



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 21-189**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Lanie Hurdle, Chief Administrative Officer
Resource Staff: Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Housing and Social Services
Date of Meeting: July 13, 2021
Subject: Community Investment Fund 2021 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 2021, which would normally occur in the fall, was moved ahead to the spring to support organizations as they recover from the pandemic. Council also contributed an additional \$100,000 to the 2021 fund during the 2021 budget process for a total municipal contribution of \$320,000. These additional COVID funds, part of a total one million dollars in support, was described in [Report Number 21-088](#). A total of 27 eligible applications for this process were received in May with a total request of \$584,736. Five review panels were established and a total of 19 grant applications are recommended to be funded with the municipal contribution of \$320,000. Additionally, some requests will be forwarded to the United Way Board of Directors for their consideration. All grants were prioritized based on availability of funds, quality and need for programs especially toward pandemic relief, and reviewed used an EDII lens and impact of services to vulnerable populations.

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Recommendation:

That Council approve the nineteen (19) Community Investment Fund grant recommendations, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 21-189, for a total of \$320,000.

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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

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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 2021 program was moved ahead from the fall to the spring to support organizations recovering from the pandemic. A total of 27 eligible applications were received for a total request of \$584,736. 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 nineteen applications are recommended to be funded with the City of Kingston municipal contribution of \$320,000. The Board of Directors of the United Way will consider funding some of the additional proposals. 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.

All grants were prioritized on availability of funds, quality and need for programs especially towards pandemic relief, and reviewed using an EDII lens and impact of services to vulnerable populations.

The next round of Community Investment Fund grants will take place in the fall of 2022 pending budget approval.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Accessibility Considerations:

None

Financial Considerations:

The 2021 operating budget allocated the annual \$220,000 for the Community Investment Program as well as the additional one-time contribution of \$100,000 to support agencies recovering from the pandemic for a total of \$320,000 for 2021.

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Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

None

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Community Investment Fund Summary Report 2021

**2021 City of Kingston and United Way
Community Investment Fund Summary Report**

Background

United Way KFLA and the 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 of Kingston.

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 contributed \$320,000 to this process, augmenting its annual contribution of \$220,000 with \$100,000 in additional pandemic relief funds. The process which normally occurs in the fall was moved forward to the spring to assist organizations recovering from the pandemic.

The process included a review of the applications submitted online, and virtual presentations by applicant organizations. Volunteer panels discussed the applications and arrived at a consensus for funding recommendations, that were then further reviewed at a special meeting of all panel chairs. All meetings were held through Zoom. The final recommendations from panel volunteers are included in this report. City of Kingston and United Way staff participated as non-voting members at the panel meetings.

This year, volunteers were divided into five review panels. A total of 27 eligible applications from 25 agencies were received. All applications were reviewed in accordance with the City of Kingston and United Way Community Investment Fund Guidelines. The total amount requested was \$584,736. This report summarizes grants for 19 programs for a total of the full amount (\$320,000) approved by Kingston City Council. Additionally, some of the requests will be forwarded to the United Way Board of Directors for approval while others are not recommended for approval. All grants were prioritized on availability of funds, quality and need for programs especially towards pandemic relief, and reviewed using an EDII lens and impact of services to vulnerable populations.

Volunteer panel members included: Sarah Anderson, Sue Bates, Adam Clow, David Detomasi, Danielle D'Souza, Michele Finney, Lindsay Gailer, Mary Beth Gauthier, Simran Gandhi, Lucille Groll, Joan Jardin, Mark Jones, Keshiv Kaushal, Margaret McGowan, Mark Nardi, Erin Nolan, Charmy Patel, Kim Peachey, Corey Prinsen, Melissa Raby, Robert Rittwage, Valerie Robb, Paul Rosenbaum, Rachelle Seguin, Siju Simon, Karen Smith, Wendy Stuckart, Karen Swain.

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 Grants Recommended: 5	Total \$s Recommended:	\$ 60,326
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area	Weekend Programs for Children in the West End Community Hub	\$19,960
Kingston Pride Inc.	Extended Programming, Pride 2021-2022	\$ 8,000
Pathways to Education Canada	Student Parent Support Worker Position	\$25,000
St. Lawrence Youth Association	The Springboard Hub (The Hub) Project	\$ 6,016
Cycle Kingston	Delivering Cycling Courses in 2022	\$ 1,350
	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$60,326

Grant Descriptions

Boys and Girls Club of Kingston & Area (BGC): \$19,960 is recommended for the *Weekend Programs for Children in the West End Community Hub*. This is a 12-week, in-person weekend pilot program for children starting in October. Currently there are no programs running over weekends. Children’s programs will run during the day and subsidies will be available for 10 families each day. Funding is for salaries of essential staff for the children’s program.

