

Social Policy Grants Program - 2024 Framework

July 25 City Council Presentation - RTS 15718



Land Acknowledgment

This place is the unceded and ancestral territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and has been stewarded by them since time immemorial. .



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A. Context & Background

Background

- Long City history of providing grants to the NPO sector, providing support for social services
- Grants are informed by and responds to Council priorities as expressed through Policy and decisions of Council
- Grants are an important implementation tool to further the City's key policies objectives including:
 - UNDRIP
 - City of Reconciliation
 - Accessibility Strategy
 - Healthy City Strategy
 - Equity Framework
 - Uplifting Chinatown, etc.



- Accountability
- Equity and inclusion
- Transparency
- Informed decision-making
- Balanced investment approach
- Diversity
- Reconciliation
- Strategic alignment with Council policy
- Partnership-based approach



WISH Drop in Center's Mobile Map Van (2022 Grantee)

B. 2024 Proposed Social Policy Grants Framework

1. Policy Direction & Alignment

Social investments:

- Work to reduce the impact of system factors that create conditions of vulnerability
- Respond to complex community needs
- Reflect community diversity
- Enhance relations with urban Indigenous communities
- Advance key areas of policy priority such as:
 - Healthy City Strategy
 - UNDRIP & City of Reconciliation
 - Equity Framework
 - Accessibility Strategy
 - Vancouver's Food Strategies
 - Childcare Strategy
- Ensure a healthy and robust NPO sector
- Build reciprocal and meaningful relationships with NPO partners



1. Policy Alignment

Grants Streams	Healthy City Strategy	Equity Framework	City of Reconciliation & UNDRIP	Accessibility Strategy	Uplifting Chinatown	Spaces to Thrive	Vancouver Food Strategy (2013/2017)	Making Strides: Vancouver's Approach to Childcare
Core Support Grants	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Indigenous Healing and Wellness	X	X	X					
Neighbourhood House Grants	X	X				X		
Sustainable Food Systems & School Food	X	X	X			X	X	
Social Innovation Grants	X	X					X	
Childcare Operating Grants	X	X	X	X				X
Capital Grants	X	X	X	X		X		X

1. Policy Alignment: Examples

UNDRIP & City of Reconciliation

- Prioritization to Indigenous-led NPOs (MYF, Core Support Grants) that meet grant criteria
- Indigenous Healing & Wellness Grant
- Ongoing community engagement with NPOs in this area of work

Equity Framework & Accessibility Strategy

- Lens applied in adjudication and development of new programs
- Focus of funding shifts
- Part of application forms

Healthy City Strategy

- Part of application form, adjudication & reporting
- Focus for criteria
- Report back on alignment

1. Policy Direction: Public Benefit

Grants provide allowing NPOs to deliver integral services to the most vulnerable residents such as:

- Affordable and appropriate childcare to families in need
- Secure spaces for gathering and community connection
- Provide localized neighbourhood services and facilities (e.g. Neighbourhood Houses)
- Offer poverty mitigation and reduction services
- Provide programming to enhance social outcomes for Indigenous, seniors, LGBTQ2IA+, sex workers, newcomers and BPOC communities
- Improve accessibility to services for people with disabilities
- Provide supports for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Provide supports for residents with mental health needs
- Build capacity and collaboration across the social services and childcare sectors

2. Grant Program Streams and Allocations

Social Policy 5 Year Grant Budget (Childcare and Community Services Operating Grants)*

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Community Services	6,751,026	7,021,379	7,203,328	7,388,194	7,724,466	7,584,466**
Childcare	1,511,889	2,005,403	2,152,490	2,195,539	1,609,289	2,251,289

*includes annual increases of 2% except for .06% in 2022 and 0% in 2023.

** removal of \$80K in one-time funding from 2022 and 1 time \$60K transfer from childcare budget in 2022

2. Anticipated 2024 Budget*

Operating Grants: Planned Allocations

Grant Category	Budget Source	Presumed 2024 Budget
Community Services Grants <i>(multiple streams)</i>	City Operating Budget	\$7,584,466
Childcare Operating Grants <i>(multiple streams)</i>	City Operating Budget	\$1,627,277
Total		\$9,211,743

Dedicated Funds With Usage Restrictions

Grant Category	Budget Source	Budget 2024
Building Safer Communities	Federal Funding (Federal Agreement)	\$900,000
Social Responsibility Funds	Hastings/Parq Contributions (CBA)	\$542,000
Capital Grants (Small/Med/Childcare)	2023-2026 Capital Plan	\$1,500,000

