



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: May 15, 2025
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 17, 2025
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2025 Homelessness Services Grants

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve 18 Homelessness Services ("HS") grants totalling \$43,000 from the 2025 Arts, Culture and Community Services Housing Services Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A of this report for the amounts recommended in the "2025 Recommend" column to create awareness and engage residents in solutions to homelessness and support individuals experiencing homelessness.
- B. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization that is to receive a grant pursuant to Recommendation A, and that is not a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency, to be contributing to the health and welfare of the city.
- C. THAT the City's General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services be authorized to execute agreements that disburse the grants recommended in this report and that contain terms and conditions approved by the City's Director of Legal Services.
- 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 has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Recommendation A requires 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report seeks Council approval for 18 Homelessness Services grants totalling \$43,000 to fund short-term and one-time events and projects that support people experiencing homelessness. The source of funds for the Homelessness Services grants is the 2025 Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS) Housing Services Operating Budget.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

Context and Background

Homelessness Services Grants

The City's Homelessness Services (HS) Grant Program was established in 2009 with the inception of Homelessness Action Week. Homelessness Services grants support a variety of community-led positive and engaging initiatives and events that take place in Vancouver throughout the year.

The overarching goals of HS Grants are to:

1. Support Vancouver residents who are experiencing homelessness;
2. Use creative approaches to increase community awareness of homelessness and the drivers of homelessness;
3. Build greater understanding among residents on solutions to homelessness;
4. Engage the voices of those with lived experience; and
5. Decrease the stigma associated with homelessness and the exclusion experienced by Vancouverites who are experiencing homelessness.

These five goals are aligned with the *Housing Vancouver Strategy* of continued leadership and advocacy on addressing the causes of and solutions to homelessness and *Vibrant Vancouver* strategic objectives of creating healthy, inclusive, and equitable communities.

The HS Grant Program continues to generate support for events, activities, and interest year after year. This funding provides the opportunity to engage residents in raising awareness about homelessness issues, challenging stigma around homelessness, and offer direct support to those who are homeless.

Since 2009, allocated grant funds have contributed to uniting Vancouverites in a common goal: to raise awareness about and create solutions to the issues of homelessness and support organizations providing direct services to individuals experiencing homelessness. See Appendix C for a summary of grant funds allocated from 2009 to 2024.

Discussion

Recommendation A: 2025 Homelessness Services Grants

This year, \$43,000 is available to allocate to organizations that are supporting individuals experiencing homelessness in Vancouver. Grant applicants can apply for a grant of up to \$3,000 to support a project or event, with an emphasis during adjudication to provide the full allocation of eligible funding to successful applicants.

Application and Review Process

An information and application guide was prepared and posted online on the Homeless Services Grants webpage (<https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/homelessness-services-grants.aspx>). Email notifications with information about the HS grants, timelines, and application process were sent to over 150 organizations in Vancouver. Staff were available to provide information for interested organizations, answer questions, and assist applicants. Grant applications were reviewed by a committee comprised of three staff from Homelessness Services and one staff from Supportive Housing & SROs.

Results of the Call for Proposals

The call for proposals resulted in 34 applications, totaling \$98,195. As noted above, the total funds available for 2025 HS grants is \$43,000. Staff recommend allocating all available funds through this call for proposals.

Table 1: Summary of 2025 HS Grants

Total Amount Requested	Funding Recommended	Total Number of Applicants	Number of Recommended Applications
\$98,195	\$43,000	34	18

All 18 recommended applications address the primary goal of the grant program: to support Vancouver residents who are experiencing homelessness. The diverse projects and events provide unique opportunities for capacity and skills development, awareness raising, and direct access to resources and services.

Examples of activities that this grant funding will support include:

- Community events connecting vulnerable and marginalized individuals with community services such as free clothing, haircuts, tax support, housing applications, ID banks, and income assistance.
- The provision of weather-appropriate clothing to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness throughout Vancouver, including those who are part of the hidden homeless population.
- Enhancing the capacity to support individuals who are chronically and episodically homeless in the Greater Vancouver area, including urban Indigenous peoples, women, and families affected by intergenerational trauma and violence through community connection.

