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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY: RENEWABLE PROJECTS

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, December 4, 2008, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report outlines the community service projects that will receive funding under the Renewable Funding Stream of the Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) Strategy for up to three years, beginning in January 2009. Through the adoption of Clause No. 2 of Report No. 6 of the Community Services and Housing Committee, on September 18, 2008, Regional Council delegated authority for approval of projects to receive renewable funding to the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

3. BACKGROUND

Council approved CDIF expansion includes renewable funding for eligible agencies

The objective of the CDIF Strategy is to purchase a range of priority community services with clear and measurable outcomes from eligible community agencies. The additional community investment funding approved by Regional Council (Clause No. 1 of Report No. 3 of the Community Services and Housing Committee) on April 24, 2008, is an opportunity to build on CDIF's success while maintaining the core framework that has worked so well. One key area of CDIF expansion is the opportunity to provide renewable funding (of up to three years) to agencies that meet criteria proving that they provide a core community-wide service.

The services to be purchased through the renewable funding stream have received CDIF funding for three years or more and have proven track records of successfully helping vulnerable and low income residents. Renewable funding will enable these services to continue uninterrupted to assist low-income residents in these areas.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Eligibility criteria for renewable funding emphasize proven track record of successful service

As one element of the larger CDIF Strategy, Council created the renewable funding stream to provide agencies who deliver core programs or services with a proven track record of success, a period of up to three years of stabilized funding. This will allow agencies to further enhance their services by creating improved efficiencies of service, attracting and retaining high calibre staff and delivering service in a consistent manner. With this in mind, the eligibility criteria were developed to ensure that agencies who receive this funding could achieve these outcomes.

In order to be eligible for renewable funding under CDIF, an agency must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the broader strategy and projects must address one of the three priority funding areas established by CDIF. The priority funding areas are:

- Homelessness Programs
- Family and Children's Services
- Employment Supports

In addition, to be considered for renewable funding, projects must meet the following specific criteria:

- Services must be a vital and core component of the community service system in York Region and directly benefit vulnerable York Region residents.
- Services must have a proven track record of success in the community and must have received funding under the Community Development and Investment Fund for a continuous period of at least three years.
- Agencies delivering the core services must have the organizational capacity and financial viability to optimize renewable funding through cost effective programming, enhanced service delivery and sustainability planning.

Renewable funding will be made available to successful applicants for a maximum period of up to three years based on the program achieving annual targets and objectives.

Renewable funding applicants followed CDIF purchase of service process

The annual CDIF Purchase of Service Request issued September 18, 2008 enabled community-based social services agencies to apply for the regular one-year CDIF funding stream as well as the new renewable funding stream.

The process for determining the projects that will receive renewable funding for up to three years starting in 2009 followed the same process that has been successfully used for

the CDIF One Year Project Funding since its inception. This enabled the Region to issue one purchase of service request and use one communications strategy to let the community know about the changes to CDIF. Furthermore, this ensured that any eligible projects that did not meet the additional renewable funding eligibility criteria could be automatically considered for the regular one-year CDIF funding stream using the same application.

A key activity under the communications strategy was an Information Meeting jointly hosted by the Community and Health Services Department and the Supplies and Services Branch, on Friday October 3, 2008. The meeting outlined the features of the enhanced CDIF and answered questions from community agencies with regard to the Purchase of Service process, CDIF eligibility criteria, the priority areas for funding, the application process, and submission requirements. To maintain an open process and a level playing field the answers provided at the Information Session were shared with all Purchase of Service applicants – whether or not they attended this session.

In all, 12 eligible proposals totalling \$2,052,727 were received for renewable funding at closing of the Purchase of Service Request on October 23, 2008. The total amount of funding available for renewable projects starting in 2009 is \$1,400,000. One project was not recommended for renewable funding and was referred to the CDIF one-year funding stream.

Projects receiving renewable funding fill important service gaps

All eligible proposals were evaluated by the Community and Health Services Department and external funders from other levels of government and the not-for-profit sector. The evaluation and selection process was facilitated by the Supplies and Services Branch.

The Selection Committee scored each proposal based on the criteria established by Regional Council including agency effectiveness; agency financial management; agency capacity; project benefits in the priority areas; project methodology and activities; project costs and budget, and project/program sustainability. The Selection Committee also sought to:

1. Identify strong projects which focused on the clients that the Department is mandated to serve in each of the priority areas (Homelessness Programs, Family and Children's Services and Employment Supports).
2. Avoid project and service duplication.
3. Provide services to residents throughout York Region.

Each of the agencies recommended by the Selection Committee for renewable funding have a successful track record of service delivery with the Region under CDIF. The projects are well known in the community, provide crucial services that get or keep residents working or housed and support families. The recommended projects were

presented to the Commissioner of Community and Health Services for approval as per the authority given by Council on September 18, 2008.

In order to provide funding to as many projects as possible, the Selection Committee also recommended modifications to the proposals that will receive funding. The total value of the projects approved for 2009 is \$1.4 million. Each of the approved projects will be eligible for the same amount of funding in 2010 and 2011 providing that they meet annual targets and service delivery objectives set out in their purchase of service contract. This means that the full amount of renewable funding under CDIF is committed for the next three years. As such, renewable funding will not be available again through CDIF until 2012.

Over 14,000 vulnerable and low income residents will receive service from CDIF renewable funded projects annually

The following projects were approved for renewable funding beginning in January 2009:

Table 1
Approved Renewable Funding Projects

	Agency	Project	Amount
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region	Mentoring Across Ages and Cultures	\$52,101
2	Blue Door Shelters	Community Housing Support Worker	\$174,000
3	Catholic Community Services of York Region	Multi-Cultural Family Support Project	\$109,850
4	Citizens for Affordable Housing	Housing Help Centre	\$108,081
5	Citizens for Affordable Housing	ID Clinic	\$206,701
6	Loft Crosslinks Housing & Support Service	York Region Street Outreach Program	\$280,000
7	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers	Housing Support	\$65,000
8	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers	Young Families Outreach	\$134,396
9	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter	Employment and Educational Support	\$83,500
10	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter	Housing and Community Supports	\$66,000
11	York Region Food for Learning/Family Day Care Services	Food for Learning	\$120,371
Total			\$1,400,000

All CDIF projects are routinely monitored by regional staff. The projects listed above will be subject to an ongoing monitoring and quarterly reporting process, and agencies

will be advised that funding beyond the first year will be conditional upon achieving annual targets and objectives.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Regional Council approved an initiative to provide renewable funding under CDIF within the 2008 Operating Budget. This initiative allows for \$1.4 million in renewable funding for community-based projects starting in 2009. This report identifies those projects that will receive this funding.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Vulnerable and low income residents in all nine area municipalities will benefit – there will be measurable benefits to York Region as a whole. Renewable funding will give these agencies a source of stabilized funding for up to three years which will ensure that services are available for residents from each municipality and strengthen the community service network in the Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The additional CDIF funding approved by Regional Council in 2008 offered an opportunity for the Region to purchase additional services from community-based social services agencies for low income and vulnerable York Region residents. Renewable funding in particular will enable agencies to create improved efficiencies of service, attract and retain high calibre staff and deliver enhanced service in a more consistent manner. Regional Council will be advised on the results of the enhanced CDIF Strategy as a whole, including the renewable funding stream through the CDIF Annual Activity Report.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.