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WINTER NEEDS PROGRAM IN YORK REGION

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, December 17, 2003, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The following report be received for information by Committee and Council.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to inform Committee and Council of the Community Development Investment Funds Winter Needs Program funding for 2003/2004.

3. BACKGROUND

In 2002/2003, York Region, in partnership with funding available through Human Resources Development Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives, (SCPI) fund; provided an opportunity to community agencies to apply for funding under the Winter Needs Program. A request for proposals was put out to agencies in the community and six agencies were funded.

The goal of the initiative is to enhance the services and infrastructure of community agencies in York Region who serve homeless and those at risk of homelessness. It provided one of the few opportunities for agencies serving the homeless to access funding for minor capital items and improvements.

Due to the success of this program, in 2003/2004 York Region's Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) allocated additional funding to the Winter Needs Program. This report outlines the process and allocations for the 2003/2004 Winter Needs Program.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Winter Needs Program annually provides a one-time opportunity for community agencies to receive funding for the purchase of supplies such as food, furnishings and appliances. As well, capital improvements to facilities, emergency shelter, and transportation have also been requested.

This funding will benefit homeless and at risk individuals and families in our community including youth to women and children who are victims of violence.

In October 2003, a request for proposals was put out to community agencies. The agencies selected for this year's funding are located in various municipalities ranging from the northern to southern parts of the Region.

Table 1 outlines the projects funded for 2003/2004:

Table 1
Winter Needs Program

Agency	Municipality	Project Name	Amount Funded
Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region	Aurora/ Markham/ Newmarket/ Georgina	Identification Clinic	\$7,000
Transit Georgina	Georgina	Movement for Food Security: transportation	\$7,000
Krasman Centre	Richmond Hill	Winter-Warmth: transportation/ supplies	\$3,000
Yellow Brick House	Aurora	Supplies and Support	\$4,254
Transitional and Supportive Housing Services	East Gwillimbury	Supplies and Fire-Safety Upgrades.	\$7,000
Pathways for Children Youth and Families	Richmond Hill	Program Supplies	\$3,600
Newmarket Youth and Recreation Centre	Newmarket	"Keep them Warm": Supplies	\$7,000
Crosslinks Housing and Support Services	Aurora	Homelessness/ Housing Initiative: Supplies	\$7,000
Temple Har Zion	Markham	Out of the Cold: Supplies	\$7,000
St. Luke's Parish	Markham	Out of the Cold: Supplies	\$7,000
Thornhill United Church	Markham	Out of the Cold: Supplies	\$7,000
Jaffari Islamic Centre	Richmond Hill	Out of the Cold: Supplies	\$7,000
TOTAL			\$73,854

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On April 18, 2002, Regional Council adopted the Community Funding Strategy. Funding for this initiative was approved in the 2003-business plan and budget. A total of \$73, 854 was allocated to the Winter Needs projects through the Community Development Investment Funds.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

As a response to community need, funding is made available to community agencies providing service for all York Region residents including youth to women and children who are victims of violence.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region, through its Community Development Investment Funds, is able to provide funding to community agencies that enables them to provide basic necessities such as transportation, warm clothing, hot meals, and shelter to our most vulnerable residents.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.