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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY: 2012 RENEWABLE AND ONE YEAR PROJECTS

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated October 28, 2011, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the full list of community service projects included in *Private Attachment 1* under the Community Development and Investment Fund Strategy for both the renewable and one year funding streams and that the Region enter into Purchase of Service agreements with the agencies for such projects after due diligence verifications are complete.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services or delegate be authorized to execute the Purchase of Service agreements with the successful agencies, subject to review by Legal Services.
3. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to allocate any new or related Community Development and Investment Fund Strategy funds that may become available during the course of 2012 to projects and activities that fall within the framework of provincial guidelines and the Community Development and Investment Fund Strategy and that the Commissioner be authorized to execute Purchase of Service agreements with agencies that meet this criteria.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests approval to fund projects under both the three year renewable and one year funding streams of the Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) Strategy included in *Private Attachment 1*.

3. BACKGROUND

The CDIF Strategy, approved by Council on April 18, 2002 through the adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No. 4 of the Community Services and Housing Committee, provides funding for community services delivered by eligible community agencies. The

focus of the CDIF Strategy is on service delivery and on the three priority areas of employment supports, family and children's services, and homelessness programs.

CDIF provides funding to core community social service programs within York Region

Through the adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No. 3 of the Community Services and Housing Committee on April 28, 2008, Regional Council approved an enhancement to the CDIF Strategy that included renewable funding (up to three years) for services that are core components of the York Region community services system.

CDIF's two funding streams include a three year renewable funding stream and a one year funding stream. The CDIF renewable stream is intended for programs and services with a proven track record of success and provides up to three years of funding. This stream allows agencies to enhance their services by creating stability and improved efficiencies of service, attracting and retaining staff, and delivering uninterrupted service. In order to be eligible for renewable funding, an agency must meet all of the CDIF eligibility criteria and projects must provide services within one of the three priority funding areas. In addition, 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 low income York Region residents; for example providing housing support services to those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.
- Services must have a proven track record of success in the community and must have received funding under CDIF 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.

The second funding stream provides agencies with up to 12 months of project funding. This funding stream is intended for newer programs that may not yet have a proven track record of service and do not meet the additional criteria for the renewable funding stream. Projects and agencies must meet all the eligibility criteria of the CDIF Strategy and must provide services within one of the three priority funding areas.

CDIF Strategy enables more residents to access needed services

In 2010, based on evaluations submitted, 76,000 residents were served through CDIF funded projects. This has more than doubled since 2004, when 30,000 residents benefited from CDIF programs. Funding has had a significant impact on the lives of many residents and assisted them by ensuring a variety of social services supports are available. As noted in *A Profile of York Region's Low Income Population*, there is a growing low income population in York Region.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Communications strategy informs community about the Purchase of Service Request

The annual CDIF Purchase of Service Request process has been administered by the Region's Supplies and Services Branch of the Finance Department since 2003.

The invitation for proposals was released to the community on August 4, 2011. Community-based social service agencies were able to apply for one year or renewable funding within the same process. By including both funding streams through the same Purchase of Service Request, agencies needed only to complete one application. This ensured that any projects that applied for, but were not successful in receiving renewable funding, could automatically be considered for one year funding.

Email announcements were also sent to more than 100 agencies and advertisements were placed in a variety of newspapers, including ethnic media. In addition, an information meeting was held for interested community agencies on August 18, 2011.

Fifty-eight requests for CDIF funding were received, exceeding the amount available

Upon closing of the Purchase of Service Request on September 8, 2011, 58 proposals were received requesting over \$6.7 million (see Table 1).

Table 1
Results of Purchase of Service Request

Funding Stream	Total Requests Received	Total Funding Requested (million)	Total Funding Recommended (million)
Renewable	24	\$3.5	\$1.9
One year	34	\$3.2	\$2.7
Total	58	\$6.7	\$4.6

All proposals were evaluated by staff of the Community and Health Services Department as well as by representatives from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the United Way of York Region. Collaboration with these external funders has not only contributed positively to the evaluation process for the Region, but has also leveraged funds in the community. In some cases, this has resulted in agencies being referred to another funding source.

