



REPORT

Report Date: October 14, 2022
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Meeting Date: October 25, 2022
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2022 Social Grants – Childcare Administration and Reserve Grants

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve a Childcare Administration Grant of \$124,000 from the 2022 Social Policy Grants Operating Budget - Childcare to the Vancouver Society of Children's Centres ("VSOCC") to support the administration and management of 778 City-owned childcare spaces.
- B. THAT Council approve a Childcare (Infant/Toddler) Grant of \$100,000 from the Childcare Reserve to VSOCC to support the direct operation of its childcare programs.
- C. THAT the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services ("GM of ACCS") (or their designate) be delegated authority to execute a grant agreement on behalf of the City to disburse the grants described in Recommendations A and B.
- D. THAT the grant agreement that the GM of ACCS (or their designate) is delegated authority to execute on behalf of the City be consistent with the terms generally described in this Report and otherwise satisfactory to the GM of ACCS and the City's Director of Legal Services.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of Recommendations A through D unless and until the City and VSOCC have executed and delivered a grant agreement.

Approval of Recommendations A through D require 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members per section 206 (1) of the Vancouver Charter.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends two grants totalling \$224,000 (see Table 1) that correspond to *Making Strides*, the City's renewed Childcare Policy and key Healthy City Strategy goals.

Table 1: Grants Recommended in this Report

Rec.	Grant Type	Healthy City Goal	Direct Impact	Total Funding
A	Childcare Administration Grant	A Good Start; Healthy Human Services; Being and Feeling Safe and Included	Supports the administration and management of 778 City-owned childcare spaces.	\$124,000
B	Childcare Reserve (Infant/Toddler) Grants	A Good Start; Healthy Human Services; Being and Feeling Safe and Included	Support to help offset the high cost of providing licensed Infant/ Toddler spaces.	\$100,000
TOTAL				\$224,000

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Childcare Administration Grants: As part of the 1990 Civic Child Care Strategy, Council established the annual Civic Child Care Grants Program. Childcare Administration Grants to VSOCC and Westcoast Childcare Resource Centre Society have been provided on an annual basis since the 1990's.

Childcare Reserve Infant/Toddler Grants: In May 1991 Council approved the creation of the Childcare Endowment Reserve (now referred to as the Childcare Reserve) and on December 15, 1994, Council approved the Reserve's terms and conditions, including eligibility criteria.

On July 19, 2022, Council approved 5 Childcare Reserve Grants to 4 separate organizations totalling \$414,800. This included a \$276,200 grant to VSOCC (\$376,200 in 2021) to support 228 Infant/toddler spaces.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Social Policy's robust childcare grants program includes support to a variety of different organizations, including licensed childcare operators and key supporting organizations. VSOCC was created by the City in 1995 to operate and steward City-owned childcare amenities in the downtown core. It currently operates 16 childcare centres with 778 licensed spaces serving approximately 1,600 children/year (number served higher than total number of spaces due to part-time sharing of spaces).

Strategic Analysis

VSOCC is a key childcare provider within the City of Vancouver. They receive an Administration Grant to support key coordinating functions, including liaising with other childcare providers to share their expertise. This report recommends two grants to VSOCC:

1. *2022 Childcare Administration Grant - \$124,000*

This Administration Grant will support key functions within VSOCC that oversee the organization's 16 centres, and help with its continued growth. For example, in 2022, VSOCC was selected by the City as the operator for the future Coal Harbour and Oakridge childcare centres.

2. *Childcare Reserve (Infant/Toddler) Grants - \$100,000.*

The City's Childcare Reserve grants were designed to help stabilize infant and toddler programs because of the higher staffing costs for operating programs for very young children.

The IT grants provide \$1,650 per licensed space per year to offset program expenses and reduce parent fees. On average, this funding provides 6-7% of a program's total budget. Normally, to be eligible for this grant programs must demonstrate that the Infant/Toddler program operates at a deficit, and that revenue from other onsite childcare programs is applied to offset the deficit.

Reserve Grants require eligible organizations to use revenue from their full range of childcare programs to reduce the operating deficits normally create by infant/toddler programs (due to their higher child:staff ratios required for very young children). When an overall deficit within these childcare programs still remains, the City awards a Reserve Grant.

On July 19, 2022, Council approved a reduced grant for VSOCC as a result of the specific parameters of Reserve Grant funding. This report recommends reinstating \$100,000 to bring VSOCC's total grant amount to the same level that was received in 2021. VSOCC provided additional information which verified VSOCC's eligibility to receive the reserve grant. VSOCC's Reserve Grant will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis, and it is possible that future grant reconciliations will require a change to this grant going forward, as Social Policy looks to align all childcare funding with *Moving Forward*, the City's new Childcare Strategy.

FINANCIAL

Funding for grant recommendations totalling \$224,000 and the remaining budget are summarized in Table 2 below. Staff will return to Council with recommendations for the remaining social grant funding in a final report in December 2022.

Table 2: Financial Overview of Recommended Grant Streams and Remaining Balances

Grant Stream	Source of Funding	2022 Budget	Previously Approved	Recommended in this Report	Annual Balance (unallocated)
Childcare Administration Grant	Social Policy Childcare Budget	\$1,669,289	\$1,499,000	\$124,000	\$46,289
Childcare Reserve Grant	Childcare Reserve	-	\$414,800	\$100,000	-

CONCLUSION

The two grants recommended in this report support the City's childcare policy direction to expand the accessibility of quality childcare. This funding supports VSOCC's ability to provide services delivered from within City facilities for the benefit of Vancouver residents.

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