



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 24, 2025
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 6, 2025
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grants

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$243,251 from the 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program to the organizations listed in Appendix A, for the amounts recommended in the "2025 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, 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 that is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be an organization contributing to the health and welfare of the city.
- D. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation is executed and delivered by the City and the grant recipients.

Approval of Recommendations A through C requires 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members per Section 206(1) of the Vancouver Charter.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grant program funds capital improvements for non-profit owned/operated supportive housing buildings to beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities. Program eligibility extends to supportive housing buildings serving a diverse range of tenants, including low-income seniors with health needs; youth transitioning out of care; and people experiencing mental health and substance use issues.

This report seeks Council approval of 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$243,251.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

2024 Supportive Housing Capital Grants – On April 24, 2024, Council approved Supportive Housing Capital Grants (RTS 14873) totalling \$255,220 from the Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program to 11 organizations.

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 (RTS 12153) intended to foster a diverse and vibrant city and to make sure that everyone has access to affordable housing that meets their needs.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Supportive Housing and the Need for Capital Funding

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

The Supportive Housing Grant program was launched in 2019 and supports capital improvements to better meet the operational, maintenance and building management needs of supportive housing operators. Like much of the city's rental housing stock, many supportive housing buildings are ageing, and 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 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grant program provides grants up to \$25,000 to fund capital improvements for non-profit owned and/operated supportive housing buildings to beautify, improve, complement, or enhance existing buildings and amenities.

The goals of the 2025 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 directions to improve partnership opportunities for the prevention and elimination of homelessness and creating pathways to housing stability.

The principles used to adjudicate the 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grants were established in alignment with Council-approved strategies and priorities identified in Vibrant Vancouver, including housing, reconciliation, and building healthy, inclusive, and equitable communities.

Discussion

2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grants

Application, Review and Adjudication Processes

The *2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grants Program applicant guide* and application package were posted online in the late fall of 2024. Email notifications with grant application information were sent to over 80 non-profit organizations in Vancouver. An information session was held in November 2024 for interested non-profit societies. A total of 15 people from 12 non-profit societies attended the information session.

Interested applicants were invited to send an optional Letter of Intent regarding their project ahead of submitting their application and discuss project ideas with staff in advance. Staff received 13 Letters of Intent and liaised with each interested organization prior to the official call for applications.

The call for applications for the grant program launched in January 2025 and 12 eligible applications were submitted. Staff reviewed each application to ensure it met eligibility requirements and evaluated projects based on the following principles:

- 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 evaluation of applications was undertaken through a standardized adjudication process. A project may be funded in part or in whole depending on the results of the adjudication process. All 12 applications were deemed eligible for funding.

Summary of Grants Recommended in this Report

This report recommends approval of 12 Supportive Housing Capital Grants totalling \$243,251 (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 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grant Program | 12 | \$254,448.08* | 12 | \$243,251 |

**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 indoor and outdoor common areas and bathrooms
- Upgrades to doors, locks and frames to increase security
- The creation of communal gardens
- An indoor and outdoor play space for children

Financial Implications

This report is recommending \$243,251 to support capital improvements for non-profit owned and/or operated supportive housing. Source of funds for the grants is the 2025 Supportive Housing Capital Grant program.

Legal Implications

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

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APPENDIX A
2025 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED

| 2025 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Agency | Project Description | 2025 Request | 2025 Recommend |
| 1. Community Builders Benevolence Group | <p>Reiderman Residence Bike Cage and Electrical Charging Station</p> <p>Construction of an outdoor bike storage area with e-bike charging stations to enhance resident quality of life, to improve existing amenities, and increase safety and security.</p> | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 2. Hogan's Alley Society | <p>Sober Space Feasibility Study</p> <p>To explore the creation of an accessible sober space to support fostering positive social interactions and overall wellbeing for residents of Nora Hendrix Place. Seeks to identify if such a space is beneficial, sustainable, and replicable to inform a Phase 2 pilot space.</p> | \$25,000 | \$16,800 |
| 3. Lookout Housing and Health Society | <p>The Hazelton Residence Painting Upgrade</p> <p>Painting of common areas, hallways, doors, and door frames at The Hazelton using high-quality, durable, and non-toxic paint to create a more welcoming and therapeutic environment for tenants, fostering a sense of dignity, community, and improved mental well-being.</p> | \$24,593.10 | \$24,594 |
| 4. Lookout Housing and Health Society | <p>Sakura So Washroom Security - Door Replacement Project</p> <p>Replacement of 9 doors and frames. Addition of new sturdy doors, frames and replacement of keys with a fob locking system, to provide better protection for 2SLGBTQIA+ residents and the community at large.</p> | \$21,630.75 | \$21,631 |

| 2025 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Agency | Project Description | 2025 Request | 2025 Recommend |
| 5. Lookout Housing and Health Society | <p>Jeffrey Ross – Hydration Station (Water Bottle Fountain)</p> <p>Addition of a water bottle fountain in the foyer of Jeffrey Ross within visual distance of the main entry doors to ensure senior tenants coming for medication have access to clean water, to help with extreme heat, and to decrease reliance on and cost of plastic bottles.</p> | \$8,222.36 | \$8,223 |
| 6. Motivation, Power & Achievement Society | <p>Foodscape Program to Cultivate Fruit and Veggies</p> <p>Garden maintenance at 162 Main and expansion at Sanford Apartments and 2275 Fir Street to cultivate food for life skills programming and provide skills in maintaining and cultivating the plants for residents with mental illness, substance use challenges and who are at risk of homelessness.</p> | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 7. Pacific Community Resources Society | <p>Thompson Court Refresh</p> <p>Improvement of common spaces in youth housing building, including programming room, laundry room, and main floor accessible bathroom repairs. Renovations include flooring, paint, new window blinds, cabinetry, and roofing repair.</p> | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 8. PHS Community Services Society | <p>Installation of Indoor and Outdoor Play Areas for Children at Station Street Community</p> <p>Creation of play spaces that offer a safe, accessible environment for 30 to 50 children to play, learn, and grow in housing that accommodates single fathers and their children.</p> | \$17,499.37 | \$17,500 |

| 2025 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPITAL GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Agency | Project Description | 2025 Request | 2025 Recommend |
| 9. Salsbury Community Society | <p>Community & Social Connectedness Upgrades</p> <p>Landscaping, outdoor painting, amenity room and community kitchen furniture and improvements to enhance common areas and foster a greater sense of belonging, dignity, and well-being for all residents facing barriers to stable housing, including financial hardship, mental health challenges, and social isolation.</p> | \$23,000 | \$20,000 |
| 10. VRS Communities Society | <p>E 36th Heat Pump Project</p> <p>Heat Pump Installation for 325 E 36th Ave upgrading the aging electrical base board heating and a hot water/heat boiler to maintain a comfortable environment for residents with significant disabilities in extreme weather events, and to reduce energy costs associated with heating and cooling.</p> | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 11. Union Gospel Mission | <p>Gateway Men's Pre-Recovery Program Capital Upgrade</p> <p>Renovations to accommodate expansion of the Gateway Men's Pre-Recovery programming. Removal of old furniture and new beds, dividers, desks and chairs.</p> | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| 12. Young Women's Christian Association | <p>YWCA Semlin Gardens Outdoor Space Refresh</p> <p>Revitalization of enclosed outdoor space by adding new features such as playground tiles, wooden picnic tables and a patio set, providing residents with an inviting space to connect with each other outdoors. This renovation will also enhance the overall appeal of the property, contributing to the long-term satisfaction and comfort of women and children who live at Semlin Gardens.</p> | \$9,502.50 | \$9,503 |
| | Total Requested | \$254,448.08 | \$243,251.00 |
| | Total Recommending | | \$243,251.00 |