



## REPORT

Report Date: March 18, 2020  
Contact: Sandra Singh  
Contact No.: 604.871.6858  
RTS No.: 13786  
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20  
Meeting Date: March 19, 2020  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Amendments to Community Services Grants to Allow Community Response to COVID-19

## RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the following amendments to Council's prior approval of 2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants (RTS No. 13579) and 2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Service Update (RTS No. 13412) (the "Prior Resolution"):
- i. With respect to all Social Services Agencies (as defined below), the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services (or their designate) ("GM of ACCS") be authorized to accelerate the disbursement of the 2020 Social Grants (as defined below) to allow the community to respond to COVID-19 as quickly as necessary.
  - ii. With respect to all Social Services Agencies, the conditions of their respective grant agreements are now amended to allow the use of the grant for the following additional purposes subject to the following conditions:
    - The grant must still be used for the benefit of the same members of the community that the original grant conditions required (the "Target Community").
    - The applicable Social Service Agency may utilize the grant for any purpose that supports the Target Community in mitigating or preventing the transmission of COVID-19 or assisting any member of the Target Community who contracts COVID-19 (the "Re-Purpose").

- The Re-Purpose will be deemed to include any such costs as are reasonably necessary to protect the health of the employees and volunteers of the Social Service Agency in carrying out the Re-Purpose.
  - All of the audit and records-keeping requirements of the grant agreement will continue to apply to all expenditures made in connection with the Re-Purpose.
- B. THAT, if Council approves Recommendation A, the GM of ACCS (or their designate) is authorized to issue all such amendments to the existing grant agreements for the 2020 Social Grants and issue all such other communications and execute any and all such documents as considered by the GM of ACCS reasonably necessary to implement the intent and effect of Recommendation A including all such clarifications and additional terms and conditions as considered by the GM of ACCS reasonably necessary in the circumstances.

Recommendation A requires 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members per Section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter* and 2/3 affirmative votes of members present as per Section 166 of the *Vancouver Charter*.

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

At its Standing Committee on City Finances and Services meeting over the course of February 26 and March 3, 2020, Council considered Report RTS No. 13579, dated February 14, 2020, entitled “2020 Community Services and Other Social Grants” (the “Social Grants Report”) and resolved to recommend to Council the approval of over 250 individual grants (the “2020 Community Social Grants”) to over 100 community and social services organizations (the “Community Social Service Agencies”).

At its Standing Committee on City Finances and Services meeting over the course of February 26 and March 3, 2020, Council considered Report RTS No. 13412, dated February 12, 2020, entitled “2020 Renter Services Grants and Renter Office Update” (the “Renter Grants Report”) and resolved to recommend to Council the approval of 15 individual grants (the “2020 Renter Services Grants”) to 15 community and social services organizations (the “Renter Social Service Agencies”).

At Council’s regular meeting of March 3, 2020, Council adopted the Standing Committee’s recommendation and resolved by the requisite 2/3’s majority to approve the 2020 Community Social Grants and 2020 Renter Services Grants (collectively, the “2020 Social Grants”) for the Community Social Service Agencies and the Renter Social Service Agencies (collectively, the “Social Service Agencies”) as outlined in the Social Grants Report and Renter Grants Report.

### **CITY MANAGER’S/GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

## ***REPORT***

### ***Background/Context***

On March 11, 2020, the Director-General of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus to be a pandemic and as of March 17, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada listed 424 cases of COVID-19 across Canada with 103 of those cases within British Columbia.

The non-profit sector is a vital link between the City and Vancouver residents who are experiencing vulnerability and Social Service Agencies often operate with limited funding and that maintaining operational continuity for the sector in light of the pandemic will be critical.

### ***Strategic Analysis***

The 2020 Social Grants have been identified as a source of funds that have been provided to the Social Service Agencies for many different social programs and services but which could in many cases be used to address the urgent needs of the City's residents in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and protecting our most vulnerable members of our population.

It would greatly assist the City in supporting the residents of Vancouver if Social Service Agencies could be authorized by Council to re-purpose ("Re-Purpose") some or all of their 2020 Social Grants to assist and protect the residents normally served by them from COVID-19.

### ***Financial***

Upon approval of Recommendation A, staff will accelerate the disbursement of the remaining approximately \$5M (out of approximately \$10M in total) in the 2020 Social Grants not yet released. Therefore approval of Recommendation A will not result in additional funding to the Social Service Agencies.

### ***Legal***

No legal implications except as noted above in the Recommendations section.

## ***CONCLUSION***

The Social Services Agencies are working very hard to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the vulnerable populations they work with and are looking to the City for leadership in these efforts. Approval of the Recommendations in this Report are recommended as an important step in support of these efforts.

\* \* \* \* \*