



## COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 10, 2024  
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Meeting Date: April 24, 2024  
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services  
SUBJECT: Housing and Homelessness Services Grants: 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grants

### Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$255,220 from the 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program to the organizations listed in the Appendix A that is attached to this report, all of which are charities registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, for the amounts recommended in the "2024 Recommend" column.
- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute grant agreements that include terms and conditions that are consistent with this report, that satisfy the City's Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grants described in this report to the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services (or their designate).
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation are executed and delivered by the City and the grant recipients.

Approval of Recommendation A requires 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members per Section 206(1)(a) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

### Purpose and Executive Summary

The 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grants are designed to fund capital improvements for non-profit owned/operated supportive housing buildings to beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities. This report seeks Council approval of 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$255,220.

## **Council Authority/Previous Decisions**

*Supportive Housing Integration Grants* – On November 16, 2022, Council approved Supportive Housing Integration Grants (RTS 14833) totalling \$84,000 from the 2022 ACCS Operating Budget to eight organizations.

*Housing Vancouver Strategy 2018-2027* – 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

## **City Manager's Comments**

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

## **Context and Background**

### Supportive Housing and the Need for the Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program

Supportive housing plays an important role in the housing continuum. A variety of supportive housing types exist to meet the diverse needs of tenants, including buildings for low-income seniors with health needs, buildings for youth transitioning out of care and needing additional life skills and other supports; and buildings that provide additional supports for people with mental health and substance use issues.

A Supportive Housing Grant program was put in place in 2019 with the launch of the Temporary Modular Housing Program to support projects that fostered engagement between supportive housing residents, operators, and the broader community.

In 2023, the Grant program was redesigned to enable a greater focus on capital improvements to better meet the operational and building management needs of supportive housing operators. This shift occurred in part because like much of our rental housing stock, many of the buildings are old and the non-profit operators have limited financial capacity for needed repairs. The projects recommended in this report will contribute to improved livability for tenants and building management for operators.

### Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program

The 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grant program provides grants up to \$25,000 to fund capital improvements for non-profit owned/operated supportive housing buildings to beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities.

The goals of the 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program are aligned with the Housing Vancouver Strategy's priorities to protect and retain the existing rental stock and support renters and equity-denied residents. By creating and strengthening partnerships with a diverse range of supportive housing providers and the communities they serve, these grants contribute to the

Strategy's commitments to improve partnership opportunities for the prevention and elimination of homelessness and creating pathways to housing stability.

## **Discussion**

### 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grants

#### *Application, Review and Adjudication Processes*

The 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grants Program information guide and application package were posted online in the late fall of 2023. Email notifications with grant application information were sent to over 80 non-profit organizations in Vancouver. An information session was held in November 2023 for interested non-profit societies. A total of 18 people from 14 non-profit societies attended the information session.

Interested applicants were invited to send an optional Letter of Intent regarding their project to staff ahead of submitting their application and meet with staff to discuss project ideas in advance. Staff received 10 Letters of Intent and met with each interested organization prior to the official call for applications.

The call for applications for the grant program launched in January 2024 and staff received 14 applications. Staff reviewed each application to ensure it met eligibility requirements and conducted detailed reviews using grant program-specific criteria including the following:

- Supports projects that involve improvements to a capital asset that increase its value or function;
- Supports projects that beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities;
- Funds a diversity of applications to ensure a range and large quantity of improvements are made to the supportive housing rental stock;
- Considers equity and allocates funding to serve a range of equity-denied supportive housing residents across the city; and
- Considers the overall quality of the proposals.

The above criteria were established in alignment with Council-approved strategies and the evaluation of all applications was based on a standardized adjudication process. A project may be funded in part or in whole depending on the results of the adjudication process. Twelve of the fourteen applications were deemed eligible for funding.

### Summary of Grants Recommended in this Report

This report recommends approval of 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$255,220 (See Table 1).

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

Table 1. Summary of Grants Recommendation A

SOURCE OF FUNDING	# APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	TOTAL \$\$ REQUESTED	# GRANTS RECOMMENDED	TOTAL \$\$ RECOMMENDED
2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program	14	\$322,742.15*	12	\$255,220

*\*includes all requested funding including funding that is not being recommended*

Overview of Supportive Housing Grants Being Recommended

The 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants being recommended in this report encompass a range of projects that beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing supportive housing buildings and their amenities. The grants aim to positively impact Vancouver’s supportive housing residents across the city.

Activities supported by the grants include:

- Repairs and renovation of kitchens, bathrooms and common areas
- Upgrades to antiquated intercom and security systems
- The construction of a communal garden
- The installation of artwork by a local Indigenous artist and a mural by a local artist.