As with many granting calls, the amount of funding requested exceeded the budget and not all applications are being recommended for funding. During the adjudication process, adjudicators worked to recommend full funding for as many applicants as possible to ensure the success of

their event or project. Staff recommend full funding for nine applications, and partial funding for an additional nine. In instances where staff are recommending partial funding, due to the limited budget of HS grants, funds were prioritized to provide direct delivery of the project or event and do not cover administration expenses.

An application may not be recommended for funding for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, the project being part of existing program, focused on housed residents, or other project applications better meeting the evaluation criteria. Staff will connect with unsuccessful applicants to provide feedback on their application and where applicable, identify opportunities to support their project in different ways.

The tables in Appendix A summarize the applications received, the recommended funding level of each, as well as a summary of applications not being recommended for funding.

Financial Implications

Recommendation A: 2025 Homelessness Services Grants

This report recommends Council approve \$43,000 in Homelessness Services Grants to 18 non-profit organizations. The source of funding is the 2025 Arts, Culture and Community Services Housing Services Operating Budget.

Legal Implications

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

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APPENDIX A

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Atira Women's Resource Society	Atira Housing Outreach Drop-In Service The grant would provide those who seek our support with snacks, water, and juice while they access our services, as well as hygienic supplies that they can take with them such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.	\$0	\$3,000	\$1,250
B.W.S.S: Battered Women's Support Services Association	Homeless Prevention and Advocacy Workshops This project is a twelve-session workshop providing information, advocacy, support for survivors of GBV who need safe and secure housing. We will cover searching, applying, obtaining, and maintaining housing topics.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House Society	Peer-Led Study on Stigma Among DTES Peer Workers This peer-led project will bring together Downtown Eastside peer workers for weekly discussion groups to explore and document the stigma they experience in their frontline roles. The initiative aims to build solidarity, amplify peer voices, and advocate for improved recognition and working conditions for DTES peer workers across organizations and the broader community.	N/A	\$3,000	\$3,000
The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre Association	Women's Hygiene Supplies The Women's Care Packages project would allow us to distribute underwear, incontinence pads, and menstrual supplies to women experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Downtown Eastside.	N/A	\$3,000	\$3,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Gallery Gachet Society	Oppenheimer Community Craft Market and Exhibition The Oppenheimer Community Craft Market is a pilot project rooted in Gallery Gachet's annual Oppenheimer Park Community Art Show and workshops. This initiative fosters artistic engagement while providing economic opportunities for participants.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Helping Spirit Lodge Society	Mobile Outreach Services Our front-line workers, street outreach workers, and other service providers would conduct wellness checks and provide care packages to our relatives who reside in the streets. The care packages will enable the Healing Bear Outreach Team to help connect with those outside.	N/A	\$3,000	\$1,250

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Lotus Light Charity Society	<p>LLCS Winter Charity Drive Care Package for the Homeless</p> <p>The LLCS Winter Charity Drive provides the opportunity to engage residents in raising awareness about homelessness issues, and provide direct support for those who are homeless, and promote a healthy and inclusive community. Care packages symbolize community solidarity, bridging connections between first responders and vulnerable residents while reminding them they are valued.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Association of Neighbourhood Houses of British Columbia (Marpole Neighbourhood House)	<p>Marpole Safe Haven</p> <p>The Safe Haven Project will provide a welcoming space for people who are experiencing homelessness by providing a safe space to come together with other neighbours and experience community opportunities at the Neighbourhood House. The project will provide basic necessities such as emergency food, hygiene supplies as well as transportation to medical appointments and other necessary services.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,500

