocation 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve a Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant of \$15,000 to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre as described in this report. Source of funds: 2007 grants budget, 2007 operating budget.
- B. THAT Council approve a Program Development Grant of \$5,000 to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House as described in this report. Source of funds: 2007 grants budget, 2007 operating budget.
- C. THAT Council approve a Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House as described in this report. Source of funds: 2007 grants budget, 2007 operating budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

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 February 2007, Council approved the 2007 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,096,800, 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 grant is to seek Council’s approval for one Research, Policy Development and Innovations Grant to Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, one Program Development Grant, and one Program Stabilization Grant to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House for a total of \$25,000.

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, Policy Development 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, Policy Development and Innovation Grant

The request for \$15,000 is to enable Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre to support the development of visual media, illustrating child care planning and quality design in Vancouver. The media may include both an online photo gallery and a short documentary video to illustrate the child care planning and design processes in the City of Vancouver to assist future projects in the development process and reduce staff time.

The City has had a longstanding commitment to children, and because of development growth, has been able to develop and design a number of purpose built child care facilities since the 1970’s. The learnings and examples from the design and development have not been documented to date. This grant makes it possible to document and share the knowledge of childcare planning and design with developers, architects, non-profit organizations and others interested in delivering childcare.

Program Development Grant

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House requests \$5,000 to assist with costs associated with program development of a new 40 space preschool at the Jericho Military Family Resource Centre, which will open in January, 2008. The Neighbourhood House, in partnership with the provincial government, will be delivering the preschool program to military and community families. The Neighbourhood House requests funds to help organize the program and help offset costs that occur during the first six months (e.g. advertising, hiring, orientation, materials development). The Neighbourhood House was approached by the Jericho Military Family Resource Centre and community members to consider operating preschool program to meet the needs for child care in the Jericho area and in the Garrison. The Neighbourhood House engaged in discussions with the Westside ECD Hub, Parent Drop In Resource Centres, Parent Mother Goose Programs and Licensed Childminding Programs and confirmed the need for a preschool program.

The Kitsilano Neighbourhood House Community Preschool is located on the military base where new families are in need of assistance with childcare. A significant percentage of enrolment would be low income and military families. Military families have unique set of challenges due to the transient nature of their lives. They often have no extended family, or help close by, and many lower rank individuals live off low income. The Military Family Resource Centre is a place for families with young children to connect with others and receive much needed support. The preschool model incorporates parent participation as a significant component, ensuring the program continues to meet the needs of the community.

Program Stabilization Grant

The Kitsilano Neighbourhood House requests \$5,000 to assist with developing a business and promotion plan to ensure financial viability of the Dunbar Kids Club Out of School Care program. They have experienced some financial instability since opening in 2005 due to transitional issues of developing a new program.

Dunbar Kids Club is located in an area of the City that has extremely limited before and after school care programs. A number of children come from new immigrant families and the program expects these numbers to increase.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2007 Operating Budget for Civic Childcare Grants is \$1,096,800. This report recommends one Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant of \$15,000 and one Program Development Grant of \$5,000 and one Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000. The balance remaining in the 2007 Childcare Grants budget is \$0.

Program	2007 Proposed Budget	2007 Allocated	2007 Recommended
Childcare Enhancement Grant	\$698,558	\$698,558	0
Program Stabilization	\$10,000		\$5,000
Program Development	\$5,000		\$5,000
Research & Innovation	\$10,000		\$15,000
City-Wide Support Services	\$264,000	\$264,000	0
Administration of City-Owned	\$109,242	\$109,242	0
Total	\$1,096,800	\$1,071,800	\$25,000

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Access to affordable, quality childcare is important to creating inclusive, socially sustainable communities. Child care increases parents labour force participation, aids in healthy child development, and supports economic growth.

CONCLUSION

This is the third of three reports related to the allocation of the 2007 Childcare Grants. Social Planning Department is recommending Council approval for:

- Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant - \$15,000 for Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
- Program Development Grant - \$5,000 for Kitsilano Neighbourhood House
- Program Stabilization Grant- \$5,000 for Kitsilano Neighbourhood House

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