Each proposal was scored using the criteria approved by Regional Council. Criteria include agency effectiveness, financial management and capacity, project benefits, methodology, budget and project sustainability. The Selection Committee also sought to identify projects which focused on service delivery to clients without duplication and focused on low income residents throughout York Region.

The recommended renewable and one year projects for 2012 funding will provide a wide range of services across the Region

The 15 recommended renewable projects outlined in *Private Attachment 1* totalling \$1,934,122 will provide community services to low income residents for a period of up to three years. Each of the recommended projects will be eligible for funding in 2013 and 2014 providing that they meet annual targets and service delivery objectives set out in their Purchase of Service agreement. The full amount of renewable CDIF funding is committed for the next three years. As such, renewable funding will not be available again through CDIF until 2015 unless additional funds are added.

The 31 recommended one year projects outlined in *Private Attachment 1* totalling \$2,720,488.10 will provide for programs from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Next steps for implementing renewable and one year project funding

Following approval of the recommended renewable and one year projects, Regional staff will begin the contracting process with successful agencies. This includes ensuring agencies are in compliance with Legal and Risk Management requirements, preparation of Purchase of Service agreements and defining payment and reporting procedures. Regional staff will work with agencies to ensure targets and financial obligations are

being met. All agreements will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis throughout the term of the agreement.

As required by the CDIF Strategy, a report to Regional Council outlining the outcomes of the 2012 projects will be submitted to Council in Spring 2013.

Review of the CDIF Strategy and processes is underway

In order to ensure that CDIF and the Region's other community investment initiatives are successful in meeting their goals, a review of the program is underway. The review will examine how York Region's funding strategies can more directly support the broader strategies such as Making Ends Meet, the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy, the 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan and Vision 2051. It will also look at the current funding priorities, selection process and administration of the Region's community investments. The review is expected to be completed by the end of 2011 and a report will be prepared for the Community and Health Services Committee in early 2012. Any transition to a new program or methodology will be phased in over time.

Link to key Council-approved plans

The CDIF Strategy directly supports the strategic priorities to "Improve Social and Health Supports" and "Increase the Economic Vitality of the Region" and related objectives and indicators of success of the 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan. Projects funded through CDIF assist low income residents to access much needed social service supports and basic needs. The services funded through CDIF programs also help to increase the employability of residents through the provision of pre-employment supports.

The CDIF Strategy contributes to the goals of the Community and Health Services Multi-Year Plan (MYP) by investing in community-based social service agencies across the Region. One of the approved actions under the MYP for 2011 was an increased investment of \$619,000. Through these programs and services residents are able to access employment supports, family and children's services, and services that assist them if they are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These investments directly support the following MYP goals:

Goal #1 - Contribute to Regional economic vitality by helping low income residents with access to basic needs, and with finding and keeping jobs

Goal #4 - Strengthen our neighbourhoods now and in the future by supporting children, families and youth to fulfill their potential

Goal #5 - Foster social inclusion and economic opportunities by addressing the needs of a growing and diverse community