Kingston Pride Inc.: \$8,000 is recommended for *Extended Programming, Pride 2021-2022* to include more family-inclusive events, community-led events, youth outreach and programs across Kingston, not just in the downtown core and not just for one day. The funding will be used for events planning, venue bookings, educational speaker series, festival director, promotion, administration (website, domain name, subscriptions), education outreach (data collection on community needs, training on how to create queer positive spaces), and awareness efforts, opening and providing discussion on LGBTQIA2S+ issues.

Pathways to Education Canada: \$25,000 is recommended for a part-time *Student Parent Support Worker (SPSW) Position*. The position will provide students in the Rideau Heights and Inner Harbour catchment areas with a “graduation coach,” or case manager, who acts as the students’ link between home, school, Pathways to Education and other agencies. The funding will be used for the salary of a 0.5 FTE SPSW position from September 2021 to June 2022.

St. Lawrence Youth Association: \$6,016 is recommended for *The Springboard Hub Project* to purchase a Smart Board and stand, plus delivery and installation. The Smart Board technology allows the presentation of 6 educational modules of interactive and engaging programming for youth and training for staff. The modules help youth understand the impact of unlawful activities on their own future, their victims and the community.

Cycle Kingston: \$1,350 is recommended for the *Delivering Cycling Courses in 2022* program to assist with subsidizing bikes and helmets through a subsidy fund. The program aims to offer free,

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3-hour cycling courses in the spring and summer 2022 geared towards school children, older adults and newcomers to Kingston. The courses will be provided by two trained Cycling Ambassadors in May to September 2022.

Building Strong and Healthy Communities

No. of Grants Recommended: 8	Total \$s Recommended:	\$118,674
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Canadian National Institute for the Blind	Connecting with Technology - Phone it Forward	\$ 12,000
John Howard Society of Kingston and District	Court Access and Outreach Program	\$ 25,000
Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest	Gathering All Our Relations, On-the-Land Literacy for Families	\$ 11,585
Kingston Interval House	Supportive Housing Coordinator	\$ 25,000
National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly	Kingston HomeShare	\$ 12,253
Resolve Counselling Services Canada	EAP and Consulting Services for Businesses Impacted by COVID	\$ 12,500
Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac	KFL&A Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol	\$ 14,486
YMCA of Eastern Ontario – Kingston	Y Penguins Swim Program	\$ 5,850
	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$118,674

Grant Descriptions

Canadian National Institute for the Blind: \$12,000 is recommended for the *Connecting with Technology - Phone It Forward* program for the cost of refurbishment, preparation and redeployment of smartphones to 20 clients with sight loss, and staff time for user training. Phones are donated from corporations and individuals to CNIB where they are wiped using certified erasure software and loaded with accessible apps. Program participants receive 10-15 hours of group and one-to-one training on the use of their device.

John Howard Society of Kingston and District: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Court Access and Outreach Program* to support individuals in conflict with the law, who may also be living in poverty, be homeless, or not stably housed. The program will focus on access to justice while identifying and remediating the correlation between failure to appear in virtual court and lack of digital access during and post-pandemic. Funding will provide 0.5 FTE staff support to assist with navigation of the criminal justice system, administration costs and purchase of one laptop and two tablets.

Kingston Indigenous Language Nest: \$11,585 is recommended for the *Gathering All Our Relations, On-the-Land Literacy for Families* program to provide a community-led, land-based project to mitigate the negative impact of social distancing through cultural and social reconnection, early literacy and ceremony for children and their families in an Indigenous Food Sovereignty garden setting. The weekly half-day program will focus on storytelling, structured and unstructured

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play, ceremonial practices and gardening. Funding is for Early Childhood Education program staff to launch the program and prepare future grants for sustainable funding, program materials, transportation, honorarium gifts for the Aunties/Grandmothers and the cost of promotion, insurance, etc.

Kingston Interval House: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Supportive Housing Coordinator (SHC)* position. The funding will be used for 0.5 FTE SHC salary for one year at Robin's Hope transitional housing for women and their children who have left domestic abuse situations and have moved from the shelter to this second stage housing. The SHC supports women and their families to integrate safely back into the community. This includes assistance with housing applications, coordinating moves in/out, inspection of units, food delivery, donations for clients, and cleaning/sanitizing at Robin's Hope.

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly: \$12,253 is recommended for the *Kingston HomeShare* program that pairs older adults aged 55+ with post-secondary students seeking safe, affordable housing. The program aims to close the gap between research and practice of social isolation, intergenerational relationships and overcoming barriers of aging. Funding is intended to hire a 0.25 FTE Virtual Community Coordinator for one year to implement virtual programming and activities for those waiting to be matched. The program is currently running in Kingston with seniors and students matched and has a waitlist of people interested in participating.

