



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 21-103**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer
Resource Staff: Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Housing and Social Services
Date of Meeting: March 23, 2021
Subject: Community Investment Fund 2020 Funding Recommendations

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Corporate business

Goal: See above

Executive Summary:

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) is a joint grant program between the City of Kingston and the United Way of Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington (United Way) based on joint community priorities of both organizations. The United Way continues to administer this process at no charge. The process for 2020, which would normally occur in the fall, was moved to 2021 as a result of the pandemic. A total of 26 eligible applications for this process were received in January with a total request of \$467,365. Five review panels were established and a total of 16 grant applications were recommended to be funded for a total of \$254,229 with a municipal contribution of \$190,000. Four projects are recommended to be funded jointly between the City and the United Way; ten are recommended to be funded solely by the City of Kingston and two solely by the United Way. This report recommends that Council approve the 14 projects being funded in whole or in part with municipal funds. The United Way has its own approval process for its funding contributions.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 14 Community Investment Fund grant recommendations, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 21-103, for a total of \$190,000.

March 23, 2021

Page 2 of 4

Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Business, Environment & Projects	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
Jim Keech, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required
Sheila Kidd, Commissioner, Transportation & Public Works	Not required

March 23, 2021

Page 3 of 4

Options/Discussion:

In 2011, City Council approved a new grant program that amalgamated the municipal Healthy Community Fund and the United Way’s community grants into a single program called the “Community Investment Fund” (CIF). There are three funding streams that align with the community impact areas defined by the United Way and the priorities of the City. These streams are: “Helping Kids Be All They Can Be”, “Building Strong and Healthy Communities” and “Moving People from Poverty to Possibility”.

The deadline for applications for the 2020 program was delayed due to the pandemic and was moved to Friday, January 22, 2021. A total of 26 eligible applications were received for a total request of \$467,365. Community volunteers, the United Way and municipal staff reviewed the requests in accordance with the CIF criteria. The process included a paper review of the applications and presentations to the review panels done via Zoom. A total of 16 applications were recommended to be funded for a total of \$254,229, with a City of Kingston municipal contribution of \$190,000.

Of the 16 recommended projects, 14 grants are being recommended for funding in whole or in part from City of Kingston funds. Ten (10) projects will be funded solely with the City contribution; four jointly funded and two solely by the United Way. These projects fall outside of the City of Kingston boundaries but within the region. The CIF program represents only one stream of funding provided by the United Way to assist community organizations across the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington region.

Another round of the Community Investment Fund will take place this spring using the 2021 budgeted funds for CIF as well as the additional funds allocated from the Working Fund Reserve approved by Council during budget deliberations in January 2021. The call for proposals will happen in April and staff will report back to Council in June.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

The 2020 operating budget allocated \$190,000 for this grant program. The 2021 operating budget already included a total of \$220,000 in grants for social services programs through the CI

March 23, 2021

Page 4 of 4

Fund Process. As a result of Council's motion during 2021 budget deliberations, there will be an additional amount of \$100,000 added to the social services grants for a total of \$320,000 in 2021.

Contacts:

Cheryl Hitchen, Social Policy & Strategic Community Development Manager 613-546-4291
extension 4806

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

None

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Community Investment Fund Summary Report 2020

**2020 City of Kingston and United Way
Community Investment Fund Summary Report**

Background

United Way KFL&A and City of Kingston have implemented a coordinated process so there is just one application process for disbursing grants, avoiding duplication and reducing the amount of work for organizations who apply for grants. United Way provides the coordination of applications and the volunteer review process with no administration fee or charge to the City.

This joint Community Investment Fund grant application process has been successfully implemented since 2011, with United Way administering the granting process and aligning efforts with the funding priorities of the United Way and City of Kingston. The City of Kingston contributes \$190,000 to this process annually.

The process included a review of the applications submitted online, virtual presentations by applicant organizations, volunteer panel discussions with consensus for funding recommendations (included in this report). City of Kingston and United Way staff participated as non-voting members at the panel meetings. All meetings were held through Zoom. The review process, normally held in the fall, was delayed due to COVID-19, as both the City and United Way agreed it would be better to hold the process in January-February.

This year, volunteers were divided into five panels. A total of 26 eligible applications from 24 agencies were received. All applications were reviewed in accordance with the City of Kingston and United Way Community Investment Fund Guidelines. The total requested amount was \$467,365.

After careful review and discussion, volunteer review panels have recommended funding 16 grants for a total of \$254,229. \$190,000 of these funds is from City of Kingston 2020 operational year budget. Four grants are funded jointly, ten grants are funded solely by the City of Kingston and two grants solely by United Way.