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association	Community Connect This grant will allow the Association to host two Community Connect Events, connecting vulnerable and marginalized patrons with much needed community services such as free clothing, haircuts, tax support, housing applications, ID banks, and income assistance.	\$0	\$3,000	\$2,150
Providing Advocacy Counselling & Education Society (PACE Society)	Roundtable on Housing This project aims to better understand the housing barriers and lived experiences of sex workers. The insights gathered will help to provide direct support, community awareness of the intersection between sex work and homelessness and ensure the unhoused/precariously housed members have a voice in projects designed to support them.	\$0	\$3,000	\$2,350
Potluck Café (2003) Society	Fuel the Community Our Fuel the Community Project aims to support the Downtown Eastside by distributing nutritious lunch bags to those in need this August. This initiative will provide essential nourishment and hydration, helping homeless individuals in Vancouver's DTES get through the day with comfort and care.	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,500

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Powell Street Festival Society	Winter Care Packages 2026 This project supports low-income DTES residents by providing care packages and low-barrier employment while raising awareness to destigmatize homelessness. Community members will help design the packages, which will include hygiene items, food, winter essentials, and cultural materials.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	Indigenous-Oriented Homelessness Action Week The proposed project aims to provide comprehensive support to Indigenous and chronically homeless shelter guests during a Homelessness Action Week event. Recognizing the challenges posed by Vancouver's distinct seasonal weather conditions, we aim to address the critical need for weather-appropriate clothing while fostering community engagement through food and services.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society	VATJSS Community Open House This project will be an all-day open house hosted in the VATJSS offices. This will give the community a chance to come and meet our team, learn more about the services we offer and share a meal with other community members. The VATJSS offices are a culturally safe space This open house will include a meal, the gift of traditional medicine, hygiene care packages and information on community resources.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
Vancouver Moving Theatre	Mic & Meal: A Downtown Eastside Karaoke Gathering This is a collaborative, community-engaged, low-barrier arts-and-culture-centered project that brings together diverse populations experiencing homelessness to sing, connect, and sit down and share a meal.	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Vancouver Women's Health Collective Society (VWHC)	<p>Peer-Led, Culturally Safer Solutions to Homelessness: Expanding Housing Support, Health Services, and Community Advocacy in the DTES</p> <p>Our project expands homelessness prevention services in the DTES by enhancing peer-led housing navigation, health services, and community advocacy. We will provide housing support, peer employment, and culturally safer care, ensuring marginalized women, trans, and gender-diverse individuals access stable housing. Through workshops and a community-led podcast, we aim to combat stigma and drive systemic change.</p>	N/A	\$3,000	\$3,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
WISH Drop-In Centre Society	<p>WISH Summer Cultural Meal Festival Series & Extreme-Heat Safety Kits for Unhoused Street-Based Sex Workers</p> <p>The WISH Summer Cultural Meal Festival Series will provide community food-sharing events for street-based sex workers who are homeless or precariously housed. These events will offer culturally significant meals, fostering social connection and summer heat safety care packages. The events will serve as key opportunities to strengthen community ties and promote participant well-being.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Working Gear Clothing Society	<p>Threads of Hope: Monthly Clothing Distribution for At-Risk Individuals</p> <p>Threads of Hope is a monthly event providing free, weather-appropriate clothing to individuals at risk of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness. This initiative offers essential items such as casual clothing, footwear, and winter coats, ensuring attendees have their clothing needs met in a supportive, trauma-informed environment.</p>	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
	Total Requested		\$54,000	
	Total Recommended			\$43,000

