



REPORT

Report Date: January 14, 2020
Contact: Carly Benson
Contact No.: 604.829.4380
RTS No.: 13610
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: February 11, 2020
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

SUBJECT: Funding Application to UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a funding application to the Union of British Columbia Municipality's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services for \$25,000 towards the purchase of accessible supplies, training, and a functional exercise for Emergency Support Services, as attached in Appendix A of this report.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City contemplates partnerships with senior government to support work on certain Council priorities. This grant application supports emergency preparedness and the delivery of emergency support services.

This report seeks Council's approval to submitting a funding application to the Emergency Support Services stream of the Union of BC Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

UBCM funding programs require a resolution of Council as part of the application package.

There is no applicable Council Authority or previous decisions relevant to this report.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

The [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) was created by the Province in March 2017 with an allocation of \$32 Million. It is managed by the Union of BC Municipalities.

The program is meant to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. This report is seeking Council approval for Emergency Support Services stream, which provides funding to support local authorities in building capacity to emergency support services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of equipment.

The maximum grant under this stream is 100% of project costs up to \$25,000 and the deadline for applications is February 14th, 2020.

A resolution of Council is required for each funding application.

Strategic Analysis

The City of Vancouver Emergency Support Services team responds to over 30 incidents per year and has assisted over 1,000 evacuees in the past 3 years. The team has also been deployed to other jurisdictions in the province, most recently during the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons.

Debriefs from large responses and exercises, including the recent VanSlam 2019 exercise, have identified gaps in the supplies available to support people with mobility challenges and other disabilities. There is also an opportunity to provide equity and diversity training to the Emergency Support Services team to better support the diverse populations in the City of Vancouver.

This project would procure specialized equipment and accessible signage to support evacuees with diverse needs, particularly physical disabilities. It would also provide customized training and a functional exercise for the emergency support services team to better deliver services to populations with complex needs.

Financial

The entire project of updating the Emergency Support Services project with accessible supplies and training is estimated to cost \$32,000. Staff are recommending that the City request the maximum \$25,000 in UBCM funding. The City of Vancouver will contribute \$7,000 through existing operating funds allocated for Emergency Support Services training and in-kind through the provision of professional services delivered by staff.

CONCLUSION

By applying to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness fund, the City has the opportunity to access external funding of up to \$25,000 to support the delivery and development of emergency support services.

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Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

Emergency Support Services

2020 Application Form

Please complete and return the application form by February 14, 2020. All questions are required to be answered by typing directly in this form. If you have any questions, contact cepf@ubcm.ca or (250) 387-4470.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information	AP <i>(for administrative use only)</i>
Name of Local Government or First Nation: City of Vancouver	Date of Application: February 14, 2020
Contact Person*: Darrell Reid	Position: General Manager, VFRS & VEMA
Phone: 604-665-6051	E-mail: darrell.reid@vancouver.ca

** Contact person must be an authorized representative of the applicant.*

SECTION 2: For <u>Regional Projects Only</u>
<p>1. Identification of Partnering Applicants. For all regional projects, please list all of the partnering eligible applicants included in this application. Refer to Section 2 in the Program & Application Guide for eligibility.</p>
<p>2. Rationale for Regional Projects. Please provide a rationale for submitting a regional application and describe how this approach will support cost-efficiencies in the total grant request.</p>

SECTION 3: Project Summary
<p>3. Name of the Project: Modernizing Vancouver's ESS Program: Accessibility & Equity</p>
<p>4. Project Cost & Grant Request: Total Project Cost: \$32,000.00 Total Grant Request: \$25,000.00 Have you applied for or received funding for this project from other sources? No</p>

5. Project Summary. Provide a summary of your project in 150 words or less.

Modernizing Vancouver's ESS Program: Accessibility and Equity

This purpose of the project is to support the modernization of Vancouver's ESS program with a focus on equity and accessibility. Vancouver has a robust ESS plan and program for standard responses but requires additional and more targeted supplies, training, and processes to better support the diverse populations we serve. This project will secure specialized equipment and signage as well as develop and deliver equity training to our ESS team. The final step of the project is a functional exercise with key stakeholders to solidify the training and continue to build the relationships and skills essential to supporting the citizens of Vancouver in an emergency.

6. Emergency Plan. Describe the extent to which the proposed project will specifically support recommendations or requirements identified in the local Emergency Plan.

The City of Vancouver has one of the busiest local Emergency Social Services teams in BC, responding to over 120 calls and supporting over 1000 evacuees in the past three years. Many of these incidents disproportionately affect marginalized and equity-seeking groups.

One of the gaps we have identified in our existing Emergency Plan is around accessibility and equity. Vancouver's City Council has identified equity as a key priority for the work we do to support the citizens of Vancouver and the City is finalizing the development of an Equity Framework. This project will integrate the principles and practice of the Equity Framework into the delivery of emergency support services.

Additionally, some of the action items and recommendations from Vancouver's recent full-scale exercise identified gaps in the supplies available for ESS teams to support people with disabilities and a training gap on how to incorporate equity and accessibility into how we deliver ESS services.

This project will support the modernization of our ESS program in bringing an equity and accessibility lens to our plans, resources, and training. It will also help us prepare our ESS program for anticipated changes coming through the update to the Emergency Program Act.

SECTION 4: Detailed Project Information

7. Proposed Activities. What specific activities will be undertaken as part of the proposed project? Refer to Section 4 of the Program & Application Guide for eligibility.