*Subject to Council approval of 2024 Operating Budget

2. Community Service Grants: Current Planned Allocations



Type	Stream	Purpose	Funding	Grant Range	Adjudication
Operating	Core Support Grants (Multi & Single Year)	Funds the direct delivery of social services to individual residents, as well as organizations that provide capacity support to other non-profits improving their ability to deliver social services, address social issues, and navigate change. Program is flexible allowing for the City and NPOs to be nimble and respond to community need.	\$5,200,000	\$10K-\$209K	Staff Assessed
Operating	Indigenous Healing and Wellness Grants	Supports the inclusion of Elders and Traditional Knowledge keepers in programming that provide traditional, spiritual, and cultural healing and activities to urban Indigenous communities.	\$180,000	\$20K each	Staff Assessed (potential community involvement in 2024)
Operating	Neighbourhood House Grants (NOG)	Direct operational dollars to neighbourhood Houses to support their service delivery programming.	\$1,092,000	\$71K-\$121K	Staff Assessed
Operating	Social Innovation Projects	Short-term project funds for specific focus areas. Three-year focus on the City's Anti-Black Racism strategy (2023-2026) and Food Strategy.	\$200,000	\$10K-\$25K	Staff Assessed
Operating	Organizational Capacity Building	Funds initiatives to build the community service sector's capacity.	\$165,507	\$10K-\$30K	Staff Assessed
Operating	Sustainable Food System Grants (Multi Year)	Builds community capacity to address food systems issues at the community and neighbourhood level, prioritizing efforts that address inequity and mitigate conditions that create barriers to food security.	\$193,050	\$12K-\$18K Annually	Staff Assessed
Operating	School Food Grant (Multi Year) <i>*Should be reviewed now that the Province is providing substantial funding for School Food Programming</i>	Support for meal programs through the Vancouver School Board and community partners (Strathcona Community Centre Association & Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society).	\$477,126	\$68K – 325K Annually	Staff Assessed
Operating	Directed Grants (Street to Home & Collingwood Gym)	Operating grant to Street to Home and Collingwood Gym for programming in expanded space.	\$190,000	\$40K - 150K	Direct Award grants directed by Staff/Council
Operating	Rent Subsidy Grant (final year)	Grants to assist non-profit organizations operating in City of Vancouver Property Endowment Fund (PEF) sites to cover lease costs	\$38,472	\$9K-\$50K	Program in final year
* Allocations could shift depending on demand in a program during application periods		Total 2023 Budget + 2%	\$7,736,155		

2. Childcare Grants: Current Planned Allocations

The City's childcare grants have 2 main functions:

1. To support vulnerable families and help Vancouver's youngest residents get a healthy start, and
2. To support a robust childcare sector that can easily harmonize with the new universal system of early care and learning, led by provincial and federal governments.

Program is in alignment with Making Strides: Vancouver's 10-year Childcare Strategy and harmonization of federal/provincial funded programs.

Operating Grant Streams	Budget
Civic Childcare Enhancement Grants	\$1.02M
Childcare Capacity Grants	\$450,000
Childcare Project Grants	\$160,000
Total	\$3,260,000



2. Grants Program: Modifications & Continuous Improvement

Change	Outcome
A - Lowering Barriers to Access and Creating Efficiencies	
Move an additional program into multi-year funding	Key community partners receive a stable funding commitment for three years allowing them to leverage other avenues of support
Increase multi-year Core Support Grantees	Increased community partners benefit from the consistency of a multi-year funding commitment
Translate grant info notices	Expand reach into more cultural communities and increase access to City funding.
B - Ensure Accountability for Public Dollars	
Implement community adjudication for select grant programs based on size & scope	Grant streams involve community in decision making.
Add criteria to childcare grants directing City funds to be used towards areas not accounted for through provincial funding	Continue advancing work harmonizing childcare funding with the province.

3. Application Process: Approach

Process

- Primarily open call (majority); some direct award to support strategic partnership, emergency response
- Communication materials to be translated into other languages for circulation
- Application process takes place on *VanApply*, City's new grants software system

Approach

- Applications assessed by an interdisciplinary staff team with expertise in diverse range of topics

Eligibility Criteria

- Registered non-profit society, community service co-op, social enterprise, registered charity OR First Nations Band
- Deliver program/programming in the city to Vancouver residents
- Equal and equitable access to diverse public
- Active, independent governing body of volunteers
- Have capacity and resources to deliver programming proposed
- Comply with Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and BC Human Rights Code

Assessment Criteria

- **Program outcome:** reasonable to size of org, capacity and funding request
- **Program alignment:** in line with City policies, priorities and/or community need
- **Proposed metrics:** demonstrated link between proposal and desired outcome; ability to describe issue/need; ability to be informed by changing community needs
- **Collaboration & partnerships:** with other orgs in network who serve similar populations
- **Equity:** mindful/intentional of equitable access, especially historically equity-denied groups.
- **Impact on group:** program should serve Vancouver residents and large enough to make impact
- **Administration and Leadership:** financial stability, AGM minutes and agenda, board minutes and policies, good standing with CRA/non-profit registry