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
411 Seniors Centre Society	Dignity on the Streets To use social media platforms to shift public perception of homelessness, emphasizing that it affects low-income seniors, along with others. The aim is to raise awareness by humanizing the issue and building a supportive, empathetic community that treats individuals with dignity and respect.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0
A Better Life Foundation	Token Window The grant will help fund our Token Meal Program for a month, ensuring that anyone in need can access a hot, nutritious meal—no questions asked. Our street-facing meal window on Hastings Street provides an accessible, dignified way for community members to receive food.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0
BC Indigenous Housing Society	Voices of Resilience: Indigenous & Lived Experience Artistic Showcase This project will amplify the voices of Indigenous artists and individuals with lived experience of homelessness by providing a platform to share their stories using art. Through a community exhibition and a showcase at our annual gala, the project aims to reduce stigma, raise awareness, and foster meaningful connections between artists and attendees.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Collingwood Neighbourhood House Society	Older Adult Case Conference The objective of this project is to bring together key participants, including health workers, housing providers, case managers, community service organizations, and community members to discuss the unique challenges faced by seniors who are housed in independent housing, are dealing with health issues, and experiencing challenges with housing.	N/A	\$1695	\$0
Hope in Shadows Society (Megaphone)	The Shift Peer Newsroom Megaphone's peer newsroom, The Shift, launched in 2023 to amplify marginalized voices through community journalism. Peer journalists with lived or living experience of poverty or homelessness receive training, pitch stories, and help develop Megaphone magazine. They collaborate with our managing editor and a Local Journalism Initiative reporter/mentor to develop ethical, impactful reporting.	\$0	\$3,000	\$0

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
La Boussole Centre Communautaire Societe	Homelessness Week at La Boussole The proposed project includes workshops aimed at the Francophone community to raise awareness concerning the daily life of our beneficiaries in the Downtown Eastside and combat the stigma associated with homelessness, mental health, and addiction. Additionally, we aim to address the growing need for food security in the area by expanding our distribution of emergency snacks on the neighborhood's streets.	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society	Building Capacity and Housing Literacy: RentSmart Training and Housing Navigation Support This project aims to deliver an innovative capacity building strategy of providing customized RentSmart training and 1-1 housing navigation support to twelve participants actively experiencing/high risk of homelessness when they enter Mission Possible's Employment Readiness Program.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
P.E.D.A.L. (Pedal Energy Development Alternatives) Power Association	<p>Systems Change - Mobility access for people at risk of homelessness</p> <p>This initiative brings together key stakeholders from the policy, transport, and social service sectors for an immersive engagement session at our Oppenheimer Park Repair clinics. Participants will have the opportunity to witness firsthand the on the ground impact of grassroots mobility intervention and how it transforms lives and helps lift people out of, and prevent, homelessness.</p>	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$0
Association of Neighborhood Houses of British Columbia (South Vancouver Neighborhood House)	<p>One Life at a Time</p> <p>The project will bring awareness of the issues of people living on the streets and in invisible homelessness to some members of the community. We will encourage community members involved to take the leadership of helping others understand the journey of those less fortunate.</p>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Together We Can Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Education Society	<p>Street Reach Kick-off Party</p> <p>The Street Reach Kick-off Party will be hosted at Oppenheimer Park. There will be of a hot lunch, clothing, and Street Reach Care Packages provided. Information booths for community resources will also be present.</p>	\$0	\$3,000	\$0

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society	Homes to Homes This project aims to provide culturally safe, wraparound support for Indigenous individuals transitioning from homelessness to stable housing. Through case management, rental assistance, and access to healthcare and traditional healing services, Homes to Homes fosters long-term housing retention and well-being. The program integrates Indigenous knowledge and community-based support to ensure sustainable, safe, and dignified living conditions.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0
Vancouver Community Network	AccessLine Vancouver AccessLine Vancouver will provide free phone service to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness in the Downtown Eastside near the Woodward's Building.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0
Veterans Memorial Housing Society	Fishing Derby & BBQ A Fishing Derby and BBQ will be hosted for our residents. This will foster a sense of belonging and community amongst one-another as well as long term and successful tenancies.	N/A	\$1,500	\$0
Vi Fineday Family Shelter Society	Operation Moving Out Through this funding, we aim to provide each family with a basic pantry starter kit. The items not only help families prepare meals in their new homes, but also alleviate the financial strain of starting over with empty cupboards	\$0	\$3,000	\$0

