



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: February 7, 2023
Contact: Celine Mauboules
Contact No.: 604.873.7670
RTS No.: 15388
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: March 28, 2023
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: Housing and Homelessness Services 2023 Grants: Renter Services Grants and SRO Tenants Support Grant

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve 20 Renter Services Grants totalling \$750,000, including recommended conditions on the grants, to the Agencies listed in Column 1 of Appendix C in the amounts recommended for each Agency in Column 3 of Appendix C. Source of funding is the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget (EHT Allocation).
- B. THAT Council approve one (1) SRO Tenants Support Grant totalling \$75,000, including recommended conditions on the grant, to the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society. Source of funding is the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget.
- C. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the Vancouver Charter, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to the above recommendations and is listed in Appendix C, which is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency, to be an organization contributing to the health and welfare of the City.
- D. THAT Council authorize the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disperse the grants described in Recommendations A through C on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of Recommendations A through C unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Recommendations A – B require 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members per section 206 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval of 20 Renter Services Grants totalling \$750,000 to enable renter-serving non-profit organizations to provide critical programs and services to Vancouver renters, and one SRO Tenants Support Grant totalling \$75,000 to the Downtown Eastside SRO Collaborative Society to fund their SRO Tenant Hub.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Please see Appendix E for all aligned Council Authority and Previous Decisions.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Renter Services Funding

On June 12, 2019 (RTS 13180), Vancouver City Council formally approved funding to enhance non-profit advocacy and support services to Vancouver renters. Council approved the allocation of \$1.5 million over 3 years (2020-2022) from Empty Homes Tax (EHT) reserve, with \$500,000 to be allocated to each funding cycle. The Renter Services Grants program was subsequently created as a mechanism for disbursing this funding to non-profit partners.

On January 18, 2023 (RTS 14850), Council approved the continuation of Renter Services Grants for 2023 with \$750,000 to be allocated from Empty Homes Tax (EHT) reserve. There is no identified funding source for this grant program for 2024 and beyond. Funding for future years will need to be considered as part of the annual operating budget process.

Staff have also identified the unique needs of tenants living in privately owned and run SRO hotels and created the recommended SRO Tenants Support Grant with a separate funding source (Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget) in order to disburse funds to organizations that specifically support tenants in private SRO hotels.

A summary of 2020, 2021 and 2022 Renter Services Grant funding including funding to support tenants in private SRO hotels (RTS 13412, 14068, 14763 and 14827 respectively) can be found in Appendix D.

The Non-Profit and Advocacy Sector

A network of non-profit organizations in the city and the region provide renter advocacy and support services for Vancouver renters encountering a challenge with their landlord or in their tenancy. The sector provides a breadth of professional, high-quality services, including education on tenant rights, direct legal advocacy, and supports to help people remain housed or find new housing. In consultation with renter-serving organizations, staff have learned that existing non-profit services continue to be challenged to meet increasing demand, even with multiple funding sources, including the City, the Law Foundation, the Province, and others.

Funding for renter services creates the opportunity for the City to work with and support community-based partners to help them, in turn, better support and engage more renters in Vancouver. The funding can also encourage greater sector collaboration, proactive renter advocacy and research, and support long-term sector resilience.

2023 Renter Services Grants program

Application, Review and Adjudication Processes

The 2023 Renter Service Grants information guide and application package (<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/renter-services-grants.aspx>) were posted online in the early fall of 2022 prior to the application opening date. Email notifications with grant application information were sent to over 200 non-profit organizations in Vancouver. Staff co-hosted with the Social Policy Core Support Grants (CSG) team two online information sessions for interested organizations. Where necessary, staff arranged additional meetings to answer questions and assist applicants.

Prior to adjudication, staff reviewed all applications for completeness and to ensure they met eligibility requirements (Appendix B). Staff conducted detailed reviews using grant program-specific criteria that were established in alignment with Council priorities, based on “good practice” for program and organizational management, and aligned with those of the CSG evaluation process. Follow-up phone calls or meetings were conducted where additional information was required.

An interdepartmental adjudication team included staff from four departments of the City’s Renter Advocacy and Services Team (RAST): Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS), Development, Building and Licensing (DBL), Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability (PDS), and Corporate Communications. The Renter Services Grants staff lead worked closely with Social Policy’s CSG team to maximize the collective impact of the City’s investments in renters. The recommendations for Social Policy’s CSG program, including recommendations for grants to renter-serving organizations, are also being presented to Council on March 28 (RTS 15567).

