

2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update

February 26, 2020

Presentation Overview

- Renter Services Funding Program
- 2020 Renter Services Grants
- Update on Renter Office Initiatives

Renter Services Funding

- Approved by Council June 2019 (RTS 13180) to help renters understand and pursue their rights and secure and stabilize their housing
- Aims to enhance and amplify the work of the renter services sector through supporting 3 primary outcomes for renters:
 - Understanding Rights (legal education for renters)
 - Pursuing Rights (legal advocacy at RTB, dispute resolution)
 - Securing Housing (rehousing supports, prevention services)

Renter Services Funding

- \$1.5 million over 3 years from Empty Homes Tax (EHT) Allocation to Affordable Housing Operating Budget
- \$550,000 allocated to 2019-2020 funding cycle
- To be disbursed through grants to non-profits and/or service contracts

COMPONENTS	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	TOTAL
Grants or Service Contracts	\$500K	\$500K	\$500K	\$1.5M
Previously Allocated EHT for Seniors Housing Project RFP	\$50K			\$50K
TOTAL	\$550K	\$500K	\$500K	\$1.5M

2020 Renter Services Grants



- Designed with guidance from Social Policy in alignment with Direct Social Services (DSS) Grants
- Interdepartmental adjudication: ACCS, DBL, Legal Services
- Received 23 applications requesting total of \$1.43 million

2020 Renter Services Grants: Recommendations

- Recommend funding 15 applications totalling \$625,000
 - \$550,000 from EHT Allocation to 2020 Renter Services Grants
 - \$ 75,000 from SRO Upgrade Granting Program
- Applications aim to support the needs of a range of low-income, marginalized and at-risk renter populations across the city



Increased City Investment in Services for Renters

- Long-time City investment in core renter services and advocacy through Social Policy's Direct Social Services (DSS) Grants
- New investment through Renter Services Grants does not result in reallocation or loss of funding from DSS Grants stream
- Opportunity to build and strengthen existing sector

Grant stream	2019	2020	% increase 2019-2020
DSS Grants	\$382,000	\$382,000	
Renter Services Grants	n/a	\$625,000	
Total	\$382,000	\$1,007,000	164%

Update on the City of Vancouver Renter Office

- Renter Services and Advocacy Team (RAST)
- Renter Enquiry Line
- Consultation and Engagement
- Renter Centre
- Tenant Relocation Specialist