



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: July 9, 2010
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Meeting Date: July 20, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Managing Director of Social Development

SUBJECT: 2010 Community Services Grants Allocations to Aboriginal Front Door (AFD), and Marpole Oakridge Area Council (MOACS)

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve \$40,000 of the 2010 Community Services Grant budget to the Aboriginal Front Door Society, subject to the Conditions outlined in this report. Source of funding is the 2010 Community Services Grants budget;
- B. THAT Council approve \$36,300 of the 2010 Community Services Grant budget to the Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS), subject to the Conditions outlined in this report. Source of funding is the 2010 Community Services Grants budget;

Recommendations A and B authorize grants and require eight affirmative votes for approval.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing recommendations

COUNCIL POLICY

On March 7, 1978, City Council established the Community Services Grants program.

On October 9, 2003, City Council approved a number of revisions to establish the current Community Services Grants program, including:

- the creation of three categories of Community Services Grants;
- three sets of eligibility criteria which apply to each of the categories of Community Services Grants;

- priorities for the Direct Social Services category of Community Services Grants.

Council also reconfirmed, as policy, other aspects of the Community Services Grants program, including: Basic Eligibility Criteria, Ineligible Services, Core Funding Guidelines, Rent Subsidy Grants, and the Appeal Process.

On March 23, 2010 Council approved \$76,300 of the 2010 Community Services Grants budget for programs serving seniors in the Marpole area and urban Aboriginals in the Downtown Eastside, pending on a report back by June 2010 with recommendations for a service provider.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

This report recommends the allocation of \$40,000 from the 2010 Community Services Grants budget to the Aboriginal Front Door Society (AFD), for the delivery of services to urban Aboriginals in the DTES neighbourhood.

This report also recommends the allocation of \$36,300 from the 2010 Community Services Grants budget to the Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS), for the delivery of programs serving seniors in the Marpole area.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

As part of the 2010 Community Services Grants review, the grants allocations to AFD and MOACS were put on hold while staff attempted to clarify issues related to governance, financial sustainability, and program development affecting both organizations.

I. Aboriginal Front Door Society

The Aboriginal Front Door Society offers a range of activities to the DTES Aboriginal communities. The organization was originally supported by the Vancouver Agreement offering a drop-in facility (384 Main Street) and some programming. Programs have included crafts circles, elders training, counselling activities, healing circles, community development and empowerment work.

As part of the 2010 Community Services Grant program allocations, Council authorized the creation of a \$40,000 reserve fund for the delivery of services to urban Aboriginals in the DTES. The AFD has been facing a number of organizational (staff and board) and financial stability challenges. Staff objective was to identify options to support the DTES urban Aboriginal communities, and to further review the organizational viability of the agency.

Since the AFD's initial grant application was submitted in 2009, the organization has undergone substantial board renewal and have greater capacity to manage the City's grant. Furthermore, as a drop-in centre, the AFD continues to provide an important service to urban Aboriginals in the area.

Following meetings with other agencies serving urban Aboriginals, Board members, and staff from AFD, City staff propose that the reserve funds be allocated to the AFD to support leadership capacity and board/organizational development activities. City staff will meet with representatives from the AFD Society to determine specific funding allocations and review conditions on the grant that include: the creation of an advisory committee provide guidance to the AFD Board of Directors, use of contracted support to improve governance and fundraising capacities, and provision of financial reporting.

II. Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS)

The Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS) provides a variety of services to residents in the Marpole neighbourhood through Marpole Place, a City-owned facility located at 1305 West 70th Avenue, presently leased to MOACS. Services provided at Marpole Place involve services to seniors, youth, new immigrants, and family support.

Following the 2010 Community Services Grant Program allocations, Council authorized the creation of a \$36,300 reserve fund for the delivery of services to seniors in the Marpole area.

MOACS has been facing a number of challenges in terms of organization (staff and Board), program delivery, and financial stability.

The City secured the help of a Consultant to work with staff, MOACS representatives, and other stakeholders, including the Marpole Family Place (also occupying space at Marpole Place), and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses (ANH) to determine the following:

- Identify priority programs for the City-owned facility at Marpole Place and recommend how to best direct City Community Services Grants funds;
- Help resolve Governance issues; and
- Identify most appropriate operator to manage the facility, or identify a process to confirm such an operator.

Based on the Consultant's advice, City staff is proposing that 50% of the reserve funds (\$18,150) be allocated to MOACS immediately, with the remainder 50% (\$18,150) to be released at a later date with conditions including submission of administrative reports, completion of the 2010 grant application and a monitoring plan, and the development of an updated shared facility use agreement with Marpole Oakridge Family Place, acceptable to both parties.

All of the above must be completed to the satisfaction of the Director of Social Policy, by October 15, 2010.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed grants recommendations to the Aboriginal Front Door Society (\$40,000) and to the Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society (\$36,300) will exhaust the 2010 budget for the Community Services Grants category (total of \$4,047,400).

CONCLUSION

The Allocation of a \$40,000 grant to the AFD Society will allow for needed services to urban Aboriginals to be continued in the DTES neighbourhood, while the allocation of a \$36,300 grant to MOACS will allow for continuity of seniors programs in the Marpole area.

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