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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 27, 2009
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 15, 2009

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Deputy General Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: 2009 Civic Child Care Grants: Allocation 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the following 2009 Civic Child Care Grants:

- i. Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant of \$10,000 to the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC);
- ii. Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House;
- iii. Program Stabilization Grant of \$5,000 to Vancouver Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society;
- iv. Program Development Grant of \$5,000 to Franklin Preschool Society;
- v. Program Development Grant of \$5,000 to Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House.

Source of funds to be the 2009 Child Care Grants Budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

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's approval for one Research, Policy Development and Innovations Grant to the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC), two Program Stabilization Grants to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House and Vancouver Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society, and two Program Development Grants to Franklin Preschool Society and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, for a total of \$30,000.

BACKGROUND

Since the early 1990's, Council has provided funding for a number of small one-time-only grants to non-profit child care 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 unforeseen 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

This grant supports new child care research, policy and other projects whose aim is to improve practice throughout the city.

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) (\$10,000)

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC) is a voluntary non-profit society that advocates for a community-based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

In partnership with the Early Childhood Educators of BC (ECEBC), the CCCABC is proposing to:

- analyze the relationship between the provincial government plan to offer free, universal and publicly-funded full school-day kindergarten for five year olds (with potential programming for four year olds to follow) and the ongoing child care needs of children and families;
- the role of professional early childhood educators and existing community services, and;
- the potential for integration of early care and learning policy, funding and programming in British Columbia.

This initiative, with a total budget of \$29,500, is to be funded in partnership with the VanCity Community Foundation and the VanCity Credit Union.

The grant amount for \$10,000 (plus funds provided by the other partners) would enable the CCCABC to develop a framework/model for integrating the delivery and governance of early care

and learning in a way that meets the development needs of young children and the needs of working families. It would also allow CCCABC to seek community feedback on the proposed framework/model. Finally, the project will develop policy recommendations for advancing an integrated system of early care and learning in Vancouver (and eventually for all of BC), and could be a key document to facilitate dialogue at the Vancouver symposium on child development hubs in April 2010.

Program Stabilization Grant

The Stabilization Grant allows for the one time allocation of funds to non-profit child care centres to undertake long term financial restructuring. This grant is to assist programs in developing stable, monthly financial management and to develop a viable, long term financial management plan. These funds are to be accessed by a program when they are experiencing financial crisis which jeopardizes the continuity of the child care service.

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (\$5,000)

The \$5,000 Stabilization Grant would allow the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House to create a sustainable, long term financial plan to ensure the continuation of a Licensed Childminding Program to families living in the Jericho Military Garrison, UBC, West Point Grey, and Dunbar areas. Over the last two years, the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House has offered programs to over 50 families in those areas, but the program is presently in jeopardy due to a combination of factors, including: affordability, families using this program moving out of the area, lack of knowledge in the larger community about the program (Statistics Canada data, however, shows a growth in children 0-6 in the targeted neighbourhoods).

Vancouver Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society (\$5,000)

The Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society is a coalition of ten small childcare providers in the West side of the city that provides an integrated network of services to families in the area. The organization is having difficulties providing financial support to staff from the hub to attend meetings, particularly those related to professional development. It also requires updating of their web site with relevant information for families and educators. Finally, the organization also needs to hire a part-time coordinator to research and develop a centralized wait list for daycares.

The \$5,000 Stabilization Grant would allow the Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society to deal with the above mentioned challenges and develop a longer range sustainable plan for operations of the Hub.

Program Development Grant

The Program Development Grant is for non-profit organizations that are developing new or expanding licensed group child care, preschool, or out-of-school care. The grant is to help pay non-capital costs to assess community needs, incorporate and license a centre, policy and procedural development, staff recruitment, board development and to fundraise for capital costs and operate during the start-up phase. Grants are to cover the costs of opening a new facility or expanding existing services.

Franklin Preschool Society (\$5,000)

Franklin Preschool Society is a newly incorporated society that manages (with volunteers) the Franklin Community Preschool. The Preschool provides services to families in the Hastings-Sunrise area of the city.

A Development Grant of \$5,000 will assist the Preschool board and staff to develop new curriculum in order to enhance the children's experiences. The Society would also develop a fundraising plan for long-term sustainability of the preschool in order to fund operational needs as well the need to create new storage space.

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (\$5,000)

The Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House is in the process of discussions with the St. Michaels Anglican Church to assume the operation of the Childcare program - 25 3-5 years Group Care - presently operated by the Church, which is planning to close the operations of the Childcare program in the near future. A Development Grant of \$5,000 will assist the Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House to explore the possibility to run the Childcare program under their sponsorship.

Enabling the Mount Pleasant NH to explore the continuation of childcare services, presently offered by St. Michaels, supports the City policy of retention of childcare spaces when there is already an acknowledged shortage of spaces.

Creekview Tiny Tots Daycare (No Grant)

The Creekview Tiny Tots Society provides services in the Fairview that are for families with children aged 18 months to 36 months. They submitted a request for funding an initiative to provide information to families regarding childcare needs and topics. The City is already providing an annual grant to the Westcoast Childcare Resource Centre to provide that type of service to Vancouver families. Staff is recommending No Grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends an allocation of \$30,000 for Research and Innovation, Program Development, and Program Stabilization Grants. The grant recipients are shown in the table below.

Grant Program	2009 Recommended Grant
Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant: Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	\$10,000
Program Stabilization Grants Kitsilano Neighbourhood House	\$ 5,000
Vancouver Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society	\$ 5,000
Program Development Grants Franklin Preschool Society	\$ 5,000
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	\$ 5,000
Total	\$30,000

The 2009 budget for Civic Childcare Grants is \$1,137,400. Allocations take place three times a year as illustrated in the table below.

Child Care Grant	2009 Proposed	2009 Allocated	2009 Remaining	Council Report Date
Administration of City-owned Facilities: Grant to VSOCC to manage eight City-owned facilities.	\$112,541	\$112,541	0	April 7, 2009
City Wide Support Services: Grant to Westcoast Child Care Resource centre	\$228,704	\$228,704	0	April 7, 2009
Child Care Enhancement: Grants for licensed, group child care, preschool, out-of school care and licensed child minding programs serving high need families.	\$766,155	\$766,155	0	May 19, 2009
Program Development, Stabilization, and Research and Innovation	\$30,000	\$30,000	0	December 15, 2009
Total	\$1,137,400	\$1,137,400	0	

This report's recommended allocation of \$30,000 for Research and Innovation, Program Development, and Program Stabilization Grants would exhaust the 2009 Civic Childcare Grants budget.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Access to affordable, quality child care is important to creating inclusive, socially sustainable communities. Child care increases parents' labour force participation, aids in healthy child development, and supports economic growth. These grants will support the development of new early childhood related policies, will stabilize two important program providers, and will allow for new program development.

CONCLUSION

This is the third of three reports related to the allocation of the 2009 Civic Childcare Grants. The Social Development Department is recommending Council approval for:

- one Research, Policy Development and Innovations Grant to the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCCABC),
- two Program Stabilization Grants to Kitsilano Neighbourhood House and Vancouver Westside Early Childhood Development Hub Society, and
- two Program Development Grants to Franklin Preschool Society and Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, for a grand total of \$30,000.

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