Resolve Counselling Services Canada: \$12,500 is recommended for the *EAP and Consulting Services for Businesses Impacted by COVID* pilot that will provide counselling services to businesses with 10 or less employees, similar to Employee Assistance Programs available in larger businesses. The program will support mental health needs of small business workers through individual counselling as well as workshops, and management consultations for both employers and employees. These will help them manage difficult feelings and distress, including depression, anxiety and isolation. Funding will assist with staffing i.e. therapists, intake workers and clinical staff.

Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac: \$14,486 is recommended for the development of an *Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol* to eliminate duplication of services and allow community and justice partners to provide stable, predictable and safe levels of service through a wraparound approach. The development of the protocol will provide support to victims/survivors of human trafficking by helping them exit their situation, recover from trauma, integrate back into society and reduce/eliminate the possibility for re-victimization. Front line workers will have trauma and victim informed approaches to support victims/survivors. The funding will be used to hire a consultant to develop and write the protocol for KFL&A. Additionally, funding will be used to train agencies on use of the protocol.

YMCA of Eastern Ontario: \$5,850 is recommended for the *Y Penguins Swim Program* to cover coaching and equipment costs. The program serves children with physical disabilities and their able-bodied siblings, providing them with opportunities to explore their abilities, build their confidence to achieve goals, be physically active and socialize.

Moving People From Poverty to Possibility

No. of Grants Recommended: 6	Total \$s Recommended:	\$141,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funds Recommended
Dawn House Services and Housing for Women	Evening Wellness Support Program	\$25,000
Elizabeth Fry Society Kingston	CARE: Court Accompaniment, Referral & Education	\$25,000
Kingston Community Health Centres	Seniors' Food Boxes	\$25,000
Loving Spoonful	Community Harvest Gardens	\$25,000
Resolve Counselling Services Canada	Women's Financial Empowerment Program	\$20,000
St. Vincent De Paul Society of Kingston	Meal Program	\$21,000
	Total City \$s Recommended:	\$141,000

Grant Descriptions

Dawn House Services and Housing for Women: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Evening Wellness Support Program* to provide staffing from 6:00pm-10:00pm seven days a week. Currently there is staffing during day-time hours and staff are called in frequently. The agency has seen an increase in panic attacks and anxiety among the women residents, with an increased number of police calls and Mobile Crisis team calls, especially in the evening after staff have left. Evening staff will provide emotional and mental health supports and de-escalate negative behaviours and situations, especially those aggravated by the pandemic.

Elizabeth Fry Society Kingston: \$25,000 is recommended for *CARE: Court Accompaniment, Referral & Education* program to fund the project lead position, program supplies and transportation. This program will support women facing criminal charges and/or matters before family court, as well as women who are victims and required to appear in court. Such support includes providing preparation for court, referrals to services, advocacy through follow-ups, basic needs items and legal information sessions conducted in a safe, women-only hub. The program has previously been operated successfully, however sporadically, by volunteers and staff, as and when some dollars were available. This funding will allow consistent response and support.

Kingston Community Health Centres: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Seniors' Food Box* program to provide low-income seniors aged 55+ with a monthly free box of fresh produce and dry goods delivered to their door. The program uses volunteers to call ahead and deliver these boxes; often being the only contact many seniors have. Funding will be used to purchase food for 1,000 boxes at a reduced cost, to be distributed bi-weekly to low-income seniors in need. This program helps alleviate food insecurity and social isolation by providing interaction with volunteers during delivery.

Loving Spoonful: \$25,000 is recommended for *Community Harvest Gardens* to expand the agency's urban agriculture program by establishing and managing four Community Harvest

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Gardens throughout the city. New garden locations are at Shannon Park in Rideau Heights, at the Collins Bay Institution and several options for 2 more locations in Central/Inner Harbour area. The City currently funds a full-time staff position i.e. a community gardens coordinator with Loving Spoonful, and provided \$25,000 in funding for the expansion of community gardens in the last CIF grants round earlier this year. This funding has been requested to support an additional 0.5 FTE Community Harvest Gardens Coordinator who will plan and manage the gardens and engage and train volunteers. The gardens will supply Fresh Food Market Stands where people can pay what they can afford for fresh produce and will also support agencies that provide meal programs.

Resolve Counselling Services Canada: \$20,000 is recommended for the *Women's Financial Empowerment Program* to support women leaving abusive relationships by helping them develop their financial literacy and furthering their healing process. The program will provide one-on-one counselling, workshops and focus groups. The funding will support staff costs for the development, delivery and evaluation of the program, and gift cards for women participating in the focus groups.

St. Vincent De Paul of Kingston: \$21,000 is recommended for the *Meal Program* that provides take-out meals each weekday to those living in poverty, suffering homelessness and those facing mental health challenges. The agency anticipates an increased demand for its program in the fall. Funding is to cover the additional cost of food and take-out containers due to the anticipated increase and need for meals.

Respectfully submitted,

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