Discussion

Evaluation and Investment Principles

In evaluating the grant applications, staff gave priority consideration to projects or services that met a range of principles and priorities, including: (See Appendix A for full list of grant principles and priorities):

- To fund a diversity of applications to ensure all goal areas are addressed (understanding rights, pursuing rights, retaining housing);
- To support projects whose primary focus is reducing conditions that create vulnerability for Vancouver renters;
- To consider equity and allocate funding so as to serve a range of equity-denied renter populations across the city;
- To consider the sustainability of the proposed project and the applicant’s ability to expand capacity and leverage other investments and/or partnerships;
- To consider the level of innovation or enhancement to renter services; and
- To consider the overall quality of the proposal.

Summary of Grants Recommended in this Report

Staff received a total of 21 applications to the 2023 Renter Services Grants program, requesting a combined total of \$1,040,656.10, including one application for \$75,000 to support tenants in private SRO hotels from the DTES SRO-Collaborative Society. This report recommends approval of 20 Renter Services Grants totalling \$750,000 (source of funds the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget - EHT Allocation), and one SRO Tenants

Support Grant to the DTES SRO-C Society totalling \$75,000 (source of funds the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Operating Budget) to fund their unique role in supporting tenants in private SRO hotels (Table 1). Please see Appendix C for specific grant recommendations.

Table 1. Summary of Grant Recommendations

SOURCE OF FUNDING	# APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	TOTAL \$\$ REQUESTED	# GRANTS RECOMMENDED	TOTAL \$\$ RECOMMENDED
2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget (EHT Allocation)	20	\$965,656.10	20	\$750,000
2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget	1	\$75,000	1	\$75,000
TOTAL	21	\$1,040,656.10	21	\$825,000

Overview of Grants Being Recommended

The 20 Renter Services grants and one SRO Tenants Support Grant being recommended in this report encompass a range of services, programs and activities that support Vancouver renters. Each one addresses one or more of the three outcomes the grant program aims to influence: understanding rights, pursuing rights, and/or retaining housing. Combined, the grants aim to impact Vancouver renters in need of support or education, and support the needs of a diversity of low-income, equity-denied and at-risk renter populations across the city.

Activities supported by the grants include:

- Enhanced opportunities for Vancouver renters to understand their rights and improve and stabilize their rental housing;
- Increased legal assistance and advocacy for renters, with direct investment in supporting women who are equity denied, DTES residents, seniors, and renters facing mental health challenges;
- Increased housing support services for people facing barriers, including youth exiting care and homelessness, people with disabilities, people who identify as Indigenous, refugees, and low-income seniors; and
- A focused investment in SRO tenants, including education, supports, and advocacy.

All 21 applicants met at least some or all of the eligibility criteria and all are being recommended for some level of funding. However, because the total amount of funding requested exceeded the budget, not all are able to be recommended for full funding.

Eleven applications are being recommended for full funding and ten are being recommended for partial funding. The adjudication committee determined that those applications being recommended for full funding more strongly support the goals and criteria set out in the proposal call, respond to some of the most urgent needs, and have the greatest potential for innovation and system-wide changes in the future.

The Table in Appendix C summarizes the applications received and the recommended funding level of each.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting requirements were built into the Grant Agreements signed by all grant recipients. Based on the reports from 2022 grant recipients for services provided between April and October 2022, the following was achieved:

- Approximately 1,600 Vancouver renters contacted renter legal advocacy organizations for assistance to pursue their rights;
- Approximately 1,100 Vancouver renters received support services in navigating and maintaining their housing; and
- 600 Vancouver SRO tenants were educated on their tenancy rights.

In total, the 2022 Renter Services Grant recipients supported over 3,000 Vancouver renters within a seven-month period.

Staff will work with 2023 grant recipients to develop schedules for monitoring and reporting back on their proposed activities, performance indicators and intended outputs which will be reported back in the future 2023 ACCS grant impact report.

Financial Implications

The total \$750,000 funding recommended in this report for 2023 Renter Services Grants is included in the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget (EHT Allocation). This is the final year of approved EHT funding. Continuation of the Renter Services Grants program would need to be considered as part of the annual operating budget process.

Staff recommend that a request of \$75,000 to continue to support an enhanced SRO Hub to support tenants in SRA-designated buildings be funded from the 2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget, and that monitoring, oversight and future grant requests are managed by the SRO Strategy implementation team in ACCS.