4. Assessment & Decision: High Criteria Matching Characteristics

- Demonstrated ability to link program outcomes to proposed work, and ability to respond to changing community need
- Reasonable key deliverables
- Programming impacts reasonable number of Vancouver residents or engages deeply with small number of Vancouver residents
- Evidence of incorporating community feedback and representation from equity-denied communities embedded within
- Have trusted partners and collaborators
- Demonstrated commitment to equity embedded throughout
- Healthy City Strategy priorities in alignment with proposed work

5. Accountability Measures

Robust checks and balances system includes:

- Thorough review of applications
- Submission of final reports to be eligible for future grants
- Grant Agreements outlining terms and conditions, including Healthy/Respectful Communication Policy
- Financial statements, program budgets, incorporation documents and proof of good standing required
- Selected site visits
- Capacity building program for grantees to build resilience

An internal grants audit was conducted in 2022 with guidance from KPMG which satisfied that effective internal controls are in place to ensure grants are managed through an accountable and objective process. In 2024, the City's Office of the Auditor General will conduct another community grants audit which will examine the process supporting the approval and monitoring of grants.

6. Impact Assessment

Program Metrics	2022
# of people who accessed Social Grant funded Services	191,793
# of grantees who accessed Organizational Capacity Building support through partnership with Vantage Point	39
# of approved Grants (approx. \$8M)	206
Total \$s of Social Policy Operating Grants	\$7,636,469
# of approved childcare grants	61
Total \$s of Childcare Operating Grants	\$2,132,800
# of Childcare spaces receiving support	2,418

For 2024, staff plan to collect further data from recipients, such as disaggregated equity related data where feasible, and data to demonstrate impact and outcomes beyond output metrics

Recommended Approach (Appendix E)

- Focus on communication and conduct that is discriminatory, harassing, intimidating, or threatening.
- Consistent with other City services.
- Implemented as an eligibility criterion and an agreement term
- Follow-up is on an “as aware” basis
- Similar investigation process for any complaints to other operations
- Provision for appeal of decisions or recommendation

C. Considerations

In addition to the proposed program, Council could direct staff to:

1. Implement a Funding Cap for Large Organizations
2. Council Participation in Assessment
3. Delegated Authority for Granting
4. Review of Municipal Models

1. Consideration: Funding Cap for Large Organizations

Consideration	Description
Establish guidelines and funding caps for grants recommended to organizations over \$10M in global budget	As budgets have not significantly increased since 2018 funding for additional grantees must come from shifts within existing budgets. A clear policy outlining approach to funding organizations with bigger fundraising capacity would provide clarity on prioritization of grantees.

2. Consideration: Council Involvement with Grants Assessment

Council can consider their involvement in the adjudication process:

- *Witness*: Council could attend an assessment meeting at any time to hear adjudication discussions
- *Liaison*: Council could appoint members of Council to join adjudication committees and be a part of the adjudication process
- *Council Committee*: Council could take on adjudication of grants

Please note:

- Grant Adjudication is a time-consuming process that requires review of hundreds of submissions.
- Considerations include power imbalance on adjudication committees, perceptions of political impartiality in granting.
- Council engagement in adjudication is not a model used in cities across Canada.

3. Consideration: Delegated Authority for Granting

For greater efficiencies in the granting process, Council could direct staff to report back on expanding delegated authorities for granting that could:

- Build on existing examples (procurement, Cultural Services programs) to consider piloting the projects grants stream (grants under \$20K)
- Streamline process and expedites response time in addressing community needs and opportunities
- Lower barriers in doing business with the City
- Expedites response time in addressing urgent needs that may impact an NPO's ability to deliver integral services to the community.

Description:

Explore delegate authority to staff for \$100,000 total (maximum of \$20,000 each) of operating funding and \$100,000 total (maximum \$20,000 each) of Capital funding to address emergency needs that threaten safety, could disrupt service delivery and address capacity building needs of NPO partners as they arise.

4. Consideration: Budget & Other Municipal Models

Council can consider directing staff to undertake an updated review of other municipal models of grant administration:

- Staff can update municipal scan of social granting models.
- Costs to administer grants will vary based on model and should be assessed before a decision is made (e.g., internal approaches like COV are financially leaner than starting up an independent body).

Please note:

- Review would be conducted by a third-party consultant.
- Any significant alteration to the fundamental model will take time to implement so any changes would not likely be implementable until 2025+.

Thank You