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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND (CDIF) WINTER NEEDS PROGRAM IN YORK REGION 2005/2006

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, November 17, 2005, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report is to inform Council of the Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) Winter Needs Program funding for 2005/2006.

3. BACKGROUND

Since 2002, York Region has provided an opportunity to community agencies to apply for funding under the Winter Needs Program. Each year a Request for Proposals is put out to agencies in the community and this year 17 applications were received for funding.

The goal of the initiative is to enhance the services and infrastructure of community agencies in the Region who serve homeless and those at risk of homelessness. It provides 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 over the past several years, the Region's CDIF has continued to allocate additional funding to the Winter Needs Program. This report outlines the process and allocations for the 2005/2006 Winter Needs Program.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The Winter Needs Program annually provides an opportunity for community agencies to receive funding for the purchase of items for distribution to clients such as food, winter clothing, furnishings, transportation tickets, and resource information. Funding has also been approved for minor capital improvements to facilities, which serve homeless and at risk residents, such as the emergency shelters and drop-in centres.

On September 26, 2005, a Request for Proposals was issued to community agencies, with a closing of October 14, 2005. The maximum allowable funding under the Program is \$8,000. A total of 17 proposals were submitted from agencies and all applicants have received funding for at least part of their proposals.

Attachment 1 outlines the Winter Needs initiatives for 2005/2006.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In April 18, 2002, Council adopted the Community Funding Strategy. Funding for this initiative was approved in the 2005 Business Plan and Budget. A total of \$100,000 was allocated to the Winter Needs Program as a department approved initiative under the Community Development Investment Funds Strategy for 2005.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

As a response to community need, funding is made available to community agencies providing services for vulnerable York Region residents including youth, young mothers, families and those with physical and mental health issues.

7. CONCLUSION

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was circulated with the Committee Agenda)