

## **Appendix B – H.1.h COVID -19 Community Recovery Grants Program**

### **Committee of the Whole Report Back – COVID-19 Recovery For the Meeting of June 4, 2020**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize:

1. An increase in the funding for the My Great Neighbourhood COVID-19 grant stream by \$100,000 funded from 2020 contingencies.
2. A rolling intake from June to December 2020, giving the City Manager the decision-making power to approve the grants following an internal staff review.
3. A grant threshold up to \$5000 per grant application to best support as many city-based business, organization, neighbourhood, or other entity directly affected by COVID-19.
4. An increase in the funding for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants by \$350,000.

#### **COUNCIL MOTION:**

##### **H.1.h COVID -19 Community Recovery Grants Program**

1. That Council direct staff to, on an urgent basis, design and report back with options for an innovative, one time, time limited grant program that would allocate funds to organizations and/or individuals to support specific, measurable, actions to remedy a city-based business, organization, neighbourhood, or other entity directly affected by COVID-19, and in that report identify options for funding such a program and apply and report on a high level equity analysis and how those actions reflect the City's equity mandate.
2. Authorize up to \$500,000 from the 2020 contingency toward the Strategic Plan Grant Program.
3. Direct staff to initiate without delay a second intake for the Strategic Plan Grant Program for 2020, incorporating a new criterion in the evaluation of applications based on the degree to which applicants have experienced economic hardship arising from Covid-19.

#### **ISSUES, ANALYSIS & OPTIONS**

Council could consider implementing one or a combination of the following options.

##### Option 1:

At the May 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, staff reported on a new COVID-19 related stream under the City's My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program. Increasing the funding for this already developed stream would be a simple and expeditious way of actioning this direction in part 1 of this motion.

##### Option 2:

In response to parts 2 and 3 of the above motion, Council could consider two variations.

The first would be the fastest way of providing additional funding to organizations by increasing the budget for the current intake. Staff could follow up with each applicant to seek clarity on the degree to which they have experienced economic hardship arising from COVID-19. The application volume was higher this year and the total request is \$1.2 million, while the available funding is \$492,000. This option would provide funding faster to organizations, but would not allow other organizations to apply since the intake has already closed. The award recommendations from this year's intake are scheduled to come to Council in July.

If speed of providing funding is a lower priority, the second variation would be to open up a second intake. This would be a slower option, but more organizations may be offered an opportunity to apply. For context, the evaluation process typically takes the External Grant Committee about two and a half months from receipt of the applications to the date they present the recommendations to Council. The intake is typically open for about two months and staff review each application for eligibility before they are shared with the Committee, resulting in a regular total timeline from intake opening to awards of around five months. The intake period can of course be shortened if that is Council's wish.

## **OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, DEPENDENCIES AND RISKS**

The new stream developed specifically for COVID-19 under the My Great Neighbourhood Grant program is already set up and staff have capacity to administer an increase in applications that may result from an increase in the budget.

The first intake of the Strategic Plan Grants program is currently being evaluated by the External Grant Review Committee, who this year has dedicated an even greater amount of time than in years prior to the evaluations due to the increase in application volume. Because they are currently evaluating the first intake, the Committee Chair has indicated that they may not have capacity to evaluate applications from a second intake this year. Their capacity is dependent on how involved the evaluation process for a second intake would be and the volume of applications; that is, if the second intake review only entails 'need for funding due to COVID-19', the process may be manageable, but if the Committee would also be asked to evaluate new programs/projects in addition to need for funding due to COVID-19, then the process would be more time-consuming. Therefore, should Council wish to move ahead with a second intake with the intent of funding the applications this year, Council could consider evaluating the applications rather than asking the Committee to do so.

## **PUBLIC IMPACTS**

Public impacts of a new or increased grant stream will depend on the grant applications received.

## **IMPACTS TO FINANCIAL PLAN**

There are two potential funding sources within the 2020 Financial Plan.

The contingency budget has an unallocated balance of approximately \$450,000 that could be used for this purpose. Using all or part of this funding would eliminate or reduce the amount remaining for any further unforeseen events this year.

The second option is re-allocating funding from one or more of the deferred initiatives that Council will re-visit in August. The listing is attached as Appendix A.

## **CONCLUSION**

The new My Great Neighbourhood Grant stream was specifically set up in response to COVID-19 and the applications for the current intake of the Strategic Plan Grants are being evaluated now. The combination of the two is likely the fastest way to implement additional grant funding for this year as requested by the above Council resolutions.

## **List of Attachments**

Attachment A – Deferred Initiatives

## Attachment A – Deferred Initiatives

Potential Available Reallocation	FTE	NMC (Ongoing)	2019 Surplus (One Time)	B&I
<b><u>Accessibility and Inclusion</u></b>				
Accessibility and Inclusion Recreation Role - 1 FTE	1	52,000		
Gender Diversity Training for All Staff			28,000	
Welcoming City Strategy			50,000	
<b><u>Housing</u></b>				
Tenant Housing Ambassador - 1 FTE	1	107,900		
Housing and Development Summit		15,000		
Social Planner - 1 FTE	1	125,111		
<b><u>Arts and Culture</u></b>				
Canada Day Special Duty Policing		107,000		
Festival Investment Grant Program		25,000		
Special Duty Policing - Cost for First Three Police Officers		53,000		
Create Victoria - Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program			100,000	
Create Victoria - Cultural Spaces Roadmap			25,000	
Create Victoria Implementation Position - 1 FTE	1	113,400		
Special Events - In Kind Services		19,000		
<b><u>Banfield Park to Selkirk Bike Route</u></b>				
Banfield Park to Selkirk Bike Route			35,000	
<b><u>Childminding</u></b>				
Childminding - Committees		1,800		
<b><u>Climate and Environment</u></b>				
Building Energy and Emissions Specialist - 1 FTE	1	108,000		
Climate Leadership Plan - Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program			300,000	
Climate Champion Program			50,000	
<b><u>Heritage</u></b>				
Heritage Position - .5 FTE	0.5	50,000		
<b><u>Managing Growth and New Development</u></b>				
Secretary - Legislative Services - 1 FTE	1	80,500		
Development Services - 1 FTE	1	142,500		
<b><u>Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness</u></b>				
Coordinated Implementation of Pandora Task Force			50,000	
<b><u>Placemaking</u></b>				
Place-Making - Engagement Costs			8,000	
<b><u>Protocol</u></b>				
Protocol			20,000	
<b><u>Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations</u></b>				
Reconciliation Training			34,650	
Truth and Reconciliation Dialogues			80,000	
Indigenous Relations Function			75,000	
Witness Reconciliation Program		30,000		
<b><u>Equity, Diversity and Inclusion</u></b>				
External Community Liaison - 2 FTE	2	215,900		
Equity and Inclusion Coordinator - 1 FTE	1	107,900		
External Contractor			75,000	
<b><u>Strategic Plan Support Services</u></b>				
Engagement			75,000	
<b><u>Sustainability Mobility Strategy</u></b>				
Transportation - 1 FTE	1	142,600		
Public Secure Bike Parking				500,000
NeighbourHub - 709/711 Douglas Street		11,460		
Banfield Park Swimming Dock Study			15,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,071</b>	<b>\$ 1,020,650</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>