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS NOT BEING RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:				
Agency	Project Description	2024 Grant	2025 Request	2025 Recommend
Wheels of Faith	Downtown Eastside Distribution Campaign Roller duffel bags filled with personal care supplies will be distributed over the course of three months to the homeless community of the Downtown Eastside Vancouver neighborhood. Care supplies may include soap, shampoo, shaving supplies, female hygiene products, blankets, umbrellas, rain ponchos, hand warmers, and basic first aid supplies.	N/A	\$3,000	\$0
YWCA Metro Vancouver	YWCA Crabtree Corner Community Kitchen The YWCA Crabtree Corner Community Kitchen prepares hot and nutritious breakfasts and lunches five days a week. The community that accesses the kitchen includes individuals at risk of homelessness, such as women from the housing community, women and children leaving intimate partner violence and community members experiencing housing instability. Access to hot meals supports physical health, fosters a sense of community, and provides an entry point to receive other services offered at YWCA Crabtree Corner.	\$0	\$3,000	\$0
	Total Requested		\$44,195	
	Total Recommended			\$0

APPENDIX B COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On June 26, 2024 (RTS 15985) Council awarded \$43,000 in Homelessness Action Week Grants to 17 non-profit organizations, source of funds Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20240626/documents/cfsc4.pdf>

On June 27, 2023 (RTS 15444) Council awarded \$43,000 in Homelessness Action Week Grants to 16 non-profit organizations, source of funds Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20230627/documents/r2.pdf>

On June 21, 2022 (RTS 14773), Council awarded \$43,000 in Homelessness Action Week Grants to 15 non-profit organizations, source of funds Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget.

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20220621/documents/r2.pdf>

On June 8, 2021 (RTS 14279), Council awarded \$66,052 in Homelessness Action Week Grants to 16 non-profit organizations, source of funds Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget (\$36,052), and the 2021 Capital budget for the Supportive Housing Grant Program (\$30,000).

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20210609/documents/cfsc1.pdf>

On December 9, 2020 (RTS 13625) Council awarded \$66,000 in Homelessness Action Week Grants to 15 non-profit organizations, source of funds Arts, Culture and Community Services Street Homelessness Operating Budget (\$36,000), and the 2020 Capital budget for the Supportive Housing Grant Program (\$30,000).

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20201209/documents/pspc4.pdf>

On November 28, 2017, Council approved the *Housing Vancouver Strategy* and *Housing Vancouver 3 Year Action Plan 2018-2020*. Increasing supports and protections for people experiencing homelessness was identified as a key objective of the Strategy.

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

On October 28, 2014, Council adopted the Framework for City of Reconciliation

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20141028/documents/regu20141028min.pdf>

APPENDIX C
PREVIOUS HOMELESSNESS SERVICES GRANTS FUNDING DECISIONS

Year	Funding Source	Funding Allocated	#Organizations Funded	#Organizations Applied	RTS
2009	Homeless Action Plan	\$9,300	4	4	RTS 08283
2010	Homeless Action Plan	\$10,500	5	5	RTS 08788
2011	Street Homelessness Project	\$25,000	9	10	RTS 09325
2012	Street Homeless Budget	\$30,000	11	13	RTS 09581
2013	Street Homeless Budget	\$35,000	18	25	RTS 10135
2014	Street Homelessness	\$40,000	16	18	RTS 10619
2015	Street Homelessness	\$43,000	18	21	RTS 10980
2016	Street Homelessness	\$33,650	13	15	RTS 11433
2017	Street Homelessness	\$43,000	17	29	RTS 11939
2018	Homelessness Services	\$46,000	16	22	RTS 12506
2018	Supportive Housing Capital	\$12,000	4	5	RTS 12506
2018	Supportive Housing Capital	\$15,000	5	6	RTS 12777
2019	Homelessness Services, Supportive Housing Capital	\$64,000	14	21	RTS 13139
2020	Homelessness Services, Supportive Housing Capital	\$66,000	15	23	RTS 13625
2021	Homelessness Services, Supportive Housing Capital	\$66,052	16	27	RTS 14279
2022	Homelessness Services	\$43,000	15	24	RTS 14773
2023	Homelessness Services	\$43,000	16	26	RTS 15444
2024	Homelessness Services	\$43,000	17	34	RTS 15985