

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



Report Date: June 17, 2008
Author: Debbie Anderson
Eng; Anne
Kloppenborg
Phone No.: 604.871.6032
RTS No.: 07439
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 10, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: Director of Social Planning

SUBJECT: Community Services Grant - Report Back on Funding for Youth Outreach in the Downtown Eastside

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a Community Services Grant of \$34,400 to Watari Research Association for outreach and support services to street involved youth in the Downtown Eastside for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2008, source of funds being the 2008 Community Services Grants budget.

The General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY

Approval of a grant requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

This report recommends approval of a grant of \$34,400 to Watari Research Association to support outreach and services to street-involved youth (ages 19 to 24) in the Downtown

Eastside. This grant is pro-rated for a partial year's funding to cover the period July 1 to December 31, 2008.

BACKGROUND

In the 2008 Community Services Grants Allocation report which Council heard on April 1, 2008, staff recommended that an existing grant to the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS) be terminated and that \$34,400 be set aside for an alternate service provider to assist street-involved youth in the Downtown Eastside. This recommendation was affirmed on May 1, 2008, and Council instructed staff to seek an alternate service provider.

Staff developed a call for proposals which invited outreach and support service proposals that would address the needs of youth ages 19 to 24. The proposal call is attached as APPENDIX A.

DISCUSSION

An invitation for proposals was sent to six local service providers, and proposals were received from three organizations, all of which currently provide services to youth. While all of the proposals indicated a strong interest within the community to see improved outreach and support to street involved youth, the Watari Research Association proposal met the following criteria in the most comprehensive way:

- the capacity of the applicant to provide the service;
- the applicant's approach to working with youth (i.e. mandate, vision, objectives);
- the nature and scope of the proposed service;
- the proposed nature of supervision, training and support for the staff person within the organization;
- the applicant's plans for partnering with other youth service providers and outreach workers; and
- how the proposed services would connect with other youth services currently being provided by the applicant.

Watari has been providing services to at-risk children, youth and families in the Downtown Eastside and other Vancouver neighbourhoods for 20 years. Staff at the agency include youth housing workers, mental health and addictions counsellors and outreach workers. The agency currently convenes the "Hard Target" meetings involving police and other youth service providers in identifying at-risk youth on the street and coordinating actions to respond to the needs of these youth. Watari also operates Vancouver's Youth Day Treatment Program and has extensive experience working with vulnerable and at-risk youth ages 19 to 24.

Some key components of the Watari proposal include: 1.0 FTE Youth Outreach worker who will make contacts with 100 youth per month, provide assessment and referral and follow up to 60 individual clients per month, including directed outreach to youth identified at "Hard Target" meetings; training and clinical supervision for outreach worker and program evaluation.

The recommended grant of \$34,400 covers the period July 1 to December 31, 2008. Watari will contribute both in-kind and cash support to the service, as well as looking to enhance the program through on-going partnerships with other service providers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the recommended grant of \$34,400 will leave an unallocated balance of \$407 in the 2008 Community Services Grants budget. In keeping with Council policy, this balance may only be used for unforeseen emergency requests from eligible Community Services organizations, during the course of the year.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Recent meetings with service providers in the Downtown Eastside and with other funders confirm that there is a need for outreach and supports to youth ages 19 to 24 in this area. The objective of this grant is to have outreach and support services delivered by a service provider that is located in the neighbourhood, is experienced in working with this vulnerable population, and has other programs and services and partnerships to enhance the program.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends a grant to Watari Research Association to provide outreach and support services to street involved youth (ages 19 to 24) in the Downtown Eastside.

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May 23, 2008

RE: Call for Proposals: Outreach and Support Services for youth ages 19 to 24 in the Downtown Eastside

Purpose:

The City of Vancouver, Social Planning Department, is inviting proposals from non-profit community groups to provide outreach and support services to youth ages 19 to 24 in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) area of Vancouver. The purpose is to augment existing outreach services already provided in the area and in other areas of the city and to target street involved youth. Funding has been allocated in the 2008 Community Services Grant budget for this service and the recommended proposal will be submitted to Council, which must approve the grant.

Background:

The City has been providing an annual grant towards 1.5 FTE youth outreach workers in the DTES to provide information, referral, and support services. These workers partner with other youth workers in the area to identify vulnerable youth, make referrals to appropriate resources (e.g. detox, health and harm reduction programs, food, shelter, etc) and provide 1:1 advocacy and other supports necessary for youth to access services. Council has instructed staff to seek a new non-profit society to provide this service.

Proposed Service:

Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for a City of Vancouver Community Services Grant.

Proposals should describe the following:

- What is your organizational capacity and your approach to working with vulnerable, street involved youth?
- Describe the nature and scope of the proposed service/activities; proposed numbers of youth served, frequency of outreach;
- How do you plan to support this worker(s) within your organization?
- How will you partner with other youth services and outreach workers in the community?

- If you are already providing services to youth, are there any linkages between existing services and the proposed service?

Budget:

The grant for the proposed service is for the last 6 months of 2008 (July 1 to December 31, 2008) and is for a maximum of \$ 34,400.

Proposals must indicate salary and benefits, proposed hours, program costs, any other sources of funding, and the proposed start date.

Community Services Grants Information:

Please refer to the Social Planning website at www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/grants/commgrants.htm for additional information on the Community Services grants criteria. This proposal is for the last six months of 2008. If interested, the organization would re-apply in December of 2008 for a full year grant in the 2009 Community Services grants program. All Community Services grants must be approved by Council annually.

Timing:

Proposals must be received in Social Planning on or before June 6, 2008. Staff will review the proposals and report to Council by the end of July, for decision.

Please call Debbie Anderson Eng at 604-871-6032 or Michelle Vernooy at 604-871-6682 with any questions about this proposal for further information

Yours truly,

Mary Clare Zak
Director, Social Planning
maryclare.zak@vancouver.ca
Phone: 604.871.6643
Fax: 604.871.6048

MCZ/td