The combined total of grant funds being recommended is therefore \$825,000 (Table 2). Grant funds will be disbursed in early April 2023.

Table 2. Source of Funds of 2023 Renter Services Investment

Source of Funds	2023 Investment
2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget (EHT Allocation)	\$750,000
2023 Housing and Homelessness Services Operating Budget	\$75,000
TOTAL	\$825,000

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APPENDIX A

RENTER SERVICES GRANTS: POLICY FRAMEWORK, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

Policy Framework: Our Statement of Intent

Renter Services Grants are investments that contribute to improving rental housing outcomes for renters in Vancouver. They support non-profit community-based programs that assist and empower Vancouver renters to understand their rights, pursue their rights, and/or retain their housing.

Renter Services Grants are intended to augment and enhance, not simply maintain an organization's capacity to support renters.

Renter Services Grants:

- Respond to dynamic needs of renters in Vancouver;
- Address equity by reducing the impact of systemic barriers that create conditions of vulnerability for renters;
- Facilitate partnerships and networks between the City, other levels of government, business and non-profits;
- Inform and respond to Council priorities on supporting renters, including the provision of direct services that will improve housing outcomes for renters, and non-profit actions that will create positive systemic change for renters; and
- Demonstrably increase an organization's capacity to support and/or advocate for the needs of Vancouver renters.

Principles: Principles for Grant Making

- **Accountability:** We embrace ongoing feedback loops with partners to understand City investments and how they influence change.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** We strive to build equity in our communities by making grant processes accessible, especially for groups that experience exclusion.
- **Transparency:** We are open, transparent, and consistent with our grant making processes.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** We inform our grant making using evidence-based research, and consider data sources, both formal and informal.
- **Balanced Investment Approach:** We balance short, medium and long-term investments so that, while addressing immediate concerns, we never lose sight of our goal of effecting lasting systems change.
- **Diversity and Reconciliation:** Our grants recognize the unique strengths of our many diverse communities by fostering relationships, helping heal the past, and moving forward with shared understanding and respect – working within the context of Vancouver as the unceded homeland of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Our grants demonstrate alignment with Council priorities for renters and related strategies and initiatives.
- **Partnerships:** Our relationships with our community and funding partners are based on trust, respect and transparency.

Renter Services Grants Priorities

Renter Services Grants provide funding for projects that address inequity and mitigate conditions that create vulnerability for Vancouver renters. Priority consideration is given to projects or services that meet the following:

- Align with the Renter Services Grants Statement of Intent (noted above);
- Reinforce or support the goals of Council-approved actions to support Vancouver renters;
- The primary function is to provide supplemental supports and/or remove barriers to ensure equal access to services and opportunities for renters in Vancouver;
- The primary focus is renters who are experiencing social, physical, and/or economic disadvantages and/or who face discrimination, particularly those living in private market rental housing;
- Because of limited funding of this grants program, applications with services that support renters living in private market rental housing will be prioritized;
- Use one or more of the following approaches to improve housing outcomes for renters:
 - Service-oriented, and aimed at reducing the barriers to equity; OR
 - Systemic or individual advocacy aimed at securing services and protecting rights; OR
 - Community development which empowers and involves equity denied renters in solving social problems, bringing about positive social change, and extending participatory democracy.
- Use one or more of the following strategies to improve housing outcomes for renters:
 - Organizing/mobilizing volunteer resources; OR
 - Developing mutual support (e.g. coalition building, collaborative projects) among groups, individuals and group support systems; OR
 - Facilitating improved access to renter services; OR
 - Building the capacity of individuals or families who rent to address the causes of rental housing instability; OR
 - Developing or supporting new service delivery models; OR.
 - Delivering community-based workshops, conferences, or other non-formal educational opportunities for renters and/or renter advocates; OR
 - Undertaking focused research to better understand systemic challenges experienced by renters and opportunities for system change

Applicants must demonstrate that the approaches and strategies proposed will demonstrably increase an organization's capacity to support and/or advocate for improved housing outcomes for renters. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to identify the measurable potential impact their project will have on the broader renter community in Vancouver.

