



Strengthening Communities' Program Application

Council Overview – April 12 2021

Strengthening Communities' Services Grant

- Government of Canada and the Province of BC are providing \$540 million in shared funding to local governments under the Safe Restart Agreement to manage the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic
- Within this envelope, \$100 million is being delivered through the Strengthening Communities' Services Program, announced on February 18, 2021
- The program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, can contribute up to 100% of the cost of eligible activities

Strengthening Communities' Services Grant

- Maximum amount available to communities with a population of 75,000 – 200,000 is \$2.5 million (to be spent in a one year period)
- Can include new activities or expansion of existing activities with costs incurred after September 17, 2020
- Application deadline is April 16, 2021
- A detailed budget and a Council resolution, indicating support for the proposed activities and a willingness to provide overall grant management, must accompany the completed application
- Applicants are advised of the status of their applications within 90 days of the application deadline

Intended Outcomes

- Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people living in public or private spaces, including reduced risk of COVID-19 or other disease transmission;
- Reduced community concerns about public health and safety in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter and services;
- Improved coordination among eligible applicants and health/social service providers, Indigenous organizations and others working on housing, homelessness and service provision and;
- Increased capacity of eligible applicants to work with homeless persons and Indigenous organizations towards culturally safe and trauma-informed responses.

Application Review Criteria – Points Based

- Demonstrated **alignment with program intent** (comprehensive, multi-faceted approach)
- Evidence of **need** in the community
- Demonstrated **partnership and engagement with Indigenous leadership**, organizations, and communities
- Inclusion of a plan to communicate and **engage with unsheltered homeless populations** to include perspectives of people with lived experience
- **Demonstrated collaboration** with distinct needs-serving organizations, public health, health authorities, non-profits, police, bylaw enforcement
- **Cost effectiveness** (and evidence that any long-term financial obligations will be supported by the applicant)

City of Prince George Application Focus

- To align with the intended program outcomes and the application review criteria, two focus areas were selected:
 - **Community Safety Hub**
 - One of four key commitments recommended by the Select Committee on a Safe, Clean and Inclusive Community and approved by Council in January 2021
 - **Incremental improvements** to the current Council approved package of inter-related **downtown and area service enhancements**

Proposed Activities

Community Safety Hub

- *Enhance and support multi-jurisdictional service coordination*
 - Renovations
 - On-site Coordinator
 - City of Prince George Outreach Workers

Proposed Activities

Downtown Services – Incremental Enhancements

- *Designed to better manage the downtown and area social issues*

1. Safety and Security

- Additional Police Patrols
- Health IM application
- Security – Civic Facilities and Parkades
- Fencing of Vacant Lot Adjacent to Community Safety Hub

Proposed Activities

2. Clean and Waste Management

- Centralized Refuge Bin – Mini Transfer Station
- Daily Bio-Hazard Inspection and Clean Up
- Additional Days/Hours – Downtown Clean Team
- Additional Service Days – DART Alley Clean Up
- Peer Supported Employment Program

Proposed Activities

3. Inclusion – Support for Unsheltered Homeless

- Relocation and Expansion of the Prince George Native Friendship Centre's Homeless Storage Service Site
- Mental Health Worker Pilot (onsite at Homeless Storage Site)
- Comprehensive Engagement with Unsheltered Homeless Population

Proposed Activities

4. Project Management

- Systems Change Evaluation Process

Contributors to Grant Preparation

- City of Prince George
 - Community Services and Public Safety
 - Civic Operations
 - Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships
- Northern Health
- BC Housing
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Downtown Prince George
- RCMP