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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT FUND AND NEW AGENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND – NEXT STEPS

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends that:

- 1. The presentation by Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Director of Policy and Program Support Services and Monica Bryce, Manager, Program Funding and Communications be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report, June 3, 2008 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services be adopted.**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed initial steps for developing and implementing an enhanced Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) for 2009 and beyond, and the creation of the New Agency Development Fund.

In September 2008, a complete report will be presented for Council approval outlining how an expanded CDIF Strategy and New Agency Development Fund Strategy may be implemented.

3. BACKGROUND

Funding enhancements address funding pressures and agency development needs

The objective of the CDIF Strategy is to purchase a range of priority community services with clear and measurable outcomes from eligible innovative community agencies. Returns on each investment in community services are expected within one year. These services are delivered to vulnerable residents and priority is given to projects that address identified community service gaps in the Region. Council previously approved the CDIF Strategy on April 18, 2002, through the adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No. 4 of the Community Services and Housing Committee. The Strategy has been very well received

by community agencies and has been successful in establishing much needed services for residents with low to moderate incomes.

Now in its fifth year, CDIF directly benefits between 35,000-38,000 individual residents and their families each year and has enhanced the community services available to residents in all of York Region's communities. The CDIF Strategy has successfully established the framework for an equitable and transparent process to purchase community services and manage funds to community-based social services.

However due to the increasingly rapid and diverse population growth in the Region, it became clear to Regional Council that CDIF was under funded and unable to adequately purchase community services and sponsor projects that keep lower income residents contributing to the economy and community. This also resulted in insurmountable pressure on agencies to meet the need for community-based supports for vulnerable residents and appropriately address the increasingly diverse needs of the community.

In addition, Regional Council wanted to put the Region in a position to better serve current and future resident needs by supporting newer agencies that are emerging to meet the needs of the diverse population.

To address these concerns, the 2008 operating budget included community investment funding enhancements to:

1. Lessen the growing pressures on CDIF and allow it to more adequately respond to the growing, complex service needs of the community.
2. Support the development of newer, less established community agencies to facilitate the development of appropriate services as the Region continues to become more demographically diverse.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Enhancing community investments for current and future years

The additional community investment funding approved by Regional Council is an opportunity to build on CDIF's success while maintaining the core framework that has worked so well. It is also an opportunity to create an entirely new strategy to support smaller, newer agencies.

Specifically, Council has approved three key approaches to investing in longer-term, stable and sustained community support. The Region will:

1. Continue to invest strategically in a variety of needed supports that provide tangible results within one year.
2. Provide renewable funding (two to three years) for agencies that meet criteria proving they provide a core community wide service.

3. Develop the capacity of smaller, newer agencies to respond to emerging needs and diverse services through the creation of a New Agency Development Fund.

These strategies will be developed further over the next few months in consultation with the community to identify the most effective ways to meet the changing needs of the community as Council intended.

The process for enhancing the CDIF Strategy

The CDIF Strategy will continue to work within the framework of mandated community services to ensure that the Region does not fund programs that other levels of government are responsible for. The established three priority funding areas of Family and Children's Services, Homelessness Programs, and Employment Supports will continue to provide the framework for eligible projects. This is in keeping with the Region's mandate for social services and will reinforce CDIF's role of purchasing services that complement the Region's role and invest in a strong network of community-based services. Regular monitoring of these projects will also continue.

The enhanced funding approved for 2008 through the budget process will be allocated to projects by the Commissioner of Community and Health Services based on the Regional Council's delegated authority for in-year project approvals.

The revised CDIF Strategy for 2009 and beyond will be developed through consultation and presented for endorsement to Regional Council in September 2008. Upon endorsement by Regional Council, a CDIF Purchase of Service request will be released in the fall of 2008 for projects to be implemented in January 2009. This will allow the process to move forward so agencies are in a position to proceed as usual, in January, with projects purchased through the CDIF Strategy.

Developing the New Agency Development Fund Strategy and operating procedures

CDIF is a competitive process designed to deliver tangible, guaranteed returns on the Region's purchase of community services within one year. This is crucial in a Region with limited community services. It is however very difficult for newer, smaller agencies to qualify.

The New Agency Development Fund will be a new purchase of service strategy with eligibility criteria that would give newer, promising agencies the opportunity to access funding that would make an important contribution to their successful growth and service delivery. Additional supports could be provided to assist agencies in the areas of: agency governance, financial management, strategic planning, program management and sustainability, and the provision of professional development inputs.

In developing the New Agency Development Fund Strategy a number of criteria will be considered, including:

- Agency eligibility, funding criteria, timeframe, and accountabilities
- Legal and risk management issues
- Agency development opportunities

Regional staff will conduct consultations on the New Agency Development Fund and present a strategy to Regional Council in September 2008.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has no additional financial implications. The activities described above will take place within budget approvals for CDIF and the New Agency Development Fund. The total money approved for community investment in 2008 is \$5.1 million. In 2009 with the additional annualized initiatives approved in the 2008 budget, the total for CDIF will be \$5.5 million. In addition, 2009 funding available under the New Agency Development Fund is \$0.5 million.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

CDIF projects benefit residents of all nine local municipalities. CDIF projects also strengthen and promote community volunteerism. Using this funding to strategically purchase services from the agencies that are best equipped to deliver them helps vulnerable residents in a variety of ways with the aim of making them active contributors to their local communities and economies. The New Agency Development Fund will, over time, further strengthen the ability of residents to access community based services.

7. CONCLUSION

The CDIF Strategy is a key mechanism for strengthening families and keeping or getting residents employed and sheltered. It also promotes a strong social services delivery system in York Region. The enhanced funding approved for CDIF and the new funding approved for the New Agency Development Fund will allow the Region to respond to increasing needs for community services resulting from the Region's diverse and rapidly growing population.

In September 2008, a complete report will be presented for Council approval outlining how an expanded CDIF Strategy and New Agency Development Fund Strategy may be implemented.

Report No. 5 of the Community Services and Housing Committee
Regional Council Meeting of June 19, 2008

For more information on this report, please contact Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Director of Policy and Program Support Services Branch at Ext. 2150.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.