APPENDIX B RENTER SERVICES GRANTS: ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility

An organization must:

- Be a registered non-profit society, community service co-op or social enterprise wholly owned by a non-profit and in good standing with the Registrar of Companies; OR be a registered charity, in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency; OR a First Nations Band;
 - Please note that if you are not registered as one of the above you may partner with a fiscal sponsor that is a registered non-profit society or registered charity in order to meet this requirement.
- Have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. The by-laws must have provisions that no staff member can be a voting member of the board or executive;
- Demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities (including trans*, gender-diverse and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions (including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness) in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted;
- Be in compliance with the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and the [British Columbia Human Rights Code](#);
- Have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient resources to deliver the programs to which the City is being asked to contribute;
- Show costs that are reasonable and on par with other similar programs;
- Deliver the funded program in Vancouver to Vancouver residents.

Exceptions to the above may be approved at the discretion of the Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services.

Ineligible Projects and Expenses

- Those which fall wholly or primarily within the mandate of other government departments, e.g.(but not limited to):
 - Direct healthcare programs (such as health self-help groups, health information programs, medical treatment, maintenance or rehabilitation programs);
 - Employment training;
 - Initial settlement programs.
- Direct welfare supports, including food banks, meal programs and provision of clothing;
- The capital costs of housing and or rent payments or rent supplements;
- One-on-one counselling with licensed psychologists, social workers or registered clinical counsellors;
- Projects which are primarily recreational (formal recreation programs such as clubs/groups or teams), or formal educational projects leading to a credential (Note:

- non-formal educational projects that do not lead to a formal educational credential are eligible);
- Travel expenses, attendance at or fees for conferences, workshops or other forms of training;
 - Transportation expenses, except those that allow users or potential users to access services;
 - Legal fees;
 - Payment of: City property taxes; capital expenses, operating or capital deficits;
 - Act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to any other group or organization;
 - Projects directed to the preservation of any particular ethnic or cultural heritage, except in instances for Reconciliation initiatives;

Organizations receiving a Renter Services grant may provide one or more of the programs noted above, but the City's grant cannot be used to support those activities. Exceptions to the above may be approved at the discretion of the Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services.