This modernization project will involve the following steps:

- Purchase supplies for Reception Centres and Group Lodging to support accessibility and inclusivity, including cots for people with physical disabilities, accessible signage, and supplies to support families
- Develop and deliver equity training to ESS volunteers
- Update existing Vancouver ESS training to incorporate more explicitly equity and diversity content
- Conduct a functional exercise with ESS volunteers, regional partners, and key

stakeholders with a focus on supporting people with disabilities

8. Modernization of local ESS programs. How will the proposed activities support the modernization of the local ESS program?

This project is integral to the modernization of our ESS program in alignment with the upcoming changes to the provincial ESS program as well as the anticipated changes in legislation coming in 2021. It will align our ESS program development with Vancouver City Council's priorities focusing on equity.

In addition to supporting the ongoing development of the ESS program, this project will address existing gaps in our ability to provide equitable support to people with disabilities and those who require additional support to accommodate more complex needs.

Finally, this project will address some gaps identified during Vancouver's recent full-scale exercise, VanSlam 2019, and position us well for the province's upcoming regional emergency in 2022, Coastal Response.

9. Capacity Building. Describe how the proposed project will increase emergency response capacity (i.e. having the physical resources and the skills to respond to emergencies) in your community.

This project will increase our emergency response capacity in the following ways:

- Provide physical supplies to support a more diverse population, particularly those with disabilities
- Provide specific training on equity and inclusivity to ESS volunteers to increase awareness of the importance of equity and provide ESS volunteers with the skills and resources to incorporate an equity lens into the work they do supporting evacuees
- Incorporate equity into all Vancouver ESS training to firmly embed this approach into our processes and responses
- Conduct an exercise with Vancouver ESS volunteers and key partners to practice with new supplies and focus on supporting populations with diverse needs
- Build capacity and relationships with key partner agencies
- Building training templates and resources that can be shared with other jurisdictions

10. Transferability. Describe the extent to which the proposed project may offer transferable resources and supplies to other local governments and/or First Nations (i.e. ESS volunteers, training resources, cots, blankets, etc.).

The City of Vancouver would be able to share the training modules, templates, and resource lists developed as part of this project with regional and provincial partners looking to incorporate equity into their ESS programs.

Additionally, the City of Vancouver provides support to other jurisdictions during regional and provincial responses through the deployment of staff and volunteers as well as the

occasional deployment of resources, including cots.

Vancouver also has strong regional connections with the other communities in Metro Vancouver and has provided volunteers and equipment to ESS responses in those communities, most recently to the North Shore. In addition, Vancouver has agreements with several smaller communities to provide additional cots or blankets if an incident exceeds local capacity. The accessible supplies purchased through this project would be deployable to other jurisdictions upon request.

As regional and provincial planning efforts around mass care and large ESS responses intensify over the next few years, this project could provide a template for other communities looking to integrate equity and accessibility into their ESS programs.

11. Partnerships. In addition to Question 1, if applicable, identify any partners you will collaborate with on the proposed project and specifically outline how you intend to work together.

For this project, we will work with the following partners:

- City of Vancouver staff: To ensure our program aligns with the new Vancouver Equity Framework and to work together on the development of appropriate training materials for ESS volunteers
- Disability Alliance BC: Consultation on the types of accommodation needed to make our Reception Centres and Group Lodging more accessible. Support to our exercise and invitation to attend training
- Vancouver Immigration Partnership: Consultation on signage and supplies needed to support diverse populations and culturally-sensitive content for our Reception Centres
- Disaster Psychosocial Program: Consultation for the development of training and participation in our exercise
- Regional Emergency Planning Committee: Invitation other regional partners to work with us on this project, to share the outcomes and training materials developed, and leverage regional resources for exercise evaluation and participation

12. Evaluation. How will the project be evaluated? How will performance measures and/or benchmarks be used to measure outcomes? (i.e. tracking the number of training events and recruitments, external evaluators, etc.)

The primary metrics used to evaluate this project will be as follows:

- The number of ESS volunteers trained (target: 50 in 2020, 100 in 2021)
- The number of ESS containers with accessible signage (target: 26)
- The number of partners participating in our exercise (target: 5 partners)

We will also invite external evaluators from the Disability Alliance BC to assess and provide feedback on our exercise.

13. Progress to Date. If you received funding under the 2017 or 2018 Emergency Social Services funding stream, please describe the progress you have made in increasing ESS capacity.

We received funding under the 2017 UBCM Grant to purchase an ESS response vehicle. Although we experienced an initial delay due to a regional shortage of Ford Transit

vehicles, the vehicle has been outfitted and we are finalizing response protocols and training staff on its use to ensure it can be deployed safely. We anticipate this vehicle making a significant improvement to our response time and capability once it is completely operational and in service.

It will also enhance our capacity to support regional partners and deployments.

14. Additional Information. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

We see this project as an essential step in modernizing our ESS program and enhancing our ability to provide equitable support to all residents during an emergency.

SECTION 5: Required Application Materials

Only complete applications will be considered for funding. The following separate attachments are required to be submitted as part of the application:

- ☐ Local government Council or Board resolution, Band Council resolution or Treaty First Nation resolution, indicating support for the current proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management.
- ☐ Detailed budget for each component identified in the application. This must clearly identify the CEPF funding request, applicant contribution, and/or other grant funding.
- ☐ For regional projects only: local government Council or Board resolution, Band Council resolution or Treaty First Nation resolution from each partnering applicant that clearly states their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

SECTION 6: Signature

I certify that: (1) to the best of my knowledge, all information is accurate and (2) the area covered by the proposed project is within our local authority's jurisdiction (or appropriate approvals are in place).

Name: Darrell Reid

Title: Fire Chief/General Manager

Signature:



Date: January 20th 2020

An electronic or original signature is required.

Submit applications to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: cepf@ubcm.ca

Mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8