

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 14, 2019

AUTHORED BY JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER

SUBJECT UBCM COMMUNITY CHILD CARE PLANNING PROGRAM GRANT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's endorsement of a collaborative application to the Union of BC Municipalities for funding under the *Community Child Care Planning Program* grant stream.

Recommendation

That Council support an application to the Union of BC Municipalities for funding under the *Community Child Care Planning Program* on behalf of a collaborative group comprised of the City of Nanaimo and one or more local governments in the region, and that the City of Nanaimo provide overall grant management for the collaborative.

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia is investing \$1 billion in child care over the next three years. As part of this the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development has allocated \$2.85 million for the *Community Child Care Planning Program*. Under this program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), local governments can apply for a maximum of \$25,000 in funding to create a child care space creation action plan.

Collaborative projects are allowed and encouraged. Funding requests from two or more eligible applicants (municipalities, regional districts, etc.) can be submitted as a single application with one entity identified as the primary applicant. The maximum funding available would be based on the number of eligible applicants included in the application; therefore, if five local governments apply together the total funding award would potentially be \$125,000.

The primary applicant for a collaborative project is required to provide a resolution from Council indicating support for the activities proposed in the funding application and a willingness to provide overall grant management. All the partnering applicants are required to submit a Council or Board resolution that clearly states their approval for the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

The activities proposed under this funding application include:

- developing an inventory of existing child care spaces;
- conducting a community engagement process;
- identifying space creation targets over the next ten years; and,
- identifying actions that can be taken to meet those space creation targets.

The information gathered through this planning process may be used to support future investments in the development of child care spaces funded by the Government of British Columbia in our community.

The City of Nanaimo is currently in discussions with other local governments in the region to confirm support for a collaborative approach. The key rationale for a collaborative approach is that child care needs within the region cross municipal and rural electoral area boundaries given that parents in the region may live, work, access schools and recreation across these boundaries. For example, parents who work or access educational services in Nanaimo may live outside of the City boundaries in other municipalities or surrounding rural areas where child care options may be limited and/ less convenient to access depending on their schedules. Understanding the linkages between neighbouring municipalities and rural areas is key to effective planning for child care needs and demands within the City of Nanaimo and surrounding areas.

Pooling funding together through a collaborative approach would also allow for more effective use of resources than if each community individually applied for funding and contracted to develop an action plan. In recognition of the capacity challenges facing potential partners, Nanaimo is willing to be the primary applicant for a joint application with one or more local government partners within the region. While First Nations Governments (Snuneymuxw, Snaw-Naw-As, and Qualicum) and School Districts (68 and 69) are not eligible for this funding opportunity, they are recognized as being key participants in the development of a collaborative child care planning process.

If a collaborative application with one or more eligible partners is successful, the money will be used to conduct a child care space action planning process for all areas named in the application. The expectation would be that each area involved in the planning process would have a detailed child care action plan specific to their community as one output of that process.

The *Community Child Care Planning Program* application guide and application form are included as Attachment A to this report.

OPTIONS

1. That Council support an application to the Union of BC Municipalities for funding under the *Community Child Care Planning Program* on behalf of a collaborative group comprised of the City of Nanaimo and one or more local governments in the region, and that the City of Nanaimo provide overall grant management for the collaborative.
 - **Budget Implication:** The City of Nanaimo would be expected to contribute staff time and in-kind resources, but the bulk of the work would be contracted to a consultant via a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. There are anticipated economies of scale and efficiencies through a collaborative approach.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Furthers the social inclusion and economic development goals of the community.
 - **Engagement Implication:** The planning process contemplated in this application includes a significant amount of community and stakeholder engagement.

2. That Council provide alternate direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Province of British Columbia is accepting applications from local governments for funding to create an inventory of existing child care spaces, identify child care space creation targets over the next ten years, and identify actions that can be taken to meet those space creation targets.
- The City of Nanaimo is currently in discussions with other local governments within the areas covered by School Districts 68 and 69 within the region to determine support for a collaborative approach.
- The City of Nanaimo is willing to be the lead applicant for a collaborative approach and as such would be responsible for submitting the application and receiving and managing grant monies allocated under this funding program.
- The City of Nanaimo would contribute staff time to this project, and a consultant would be engaged to do the majority of the work.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: UBCM 2019 Community Child Care Planning Program and Application Guide and Application Form

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

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