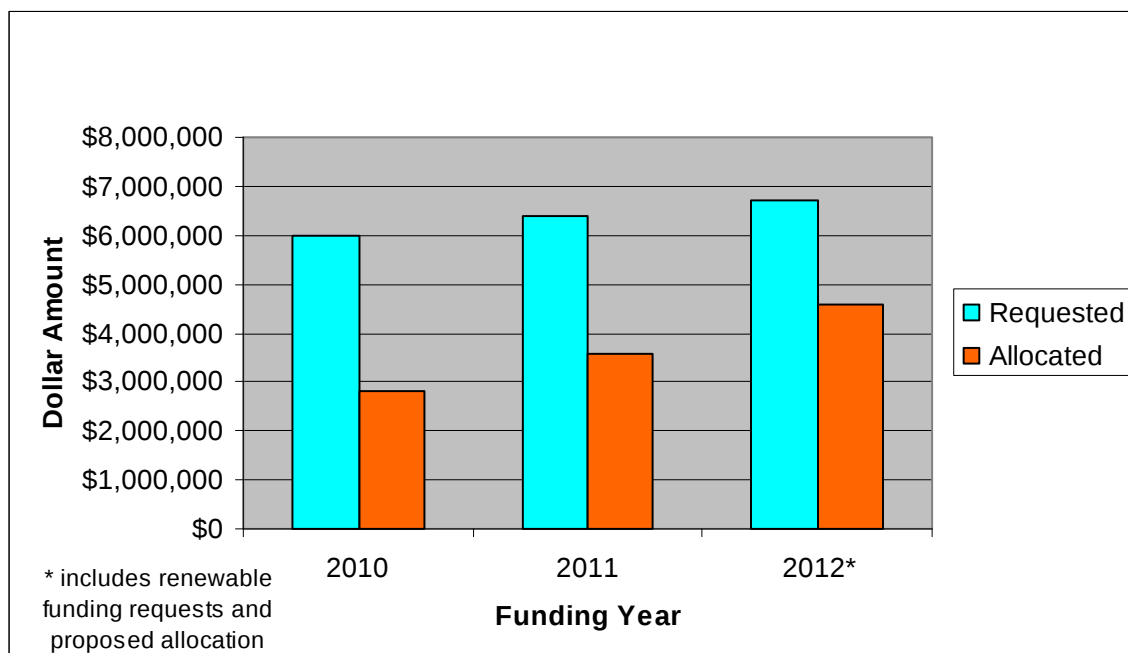
CDIF can also provide a key support to the work being undertaken by both the Human Services Planning Board's Making Ends Meet initiative and the York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy. As the goals of these two initiatives are aligned with the goals of the MYP, many of the recommended CDIF projects for 2012 will move the Region closer to achieving the overall result areas.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All CDIF funding is managed within the Department's base budget

The total funding for both funding streams is managed within the annual approved budget allocation for CDIF within the Community and Health Services Department's operating budget. The demand for CDIF funding has consistently exceeded the amount of funding available (see Figure 1). The introduction of the renewable stream has helped to stabilize community-based programs in the short term; however, the demand for services in the community continues to increase as does the Region's population and in particular the low income population. A request for an additional \$250,000 is included in the proposed 2012 budget and is reflected in the MYP enhancements. This enhanced funding will be used to increase community investment and augment professional development capacity building activities.

Figure 1
CDIF Dollar Amount Requested vs. Dollar Amount Allocated



6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

CDIF focuses on projects that prevent residents from requiring more expensive crisis supports and helps low income residents. In 2010, over 76,000 York Region residents from all local municipalities directly benefited from these CDIF funded services.

Investments made through CDIF in 2012 will result in tangible benefits to residents in all nine local municipalities.

The CDIF Strategy successfully builds on existing community supports by fostering partnerships in every municipality. In addition, the extensive use of community volunteers increases the return on funds invested and builds the capacity of the volunteer sector.

7. CONCLUSION

The CDIF Strategy continues to make a positive difference to low income residents across the Region and has established the framework for an equitable and transparent process to distribute and manage funds in the community.

The services funded by CDIF help residents keep and find work, and provide families with options to stay in the workforce. Other services actively prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless or help those who are homeless to find and keep housing. CDIF investments directly benefit residents and also contribute to the advancement of important goals, priorities and community results in the 2011 to 2015 Strategic Plan, the Community and Health Services Department's Multi-Year Plan, the Human Services Planning Board of York Region's Making Ends Meet initiative and the York Region Local Immigration Partnership's Immigration Settlement Strategy.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Acting Managing Director, Strategic Service Integration and Policy Branch at Ext. 2090.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The private attachment referred to in this clause is enclosed separately.)