**APPENDIX C
2023 RENTER SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED**

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Access Pro Bono Society of BC	\$48,000	\$48,000	Vancouver Renter Legal Services Project	The Project will continue to enhance and extend APB's capacity to provide expert legal assistance and representation to low- and modest-income Vancouver renters confronting tenancy-threatening legal problems in and out of Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) hearings and in the BC Supreme Court.	
Atira Women's Resources Society	\$40,800	\$40,800	Housing Advocate/Tenancy Specialist - Legal Advocacy Program	Legal Advocacy Program offers low-income women (trans & two-spirit inclusive) in the DTES free legal services in a safe, confidential, women-only space. A Housing Advocate in the Legal Advocacy Program, improves housing outcomes for women by supporting them in understanding and pursuing their rights through legal advice, advocacy, and representation.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Aunt Leah's Society	\$24,500	\$16,500	Friendly Landlord Network (FLN)	A network of homeowners and property managers who rent suites to youth and families transitioning from government care, along with the support of 27 local partner organizations. Landlords receive market rent and on-going tenancy support, including monthly in-person check-ins by partner support workers; renters receive tenancy support and training.	COMMENT: Difference covered by funds remaining from previous grant.
Battered Women's Support Services	\$51,500	\$51,500	How to Survive a Housing Crisis	This program successfully has been providing educational workshops, one on one housing advocacy, and access to safe housing to hundreds of survivors experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The Housing Advocacy program is key for survivors and their families to become free of violence.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Black Arts Vancouver Society	\$50,000	\$15,200	Getting to Know Your Neighbors	A series of conferences aimed to increase renter literacy in Vancouver amongst BIPoC youth and young families in order to reduce the risks associated with unsafe housing, illegal evictions, and stress as it relates to unstable housing, and relocation. Reducing risk through the sharing of resources and dedicated personalized services.	CONDITION: Grant conditional on provision of updated project budget and plan to satisfaction of Managing Director of Housing and Homelessness Services.
Connective Support Society	\$50,000	\$30,000	Vancouver Community Services Office	The Vancouver Community Services Office provides drop-in services for community members facing barriers to community inclusion, including those with difficulties securing and/or maintaining housing. Among other things, we support service users to complete housing applications, access financial resources, connect with legal supports, and understand their rights within the rental market.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Covenant House Vancouver	\$50,000	\$30,000	Youth Housing Support	Covenant House's Youth Housing Support program will support youth aged 16-24 who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness to gain knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as a renter. This objective will be accomplished by providing coaching, support, and education to youth including through the delivery of Rent Smart workshops.	
Disability Alliance of BC	\$67,667.50	\$50,000	The Right Fit: Uncovering Accessible Housing Supply in Vancouver	The Right Fit Program (RFP) addresses the crisis in wheelchair accessible housing in Vancouver. Using a multi-partner approach, the RFP offers a streamlined service delivery model to connect indoor wheelchair users with affordable housing. This project seeks to uncover and increase rental accessible housing supply in Vancouver.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
DTES SRO Collaborative Society	\$75,000	\$75,000	The SRO Hub	The SRO Hub project educates and empowers SRO tenants through newsletters; tenant committees; and training/workshops on topics including overdose reversal and prevention, health and safety, and eviction prevention. These activities facilitate our work to build relationships with stakeholders who share our goal of improving habitability and affordability in private SROs.	
Family Services of Greater Vancouver	\$70,500	\$40,000	Directions Housing Subsidy & Support	Directions Housing Subsidy & Support is a 19-month project funded by Reaching Home that provides direct financial assistance for youth in Greater Vancouver experiencing homelessness or at-risk of losing housing. Our ask to the City is for an additional 1.0FTE to provide housing life skills support.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
First United Church Community Ministry Society	\$45,000	\$45,000	Advocacy Services	For nearly 50 years, First United has provided free legal advocacy for marginalized people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Serving approximately 1,500 clients each year, low-income tenants remain our largest represented group. Our advocates provide free service from legal info and advice to full legal representation.	
Helping Spirit Lodge Society	\$50,000	\$50,000	Journey Home Program	We are requesting a grant for a full time position for the Housing Navigator. The navigator position would assist clients in locating and navigating Housing resources in line with the Reaching Home Initiative / Federal Government in addition to providing other resources in the Metro Vancouver Area.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Jewish Family Services	\$41,400	\$26,152	Housing Advocacy and Empowerment Program	The Housing Advocacy and Empowerment Program will build upon our current housing supports which are currently offered through our case management services. We will employ a housing advocate to support housing clients with barriers to equity through direct advocacy, application management, and capacity building/educational workshops and resources.	
Rainbow Refugee Society	\$63,766.60	\$50,000	QHINNT (Queer Housing Information and Navigation for Newcomers Timely)	Rainbow Refugee is aware of the urgent need for sexually diverse and gender diverse newcomers to be housed in safe, affordable and accessible/adequate housing. Q-HINNT will connect LGBTQI migrants and refugees with individual supports and housing navigation services to improve their well-being in Vancouver and will work closely with stakeholders.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.	\$50,000	\$30,000	Operation Welcome Home Pilot Project	Operation Welcome Home is a collaboration between Rennie Foundation, Maple Hope Foundation and S.U.C.C.E.S.S., which offers a transitional housing program aimed at providing wrap-around housing supports along with settlement and employment services to displaced newcomers in need of emergency housing and support due to unexpected upheaval.	
Seniors First BC	\$40,000	\$40,000	Legal Housing Advocate	SFBC has experienced a large increase in housing-related files in our Legal Advocacy Program. We intend to hire a Legal Housing Advocate. The advocate will negotiate with landlords, secure access to subsidies and financial support programs that clients may be eligible for.	
Seniors Services Society of BC	\$40,000	\$40,000	Vancouver Seniors Housing and Supports Navigation Services	Our program empowers and supports Vancouver seniors in private market rental housing and those working in the seniors' sector with knowledge of the seniors housing system, housing navigation, and resources for advocacy, including tenancy rights and elder abuse, minimizing the impacts of homelessness, particularly for disadvantaged seniors.	

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre (TRAC)	\$80,000	\$80,000	Free Legal Education and Representation for Vancouver Renters	TRAC will provide Vancouver renters with free legal education and direct advocacy services, including full representation at Residential Tenancy Branch dispute resolution hearings. This work will target private market renters who are experiencing social, physical, and/or economic disadvantages and/or who face discrimination.	
The Kettle Friendship Society	\$43,000	\$43,000	Mental Health Advocacy	The program objective is to assist persons with mental health issues effectively resolve their legal problems, providing assistance in three distinct areas: Residential Tenancy, the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD), and the MSD. We empower our clients to fully understand and exercise their rights.	
West End Seniors' Network	\$39,522	\$3,848	Renter Navigation Services for Seniors	WESN will double the number of seniors served by our existing programs and services through extended service hours, language diversity (Cantonese and Farsi) through to a broader out-reach effort and program promotion in the West End in the places where seniors gather. We plan to focus on hard-to-reach seniors.	COMMENT: Difference covered by funds remaining from previous grant.