Volunteer Panel Members were Sarah Anderson, Sue Bates, Sharan Bharadwaj, Ryan Bol, Karleigh Corbett, David Detomasi, Danielle D'Souza, Doug Elliott, Lisa Elliott, Erica Faulkner, Michele Finney, Lindsay Gailer, Mary Beth Gauthier, Judy Griffiths, Lucille Groll, Joan Jardin, Sophie Lachapelle, Julia Lynch, Margaret McGowan, Mark Nardi, Corey Prinsen, Valerie Robb, Robert Rittwage, Paul Rosenbaum, Rachelle Seguin, Karen L. Smith, Wendy Stuckart, Andrew White.

City of Kingston and United Way staff participated as a resource at the panel meetings.

- Cheryl Hitchen, Manager, Social Policy & Strategic Community Development for the City of Kingston, served as a resource to the process.
- Bhavana Varma, President & CEO; Kim Hockey, Senior Director Community Investment; Marg Kubalak, Director Community Investment and Chelsea Overstrom, Community Investment Associate.

Summary of Recommendations to Kingston City Council

Helping Kids Be All They Can Be

No. of Applications: 3	Total \$s Requested	\$75,000
No. of Grants Recommended - City Funds: 2	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$22,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area	Neighbourhood Outdoor and Virtual Blended Child Programs	\$9,500
St. Lawrence Youth Association	Specialized Treatment Program for Youth with Concerning Sexual Behaviour	\$12,500
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$22,000

Grant Descriptions

Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area: \$9,500 is recommended for the *Neighbourhood Outdoor and Virtual Blended Child Programs* to provide children ages 6-12 in the East End with weekly developmental stimulation in the Spring (May-June) and Fall (Sep-Oct) with 2 days of outdoor activities and one day or virtual activities. The program will include 5 groups in each session with a total of 300 children expected to participate. Funding is to assist with salaries of the Recreation Leaders.

St. Lawrence Youth Association: \$12,500 is recommended for *Specialized Treatment Program for Youth with Concerning Sexual Behaviour* to provide a community-based specialized treatment program for youth aged 12-24 years old in a safe, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, non-judgmental approach. The program will enhance local mental health services and reduce the risk of inappropriate sexualized behaviour and sexual assault. Youth are assessed by a forensic psychologist and referrals are made through the youth probation office, police, Youth Diversion, lawyers, schools, hospitals, families, and other community services. The program offers police, courts and lawyers a referral source for serious crimes plus an opportunity to divert charges for lower risk youth pending treatment. Funding is for psychologist and counselor fees and minor administrative costs.

One (1) program was not recommended for funding: CNIB.

Building Strong and Healthy Communities

No. of Applications: 17	Total \$s Requested	\$307,748
No. of Grants Recommended - City Funds: 9	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$108,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Almost Home Almost Home	Computer Infrastructure Upgrade	\$ 13,236
KFLA Public Health KFLA Public Health	Dental Treatment Assistance	\$ 25,000
Kingston 4 Paws Service Dogs	New Puppy Acquisition	\$ 4,000
Kingston-Frontenac Public Library	Reminiscing Kits	\$ 7,200
Sexual Assault Centre Kingston	Reducing the Waitlist: Part Two	\$ 12,500
Telephone Aid Line Kingston (TALK)	Digitalization of Volunteer Training	\$ 6,064
Well Suited	Suiting Operations	\$ 15,000
YMCA of Eastern Ontario – Kingston (2 programs)	HVAC Upgrade & Total Life Care Program Space - Flooring	\$ 25,000
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$108,000

Grant Descriptions

Almost Home: \$13,997 is recommended for the *Computer Infrastructure Upgrade* to allow the agency to improve its outdated and inefficient computer infrastructure. New equipment will result in increasing the productivity level of the organization for accounting, fundraising and administrative tasks as well as increasing the network connection available for the residents’ usage. Funding is for purchase of a file server, Mesh System, printers, desktop computers, laptops and software.

KFL&A Public Health: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Dental Treatment Assistance* program that provides emergency dental care for individuals in KFL&A not covered by any dental plan. Treatment is provided at a reduced cost and assists with pain relief and proactive dental education. Individuals can access treatment up to \$200 annually. Funding is to cover the cost of claims-payments to dentists.

Kingston 4 Paws Service Dogs: \$4,000 is recommended for the *New Puppy Acquisition* program to assist with the adoption and training of two puppies as service dogs. These dogs will assist two individuals, living in Kingston and the surrounding area, whose lives are affected by autism, PTSD, other mental health issues, mobility challenges or seizures. Funding is for breeder costs, veterinary costs and food.

