

# Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING January 20, 2021

AUTHORED BY DAVID STEWART, SOCIAL PLANNER

**SUBJECT 2021 SOCIAL PLANNING GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To obtain the Finance and Audit Committee's recommendation for Council approval of the Social Planning Grant allocations for 2021.

### **Recommendation**

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$115,000 for the 2021 Social Planning Grant allocations as follows:

#### **2021 Community Vitality Grants**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society	Cooking Kits for Families	\$7,000
Protection Island Lions Club	Protection Island Neighbourhood Connections	\$2,900
Newcastle Community Association	Illuminight	\$2,000
Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	Clothing for Success	\$11,600
Old Age Pensioners Nanaimo	Social Inclusion Program	\$1,500

#### **2021 Social Response Grants**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AVI Health Centre	Trans Wellness Program	\$35,000
Nanaimo Foodshare	E.A.T. Everyone at the Table	\$25,000
Literacy Central Vancouver Island	Word on the Street	\$30,000

## **BACKGROUND**

Each year since 2001, the City of Nanaimo has allocated Social Planning grants to non-profit societies and/or recognised faith groups in Nanaimo. The Social Response and Community Vitality grants provide a total of \$85,000 annually for programs that address social issues affecting Nanaimo residents. A total of \$60,000 of funding is directed toward Social Response grants with the remaining \$25,000 dedicated to Community Vitality grants. Social Response grants are generally intended to support larger scale projects; whereas, Community Vitality grants are targeted towards smaller initiatives.

At its 2020-NOV-2 Regular Council meeting, Council passed the following motion:

*“That Council authorize Staff to advertise that an additional \$30,000 of Social Response Grant funding is available for projects that specifically address community wellness or addictions response.”*

This additional funding was provided through Community Amenity Contributions (CACs) from three separate Cannabis Retail Store rezoning applications. The specific criteria of the CAC contributions directed that the \$30,000 available be used to provide financial assistance to new or ongoing programs that provide support to individuals with, or who are overcoming, drug or alcohol addiction. Eligible programs include:

- Detox and treatment programs
- Counselling and support
- Peer support and employment programs
- Harm reduction/overdose prevention, including:
  - needle exchange services (with Island Health approval);
  - education and outreach programs that inform users how to reduce the risks associated with using drugs and/or alcohol; and,
  - safe ride programs.

The City issued a call for proposals for the 2021 Social Planning grants with an application deadline of 2020-DEC-07. Eight applications were received for Community Vitality grants and fourteen applications were received for Social Response grants. The total requested funding for Community Vitality grants was \$54,904, and the requested funding for Social Response grants was \$514,838. The combined total funding request amounted to \$569,742.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff reviewed the eligible applications relative to the grant guidelines and criteria (see Attachment A) and Council’s Strategic Plan priorities. Staff recommend allocating a total of \$115,000 to eight applicants, as listed below:

### **2021 Community Vitality Grants – Applications Received**

Organization	Project	Requested	Recommended
Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society	Cooking Kits for Families	\$7,000	\$7,000
Protection Island Lions Club	Protection Island Neighbourhood Connections	\$2,900	\$2,900
Nanaimo Community Gardens Society	Covered Work Area Project	\$8,000	\$0
Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	Social Service Worker Support Group	\$6,354	\$0
Spinal Cord Injury Organization of BC	Peer Support and Information for Spinal Cord Injury	\$10,000	\$0

Organization	Project	Requested	Recommended
Newcastle Community Association	Illuminight	\$4,150	\$2,000
Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	Clothing for Success	\$15,000	\$11,600
Old Age Pensioners Nanaimo	Social Inclusion Program	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>Total Requested:</b>		<b>\$54,904</b>	
<b>Total Available:</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>	

### 2021 Social Response Grants – Applications Received

Organization	Project	Requested	Recommended
Nanaimo Family Life	Senior Centre Without Walls	\$50,000	\$0
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre	E.A.T. (Environment Animals Tulut)	\$60,000	\$0
AVI Health Centre	Trans Wellness Program*	\$90,000	\$35,000
Island Crisis Care Society	Getting Around	\$15,300	\$0
Nanaimo Foodshare	E.A.T. (Everyone at the Table)	\$25,038	\$25,000
Nanaimo Innovation Academy	Kid's Healthy Eating Project	\$20,000	\$0
Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association	Nanaimo Region and Trail Masterplan	\$10,000	\$0
Take a Hike Foundation	Take a Hike Program	\$20,000	Not eligible
The Men's Centre	Seniors Reach Out Program	\$10,000	\$0
BC Yukon Association of Drug Wat Survivors	DRUMS Nanaimo*	\$90,000	\$0
Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre	Youth HR and Transitional Support	\$15,000	\$0
Society for Equity, Inclusion and Advocacy (SEIA)	The Peer Safety Initiative*	\$14,500	\$0
Worker Solidarity Network	Solidarity Stewards Program	\$60,000	\$0
Literacy Central Vancouver Island	Word on the Street	\$35,000	\$30,000
<b>Total Requested:</b>		<b>\$514,838</b>	
<b>Total Available:</b>		<b>\$90,000</b>	

\*Project is considered eligible for the additional \$30,000 in CAC funds

The Take a Hike Foundation's application was determined to be not eligible as the request was to fund ongoing operational expenses incurred during the normal course of business operations which is contrary to the grant criteria.

An additional application from the Alano Club of Nanaimo was received on 2020-DEC-23, after the 2020-DEC-07 application deadline, and, as such, was not considered.

Of the fourteen Social Response applications received, three were considered eligible for the additional \$30,000 provided through the rezoning CAC contributions. Staff are recommending the additional \$30,000 community wellness and substance use response funding be awarded to the AVI Heath Centre's Trans Wellness Program.

## **OPTIONS**

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a total of \$115,000 for the 2021 Social Planning Grant allocations as follows:

### **2021 Community Vitality Grants**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society	Cooking Kits for Families	\$7,000
Protection Island Lions Club	Protection Island Neighbourhood Connections	\$2,900
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Nanaimo Region John Howard Society	Clothing for Success	\$11,600
Old Age Pensioners Nanaimo	Social Inclusion Program	\$1,500

### **2021 Social Response Grants**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AVI Health Centre	Trans Wellness Program	\$35,000
Nanaimo Foodshare	E.A.T. Everyone at the Table	\$25,000
Literacy Central Vancouver	Word on the Street	\$30,000

- The advantages of this option: The recommended projects were determined to strongly fulfill the criteria of the grants and address the City's strategic priorities, as decided by a review committee consisting of four City staff from the Community Planning and Finance sections.
  - The disadvantages of this option: A number of organizations who submitted grant applications will receive no funding or less funding than requested.
  - Financial Implications: The recommendations do not exceed the total available budget of \$115,000 for the 2021 Social Planning grants.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative funding recommendations. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The City received 22 applications with a total request of \$569,742 for the 2021 Social Response and Community Vitality grant programs.
- The total Social Planning grant program budget for 2021 is \$115,000 of which \$90,000 is allocated to Social Response grants and \$25,000 to Community Vitality grants.
- Staff recommend that \$115,000 be allocated to eight applicants.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

ATTACHMENT A: Social Planning Grants – Guidelines & Criteria |

#### **Submitted by:**

Lisa Bhopalsingh  
Manager, Community Planning |

#### **Concurrence by:**

Laura Mercer  
Director, Finance

Bill Corsan  
Director, Development Services

Dale Lindsay  
General Manager, Community Development  
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