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AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 6, 2011
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Meeting Date: April 19, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director of Social Development
SUBJECT: Grant Request - Streetohome Foundation

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$125,000 to Streetohome Foundation for 2011 with the source of funds to be the Affordable Housing Reserve.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Streetohome Foundation is an important partner in delivering the City's priorities around resolving street homelessness by 2015. They are working to keep overhead costs at a minimum. This request for operating dollars from the City reflects their commitment to expending donor dollars directly for new and supportive housing for the homeless and at risk of homelessness. The City Manager therefore recommends this grant to support their operations which will in turn, enable their strategy.

COUNCIL POLICY

The City's social housing policy is to maintain and expand housing opportunities in Vancouver for low and modest income households with priority being given to families with children; seniors on fixed incomes or in need of support; SRO residents; and the mentally ill, physically disabled, and others at risk of homelessness.

The Vancouver Charter requires a resolution passed by 8 affirmative votes of Council for Recommendation A.

SUMMARY & PURPOSE

Streetohome Foundation was established in 2008 through a partnership between the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia and the Vancouver Foundation. Each partner contributed \$500,000 towards start-up funding at that time. Streetohome Foundation has requested that the City contribute \$125,000 towards their 2011 operating costs. Staff recommends approval of this grant request to support the Streetohome Foundation's efforts which support Council's commitment to end street homelessness by 2015. The grant will come from the Affordable Housing Reserve.

BACKGROUND

Streethome Foundation brings a community and collaborative approach to breaking the cycle of homelessness: bringing together a broad-based coalition of leaders and experts from business, service providers, government and community sectors. In particular, it provides a key opportunity to engage the skills and resources of the private sector in our shared goal of ending street homelessness in Vancouver. A condition of the City's seed funding in 2008 was that the City have the right to appoint a member to the board of the Foundation and that the Foundation report annually to City Council. The City Manager is the City's member to the Board. The Foundation is preparing their first annual report which will be forwarded to Council this spring.

DISCUSSION

In January 2010, Streethome Foundation released and began implementing its 10-Year Plan, in partnership with a wide range of community partners. This plan focuses on creating new supported housing for individuals who are chronically homeless, youth, and families. The 10-Year Plan identifies initiatives to prevent homelessness and the need to build broad-based community support and awareness of homelessness as an issue.

In addition to developing a 10-Year Plan, Streethome Foundation has provided and/or committed funding to a number projects across the City that directly impacts homelessness. The strategic funding initiatives and leveraging opportunities Streethome has contributed to has changed the urban streetscape by housing a number of individuals in safe and supported housing, including:

Project	Streethome Funding \$\$	City of Vancouver Funding \$\$	Outcomes: Housing units and Individuals Housed
HEAT Shelters	\$500,000	\$500,000	Reduced street homelessness by 50% in 2010.
London Hotel	\$250,000	\$1.4 million (for heritage restoration and designation)	Renovations to 32 units of supportive housing for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
At Home/Chez Soi	\$860,000 (+ \$340,000 from Vancouver Foundation)	\$500,000	Renovations to the Bosman Hotel for 67 units, which will house 100 people over the course of the 4-year research demonstration project.
Aboriginal Mother Centre	\$500,000	\$70,000	New housing for 16 units for mothers and their children who are at risk of homelessness and a daycare.
8 of 14 sites (the first 6 were already funded by the time of S2H creation)	\$20 million	\$26.4 million (land costs)	937 units of new housing units, in partnership with Province for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
YWCA Cause We Care House	\$1 million	\$12 million (for the library component)	Housing for up to 20 units for single-mother led families who are at risk of homelessness, in partnership with Vancouver Public Library.
McLaren Housing Society - portable rent subsidy program	\$45,000	-	Prevented 29 individuals from losing their housing.
TOTAL	\$23,155,000	\$40,420,000	Housing units: 1072 Individuals housed: 1134 (excludes children)

In May 2010, Streetohome Foundation launched a campaign to raise \$26.5 million to help create new housing and support prevention programs aimed at breaking the cycle of homelessness in Vancouver. This campaign has received strong support from the community with more than 50 percent of the target amount raised by December 31, 2010. All donor funds are directed to Streetohome-supported housing and prevention projects only. None of these dollars are applied to administration or operations.

The operational funding model includes funding from each of the original partners, these include:

Partner	2011	2012
Vancouver Foundation	\$200,000	\$200,000*
BC Housing	\$250,000	\$250,000
City of Vancouver	\$125,000*	\$125,000*

* Subject to grant request approval

The Foundation's work is invaluable and very important in assisting Council's goal to end homelessness by 2015. The 2010 annual report will highlight achievements and measurable results to facilitate solutions towards ending homelessness in Vancouver. It will also raise greater awareness at the business and community levels to continue leveraging opportunities for further funding.

Operational funding for 2012 will be based on Streetohome Foundation's performance outcomes of numbers of housing units created and individuals housed. Staff will report back to Council for approval of any further grants towards operating funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The source of the \$125,000 grant is the Affordable Housing Reserve.

CONCLUSION

Streetohome Foundation is committed to solving homelessness in the Vancouver by working with a coalition of local leaders from the community, governments, and businesses. Approval is recommended for a grant of \$125,000 to Streetohome Foundation for operating costs for 2011 from the Affordable Housing Reserve as their work is strongly aligned with Council's housing objectives to ending street homelessness by 2015.

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