Agency	Requested	Recommended	Project Title	Project Description	Conditions & Comments
Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice	\$20,000	\$20,000	Renter Services for Chinese Seniors	Renter Services for Chinese Seniors provides outreach, casework support, and educational opportunities to low-income Chinese seniors facing language barriers in relation to renting and housing support. We operate in Chinatown, the Downtown Eastside, and Strathcona, with some exceptional additions.	
Total Number of Applicants: 21	Total Requested: \$1,040,656.10	Total Recommended: \$825,000			

APPENDIX D
SUMMARY OF RENTER SERVICES GRANT FUNDING (2020-2022)

Table 1. Renter Services Grants Awarded 2020-2022

Year	# of Grant Applicants	Total Amount Requested	# of Grant Recipients	Total Amount Awarded¹	RTS #
2020	23	\$1,425,054	14	\$585,000 ²	13412
2021	19	\$1,104,373	12	\$575,000	14068
2022	22	\$1,275,961	14	\$600,000	14763 & 14827
Total	65	\$3,830,388	40	\$1,760,000	

¹ Includes annual grant to support private SRO tenants of \$75,000.

² On February 26, 2020 (RTS 13412), Council approved 15 grants totalling \$625,000. In March 2022, one of the grant recipients declined their grant in the amount of \$40,000. Thus the actual number of 2020 grant recipients was 14 and the actual amount disbursed was \$585,000.

APPENDIX E COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On January 18, 2023 (RTS 14850), Council approved the continuation of the Renter Services Grants program for 2023 (\$750,000, source of funding Affordable Housing – EHT Allocation), and further directed staff to consider and make recommendations, as warranted, for enhanced and/or expanded grants within the Renter Services Grants program to ensure that renters are fully and appropriately supported in the city of Vancouver.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20230118/documents/pspc20230118min.pdf#page=7>

On December 7, 2022 (RTS 14827), Council approved the disbursement of \$25,000 in Renter Service Grants to one non-profit from 2022 Affordable Housing Operating Budget EHT reserve funds.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20221207/documents/pspc20221207min.pdf#page=4>

On March 1, 2022 (RTS 14763), Council approved the disbursement of \$575,000 in Renter Services Grants to 13 non-profits (\$500,000 from 2022 Affordable Housing Operating Budget EHT reserve funds, \$75,000 from the SRO Upgrade Granting Program).

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20220301/documents/regu20220301min.pdf#page=4>

On July 20, 2021, Council approved the *Equity Framework* to address systemic racism and to reduce barriers for those who have historically experienced the most exclusion, violence and harm in Vancouver.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20210720/documents/regu20210720min.pdf#page=3>

On March 9, 2021 (RTS 14068), Council approved the disbursement of \$575,000 in Renter Services Grants to 12 non-profits (\$500,000 from 2020 Affordable Housing Operating Budget EHT reserve funds, \$75,000 from the SRO Upgrade Granting Program).

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20210309/documents/regu20210309min.pdf#page=9>

On February 26, 2020 (RTS 13412), Council approved the disbursement of \$625,000 in Renter Services Grants to 15 non-profits (\$550,000 from 2020 Affordable Housing Operating Budget EHT reserve funds, and \$75,000 from the SRO Upgrade Granting Program).

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20200226/documents/cfsc20200226min.pdf#page=2>

On June 12, 2019 (RTS 13180), Council approved the creation of funding for renter services to be allocated through grants or contracts to support non-profit renter-serving and advocacy organizations, allocating \$1.5 million to fund renter services and advocacy programs for three years from Empty Homes Tax reserve funds.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20190612/documents/pspc20190612min.pdf#page=2>

On November 28, 2017, Council approved the *Housing Vancouver Strategy* and *Housing Vancouver 3 Year Action Plan 2018-2020*. The 10-year *Housing Vancouver Strategy* is intended to foster a diverse and vibrant city, and is founded on the following:

1. Creating the 'Right Supply' of housing and addressing speculative demand
2. Protecting and retaining the existing rental stock
3. Supporting renters and vulnerable residents

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20171128/documents/regu20171128min.pdf#page=3>