

Organizations that provide direct service provision to unhoused people have been awarded \$464,952 in federal funding through the Reaching Home program administered by the CRD, between July 1st 2020 and March 31st 2021 “for people who are unsheltered, to coordinate and facilitate ongoing access to drinking water, food, hygiene and health supplies, sheltering supplies, clothing, bathrooms, showers, handwashing, laundry, health and harm reduction services, fire safety supplies and plans, or waste management.” (See attachment A).

Notwithstanding this federal funding, there is still a gap in services. The City does not have the capacity to offer these services. Though exhausting several avenues, the City has not been able to secure an operator to offer services, particularly mobile shower facilities, in all the ways that have been requested by unhoused people and their advocates.

Through the Coalition to End Homelessness the City is working directly with unhoused people to further identify needs and how to achieve them. The concept of community care tents and co-managed or peer led shower facilities have been discussed. In advance of this work being completed the community has responded with the provision of a community care tent and showers within Beacon Hill Park.

The City supports mutual aid efforts but the location of the existing community care tent and related amenities within Beacon Hill Park are in violation of a number of City bylaws and the Beacon Hill Trust and must be removed.

In order to facilitate the expedited delivery of emergency social and hygiene services in a coordinated rather than ad hoc and unpermitted way, we recommend the creation of a one-time grant program for Emergency Social Services be created, that the attached grant application form be used, and that grant applications are due by Monday November 23rd.

Grants will be adjudicated by Council on November 26th and the funds dispersed to successful applicants very soon after. Grant recipients must comply with applicable municipal policies, bylaws and requirements of the City of Victoria respecting the safe use of City property.

Recommendations

1. That Council allocate up to \$100,000 from the federal-provincial restart funding to initiate a one-time grant program to deliver mobile hygiene and other social services as described in the report above.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Potts



Councillor Alto