**Financial Implications**

This report is recommending \$255,220 to support capital improvements for non-profit owned/operated supportive housing buildings to beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities. The grants aim to positively impact Vancouver’s supportive housing residents across the city. Source of funds for the grants is the 2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grant program.

**Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this report’s recommendations.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**2024 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED**

<b>2024 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>2024 Recommend</b>
1. Atira Development Society	<p><b>Aoki Ross Patio Project</b></p> <p>Conversion of three parking spaces at Aoki Ross House into a patio area where the tenants can safely spend their time and build community.</p>	\$25,000	\$25,000
2. Community Builders Benevolence Group	<p><b>Dodson Rooms Front Desk Renovations</b></p> <p>Improvements to the Dodson Rooms lobby, specifically addressing the inadequacies of the current front desk area. Painting, removing old millwork, making the front desk larger for better efficiency and more workspace, updating and improving the appearance of the countertops and installing an intercom system.</p>	\$25,000	\$25,000
3. Lookout Housing and Health Society	<p><b>Jeffrey Ross Intercom Replacement Project</b></p> <p>A modernized video intercom system to improve security, safety and accessibility.</p>	\$25,000	\$25,000
4. McLaren Housing Society of British Columbia	<p><b>Renewing Helmcken House: Pioneering Solutions for Aging Communities</b></p> <p>A capital maintenance and improvements building audit and assessment to enhance the living environment and support the evolving needs of residents at Helmcken House.</p>	\$24,100	\$24,100
5. Motivation, Power & Achievement Society	<p><b>MPA COV Grants Submission to Improve the Lives of Mental Health Clients</b></p> <p>Kitchen renovation at Virginia house and recreational amenity equipment for 162 Main and 2275 Fir.</p>	\$22,966	\$22,966

<b>2024 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>2024 Recommend</b>
6. Salsbury Community Society	<b>Community Care &amp; Fostering Climate Resilience</b>  Energy-efficient portable air conditioning units within tenant suites to provide a cooling mechanism to alleviate the impact of extreme heat on tenant well-being during summer months. Blackout blinds in common areas to offer improved shade and temperature control, enhancing overall comfort and climate resilience.	\$14,178	\$14,178
7. Salsbury Community Society	<b>Enhance community engagement and beautify the building's exterior</b>  A mural installation to enhance community engagement and beautify the building's exterior.	\$22,243	\$4,208*
8. The Bloom Group Community Services Society	<b>A Garden to Heal</b>  A new communal garden for the residents at Nicholson Tower.	\$25,000	\$25,000
9. The Three Links Care Society	<b>Supportive Housing Common Area Improvements</b>  Acquisition of, durable and accessible furniture; kitchen sink and countertop upgrades; and a nature-inspired art mural.	\$24,943	\$24,943
10. Union Gospel Mission	<b>Men's Alcohol &amp; Drug Recovery Program Air Conditioning Units</b>  Portable air conditioning units for each suite to help during times of heat waves and above-seasonal temperatures.	\$25,000	\$25,000
11. VRS Communities Society	<b>Water Tanks/Heating System Replacement</b>  Replacement of hot water tanks, gas/heating system in two buildings.	\$14,825	\$14,825
12. Young Women's Christian Association	<b>YWCA Crabtree Corner Lobby Refresh1</b>  Installation of a large Indigenous art piece commissioned to adorn a bare wall in the lobby; and an improved front desk and storage solution to improve the space.	\$25,000	\$25,000
	<b>Total Requested</b>	\$273,255	

<b>2024 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>2024 Recommend</b>
	<b>Total Recommending</b>		<b>\$255,220</b>

*\*Salsbury Housing Society submitted two applications with multiple proposed projects (see application #6). Funding is being recommended for the projects with the most impact in meeting the evaluation criteria and focus of the grant.*

<b>2024 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING</b>			
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>2024 Recommend</b>
1. Abbeyfield Houses of Vancouver Society	<b>Abbeyfield Heritage House Kitchen</b> Kitchen renovation. Upgrade cabinetry, countertops, and appliances.	\$25,000	\$0
2. Atira Women's Resource Society	<b>Hazelwood Hotel Communal Space Upgrade</b> Upgrade communal spaces to beautify and improve with updated appliances for tenant use. Repairing drywall, painting, new furniture and a new stove/oven and fridge for the communal kitchen.	\$24,487.15	\$0
	<b>Total Requested</b>	\$49,487.15	
	<b>Total Recommending</b>		<b>\$0</b>