Kingston-Frontenac Public Library: \$7,200 is recommended for *Reminiscing Kits: Supporting Caregivers and Community Members with Dementia* that will provide community members with quality, curated resources to help them engage in activities with loved ones who are experiencing varying levels of dementia. Working with the Alzheimer Society, kits will be assembled using the latest information to guide selection of materials and activities, giving both caregivers and their loved ones a means of entertainment, problem-solving, and engagement with their community and each other. Fifty (50) kits will be created and available on loan for 8-week periods from any of the library’s branches. Funding is for the kit supplies, equipment and printing/advertising.

Sexual Assault Centre Kingston: \$12,500 is recommended for *Reducing the Waitlist: Part Two* to increase counselling hours so that clients are seen as quickly as possible at the time when they

Exhibit A to Report Number 21-103

need the assistance. The goal is to ensure that clients are connected with a counsellor within three weeks or less. Funding is to assist with counselors' wages/benefits.

Telephone Aid Line Kingston (TALK): \$6,064 is recommended for *Digitalization of Volunteer Training* program to increase the number of its phone line volunteers using a learning management system. The addition of more volunteers will result in fewer unanswered calls due to lack of capacity and training will be shorter, higher quality and more accessible. Funding is for the purchase of a 12-month subscription for TalentLMS, an online learning management system.

Well Suited: \$15,000 is recommended for the *Suiting Operations* program that provides appropriate work wear/attire to men in need, ranging from clothing for interviews to correct on-the-job clothing (i.e., Work Safety Boots). Clothing can also be provided for attendance at special events, such as funerals, award ceremonies, as well as for those already employed but lacking appropriate attire for their position. Funding is to assist with staff salary, rent and phone/internet.

YMCA of Eastern Ontario – Kingston: \$25,000 is recommended for 2 capital projects, *HVAC Upgrade* (\$14,600) and *Flooring Replacement* (\$10,400) in the space primarily used by the seniors Total Life Care wellness program at the Wright Crescent Facility. HVAC in this area has inadequate and failing air flow and needs to be augmented by fans, resulting in an inappropriate activity space. The flooring also needs replacing as it makes seniors using the space vulnerable to slips and falls. Funding is for replacing the HVAC system and to assist with the cost of replacing flooring in the designated space.

Seven (7) programs were not recommended for funding: Addiction and Mental Health Services – KFLA, Ample Labs, Autism Society Ontario – Kingston Branch, Frontenac-Kingston Council on Aging, H'art Centre of Smiles, Seniors Association Kingston Region, Well Suited – Workshop Operations

Moving People From Poverty to Possibility

No. of Applications: 5	Total \$s Requested	\$84,617
No. of Grants Recommended - City Funds: 3	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$60,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Dawn House	Supportive Housing Program	\$25,000
Dress for Success	Suiting & Client Engagement	\$10,000
Loving Spoonful	Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens Expansion	\$25,000
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$60,000

Grant Descriptions

Dawn House Services & Housing for Women: \$25,000 is recommended for the Supportive Housing Program to increase the Support Worker hours. This program focuses on women who are homeless, vulnerably housed women and marginalized women. The projected outcomes of the program include a reduction in social isolation, a supportive peer community, common spaces, leadership opportunities and tenant engagement. Funding is intended to support an additional 0.5 FTE to retain the same level of services in 2021 as any decrease in services would have a significant negative impact on services provided and the women's progress or stability.

Dress for Success: \$10,000 is recommended for the *Suiting & Client Engagement* program that provides women in need with appropriate work-related clothing, career advice, technology skills, job seeking support, access to educational materials, financial literacy and career building information. Client base is comprised of women of all ages seeking to gain employability skills and find employment to achieve personal goals. Funding is to sustain suiting operations.

Loving Spoonful: \$25,000 is recommended for *Urban Agriculture/Community Gardens Expansion* to encourage home food production through two campaigns: Garden 4 Good and Backyard Hens, and to expand the Kingston Community Gardens Network by an additional 100 allotments on municipal and private lands. The program will encourage new gardeners by offering 150 beginner kits and help establish balcony gardens with easy to grow vegetables. Funding is to assist with 1.0FTE staff position and costs such as insurance, seeds, equipment and items needed to build raised beds.

One (1) program was not recommended for funding: Outlook Camping

Respectfully submitted:

Marg Kubalak
Director Community Investment
United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington