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UPDATE ON THE NEW AGENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated September 3, 2009, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute the Purchase of Service agreements with the successful agencies, who applied under the New Agency Development Fund, subject to review by Legal Services.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to spend the balance of remaining New Agency Development funds on activities and projects contemplated by the Council approved New Agency Development Fund Strategy.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks approval for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to be authorized to execute the Purchase of Services agreements with the successful agencies and provides an update to Council on the implementation of the New Agency Development Fund (NADF). This report also seeks approval for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to allocate any remaining NADF funds that may become available during the course of 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

Funding to support new and emerging agencies

On June 19, 2008, Regional Council approved the development of a new funding strategy directed at building the capacity of the new and emerging community-based social services agencies with an annual funding amount of \$500,000 with the adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No.5 of the Community Services and Housing Committee. This new funding strategy is known as the New Agency Development Fund.

On November 20, 2008, Regional Council approved the New Agency Development Fund Strategy and process, including goals and objectives, eligibility criteria, selection process, timelines and reporting and monitoring requirements through the adoption of Clause No.4

of Report No. 7 of the Community Services and Housing Committee.

The intent of NADF is to support the organizational development and capacity building activities of new and emerging agencies who meet the established eligibility criteria.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Purchase of Service Request calling for proposals from new agencies

On June 8, 2009, through the Supplies and Services Branch of the Finance Department, Community and Health Services released a Purchase of Service Request to the community requesting proposals from new agencies, five years old or younger, and who wish to provide service in York Region. The Purchase of Service Request was based on the Council approved eligibility criteria, department priorities and funding availability. Funding requests were capped at \$45,000 per agency.

The communication strategy for this Purchase of Service Request included:

- a) Information posted June 8, 2009 on York Region's website under the Community Development web page.
- b) An email announcement of the release of the Purchase of Service Request with a link to the document download page. This was sent on June 8, 2009 to approximately 80 potentially eligible community agencies.
- c) In addition, to ensure broad dissemination among the Region's diverse communities, newspaper advertisements were placed in a variety of newspapers covering all of York Region as highlighted in Table 1:

Table 1
Ads Placed Promoting the Availability of NADF

Publication
The Auran
Russian Canadian Info (Russian)
King Weekly
Salam Toronto (Farsi)
Iran Javan (Farsi)
Gazata Plus (Russian)
York Region Media Group
Urdu Times (Urdu)
World Journal (Chinese)
Sing Tao (Chinese)
Nasha Canada (Russian)

- d) An information meeting jointly hosted by the Community and Health Services Department and the Supplies and Services Branch, was held on Monday June 15, 2009. The meeting provided details on the Purchase of Service Request, how to complete the application and answered any additional questions the community agencies had with regard to the purchase of service process, NADF eligibility criteria, the priority areas for funding, the application process and submission requirements. To maintain an open and fair process all the questions and answers provided at the information session were shared with all applicants—whether or not they attended this session. These questions and answers were also posted on York Region’s Website.

The Request for Proposals closed on July 9, 2009, and a Selection Committee comprised of York Region staff, other regional funders and a GTA government representative evaluated the proposals based on department approved evaluation criteria and eligibility requirements. On July 21, 2009 the recommendations by the Selection Committee were approved by the Commissioner of Community and Health Services. The attached table outlines the approved projects (*see Attachment 1*).

Allocation of New Agency Development Funds

In total, nine projects were recommended to receive funding through NADF in 2009 resulting in a total investment to the community in the amount of \$313,768. As outlined below, the remaining funds of \$186,232 will be used to implement this program. Proposals were received from all over York Region from ethnically diverse communities who have not previously applied for or received funding from the Region. The approved funding requests ranged from very new agencies just starting out who wish to strengthen their capacity, to those that want to expand or strengthen services they currently offer. In 2009, NADF funding will provide support to new agencies to build their capacity and in return additional support services will be provided to York Region residents.

Maximizing the Potential for New Agency Independence

The support to new and emerging agencies is extremely intensive, requiring a significant amount of time and resources to ensure the agencies are successful and remain on track. The remaining funds of \$186,232 will be used to support mandatory professional development activities that will be developed specifically for the needs of new agencies approved under NADF and to provide target supports to suit each agency’s unique growth needs. One-on-one supports in areas such as board of directors’ development and governance, legal management regarding by-law development and incorporation, as well as a series of mandatory professional development seminars will be provided. These seminars will be tailored to enhance the operational capacity of the agencies to maximize their potential for independence. Topics will include; financial management, measurement and performance improvement, risk management and proposal development. These seminars will strengthen the operations of the individual agencies

enabling the agencies to not only grow and serve residents but to access additional funding streams for program enhancement and development.

This will also be an excellent opportunity for the Region to refine and develop supports before the second call for proposals takes place in early 2010. Agencies currently funded under NADF will be eligible to receive funding for more than one year based on individual project outcomes.

Annual report to Council including accomplishments

The Community and Health Services Department will execute and monitor the agreements with the selected agencies to ensure prudent use of resources and to support the new agencies in establishing themselves and successfully serve residents of York Region.

As stated in the November 20, 2008 report, the Community and Health Services Department will report annually to Committee and Council on NADF. The report will contain information such as the agencies funded, number and description of projects, as well as agency accomplishments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved 2009 Operating Budget includes \$500,000 for the New Agency Development Fund and all of the activities outlined in this report will take place within the approved Operating Budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

NADF is directed at building the capacity of the new and emerging community-based social services agencies. The fund provides an opportunity for new agencies all over York Region to obtain funding and build the service system of supports in York Region. In particular, agencies located in southern York Region, including a variety of ethno cultural communities, are able to access funding not only to develop capacity but to provide culturally diverse services. The NADF strategy will support and strengthen new agencies and allow them to successfully move on to other funding opportunities so that the agencies can continue to serve the community.

7. CONCLUSION

The New Agency Development Fund will provide much needed funding opportunities for new and emerging York Region based community social service agencies and assist in addressing needs and service gaps in York Region.

For more information on this report, please contact Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Managing Director, Strategic Service Integration and Policy Branch at Extension 2150.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report).

UPDATE ON THE NEW AGENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND STRATEGY

No.	Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Amount
1	Canadian Multicultural Links Association	Webpage in English and Chinese of York Region Information	The project is to establish and maintain a new Webpage in Chinese and English to assist families, children, youth, residents, immigrants and newcomers in York Region.	\$ 44,426
2	Chabad Youth Network	TFE/ Teens for Community	The agency will hire a co-ordinator to engage approximately 30 youth to develop leadership skills by having them assist in developing and implementing a variety of community activities in Thornhill such as distribution of holiday gift baskets, food and clothing drives, recreational activities, services for the elderly, a bowl-a-thon and other tournaments and compiling and distribution of first aid kits	\$ 25,800
3	Eating Disorders of York Region	Emotion in Motion	The agency will print a directory of resources for eating disorders. READ ME, and use the directory as a tool for presentations to teachers and to present and provide the material to individual schools. The goal is to increase awareness and demand of service in York Region	\$ 43,460
4	First Chinese Senior Associate of Vaughan	Family Integration Harmony in Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration	The agency provides programs and activities to seniors in Vaughan and is requesting funding to become incorporated and the associated costs to do so. The agency wishes to hold a mid-autumn festival as part of the promotion of the program.	\$ 45,000
5	Fuerza Latina Community Services	Smart Chats – S-CHATS	Providing support to at risk youth in the Vaughan area. Using the principles of the Circle Processes, the project will provide a safe and friendly environment where youth can participate/network and have meaningful conversations to discuss important issues and topics.	\$ 20,000

No.	Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Amount
6	Healthy Start, Healthy Future	Life with Baby	Providing peer support to new parents in particular new mothers who feel socially isolated or who are experiencing post partum mood disorder.	\$ 44,100
7	John Howard Society of Ontario	Establishment of the John Howard Society of York Region	Under the name of the John Howard Society (JHS) this group is looking to incorporate as their own independent entity in York Region. JHS provides support to individuals in conflict with the law and those at risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system.	\$ 44,692
8	Welcoming Arms	Charitable Number	To enable the agency to engage legal services to receive charitable status and other items associated with becoming incorporated. In addition, costs to expand the role of the program coordinator to facilitate these activities will be included.	\$ 19,640
9	York Region Youth Outreach	Youth Initiative Markham Outreach	The program will offer a variety of recreational/sport programs to youth in the Markham area, addressing the needs of new immigrants and low income families. The agency plans to obtain more gym and office space, create and implement programming to services the needs of young athletes at any stage of development, create a program co-ordinator position to have a more co-ordinated approach to a structuring model and recruit, train and certify coaches. Create a mentorship system for the coaches.	\$ 26,650
	TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED:			\$313,768