



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 22, 2007
Author: Anne Kloppenborg
Phone No.: 604.871.6031
RTS No.: 7032
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-20
Meeting Date: December 11, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Social Planning

SUBJECT: UBCM Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative - Neighbourhood House Seniors' Services

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the City's application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative Pilot Project for a grant of \$35,000 to support a community initiative to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of Neighbourhood House Seniors' Services.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

There is no applicable Council Policy.

PURPOSE

This report seeks a Council resolution to support a City of Vancouver grant application for \$35,000 from the UBCM Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative for the "Neighbourhood Seniors Services Project". The purpose of this project is to develop practical strategies to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of seniors' services in three of the city's Neighbourhood Houses. Kitsilano, Kiwassa and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House will partner with Vancouver Coastal Health which, along with the City, helps support seniors'

programs in some Neighbourhood Houses. Apart from Social Planning participation on the Steering Committee, there are no financial implications for the City. Council's support is needed to move this application to UBCM's final approval phase.

BACKGROUND

UBCM's Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative (SHSI) is intended to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. Vancouver submitted two applications under this program: the Neighbourhood House application and a \$3,000 application for a "Seniors in Communities Dialogue" which will be carried out by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, to map needs and resources for seniors in the Little Mountain Riley Park area. This application did not require a Council resolution and has now been approved.

On November 19, 2007, the City was advised that the Neighbourhood House Seniors Services Project has been approved in principle for funding, pending a formal Council resolution in support of the project, as well as a final stage project proposal.

DISCUSSION

Seniors in Vancouver face many challenges that affect their daily experiences and quality of life. Over the past several years, there have been a number of forums and workshops to identify the issues. One of the challenges that non-profit service-providers face is that seniors' needs are diverse and complex, and funding sources are scarce compared to those for other population groups. All Neighbourhood Houses provide supports for seniors but the nature of the services varies from house to house and funding is usually patched together from a variety of sources including short-term project money and each house's community fundraising.

Despite these constraints, Neighbourhood Houses provide some very effective programs for seniors and, because they are larger organizations than most of the individual seniors' centres, have more capacity than do smaller groups to undertake the type of assessment and planning proposed in this project.

The proposed Neighbourhood House Seniors Services Project has been developed out of discussions among Social Planning and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) staff, and several Neighbourhood Houses which provide seniors' services funded by the City and/or VCH. Kitsilano, Kiwassa and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House will partner in this project, which will identify issues and priorities for each house and determine practical ways to utilize and strengthen existing assets and improve the sustainability of programs. The strategies developed by this project will then be shared with other Neighbourhood Houses and seniors' groups.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. Project funding is provided by the UBCM's Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This project will contribute to social sustainability by supporting the efforts of Neighbourhood Houses to improve the coordination and effectiveness of their services for seniors. As well as providing services to seniors, many of the programs also build the capacity of individual seniors to assist other seniors.

CONCLUSION

This report seeks a Council resolution in support of the City's application to UBCM's Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative, for the "Neighbourhood House Seniors' Services Project."

* * * * *