

Good day,

On behalf of the region, the Municipality of North Cowichan recently submitted a grant application (A Place for Everyone to Call Home) to the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Fund 2022. As a regional application, we require your support for this project through the provision of the recommended motions (see below).

The purpose of 'A Place for Everyone to Call Home' is to develop a coordinated, post-pandemic, regional response that builds on lessons learned through Covid 19, works within a collective impact framework, and is guided by the social determinants of health. The application supports the development of two day-time service centres (separate centres for women and men) that will provide support, a point of contact into the service system, and a place for unsheltered people in the area to be during the day. Currently, there is well over 100 unsheltered individuals in the Cowichan Valley. As can be typical with unsheltered populations, they gravitate to the core of the region. This creates difficulties for businesses and residents in the area who are challenged to manage the impacts of street homelessness in their neighbourhood and surrounding community. These day-time service centres will be located within Duncan and will be attached to existing homelessness and related services sites to ensure that they will fit well in the community. In addition, the funding will also support a position to help plan and do the work necessary to implement a post-covid homelessness response for the region.

There are two documents attached for your information/review. The first document is the report written for the Municipality of North Cowichan regarding the application, and the second is a summary of the proposed project.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the submission of a regional application by the Municipality of North Cowichan for the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Fund 2022.

And further,

That Council approves the primary applicant to apply for, receive, and manage the grant funding on their behalf.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

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Report

Date April 20, 2022

File:

Subject Cowichan Housing Association Grant Application

PURPOSE

To consider the submission of a regional grant application on behalf of the Cowichan Housing Association.

BACKGROUND

Late on April 14, 2022 staff received an email asking that Council consider submitting a regional application with a deadline of April 22 on behalf of the Cowichan Housing Association (CHA) to the Strengthening Communities Services Grant program administered by UBCM. As a community driven project, the CHA Board also needs to consider taking the lead and will do so at their meeting on April 21, 2022. With the tight timelines, North Cowichan is being asked to consider this request in advance of this decision.

The grant, totalling \$600,000, would provide semi-permanent daytime shelter options and the basics of day shelter plus warming and cooling spaces for the unsheltered homeless population. This would build on the services being provided through the grant application North Cowichan submitted for the temporary shelter spaces and services on Trunk Road.

DISCUSSION

The previous grant application that North Cowichan submitted on behalf of the CHA was taken on because the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) did not have the capacity. Each year, the CVRD requisitions on behalf of the CHA and receives a small administrative fee (\$6,000) for this work; however, they have declined to submit the grant application.

The grant does address some of Council's objectives through the Community Safety Response Model Gap Analysis and the Community Safety Plan and is aligned with regional objectives.

There are costs associated with North Cowichan taking this on. There are the direct staff costs related to submitting the grant, signing the agreement, establishing a funding agreement with the CHA, making sure all of the paperwork is done, etc. There are also costs associated with receiving the funds, making the transfers to the CHA and ensuring that our auditors review transactions. By submitting the grant application, we take on liability and responsibility for the grant.

OPTIONS

(Staff are not providing a recommended option)

THAT Council *[choose either option 1 or option 2]*:

- (1) direct staff to work with the Cowichan Housing Association to submit a grant application to

the Strengthening Communities Services Program in an amount up to \$600,000;

AND THAT, should the application be successful, the Cowichan Housing Association be required to enter into an agreement with the Municipality of North Cowichan with respect to the use of the funds.

- The grant application does align with Council’s objectives by providing needed services. In order to qualify for the requested amount of grant funding, resolutions would be required from the CVRD, City of Duncan, Town of Ladysmith and Town of Lake Cowichan naming the Municipality of North Cowichan as the primary applicant. Should any of these parties not agree to the resolution, the application would need to be amended to fall within the authorized funding limits.
- (2) not support the Municipality of North Cowichan as the primary applicant for the Cowichan Housing Association’s Strengthening Communities Services Program grant application.
- Should one of the other local governments agree to be the primary applicant, North Cowichan would likely be asked to pass a resolution authorizing that local government to be the primary applicant. This is necessary as only one application per local government is permitted under this program.

IMPLICATIONS

All grant applications come with costs. Staff time and effort are required to review and submit grant applications, process and forward payments, review, and submit progress and final reports. It is impossible for staff to estimate the cost that would be incurred for this application; however, the benefits to the region should be considered in conjunction with these costs.

The resolution does include the requirement for CHA to sign an agreement with the Municipality with respect to the use of the funds to help limit the liability of the Municipality.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council *[choose either option 1 or option 2]*:

Report prepared by:



Talitha Soldera, CPA, CGA
Director, Financial Services

Report reviewed by:



Sarah Nixon
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: UBCM April Proposal Brief Enhancing Services Grant Outline from CHA

UBCM Enhancing Services Grant

A Place To Be

Activities

1. To provide daytime warming and cooling spaces for unhoused people.
Current shelter policies require unhoused people to leave sites during daytime hours and people have nowhere to be resulting in disruption to businesses and in public spaces throughout the region. In some cases, this looks like RV's or vehicles camped on roadsides, in others, tents outside of businesses and congregations of people set up in public spaces. Altercations with bylaw business and the public are ongoing concerns with people when they simply have no where to go. In addition to the norm of freezing temperatures in the winter months, we are now faced with a growing number of extreme weather events including wind storms, flooding, smoke from forest fires, and over the past year learned new terms due to heat domes and atmospheric rivers. During the times of these events, unsheltered people are often left with little to no daytime shelter options.

This project is intended as a pilot to provide semi-permanent daytime shelter options that can be moved if required and will provide the basics of day shelter plus provide warming and cooling spaces.

- One daytime space for vulnerable women supported by Cowichan Women Against Violence
 - One daytime space for general unhoused population
 - At these spaces people will be provided with a place to be between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm 7 days per week that will provide washrooms, shade and cooling in the summer and heat in the colder months. It will serve as a place for people to keep warm and will allow outreach teams and health care providers and service providers a place to directly connect with unsheltered people during daytime hours.
 - The space will be staffed with two people onsite plus one security position.
 - This will enhance the safety of vulnerable community members and will positively impact both businesses and residents as vulnerable unhoused people will have a place to go during the day to have their basic needs met.
 - Provide access to washrooms and hand washing stations
2. Provide a coordinating position oversee planning, staffing at the daytime shelters and provide facilitation of the Cowichan Homelessness post covid task force to coordinate to look for permanent locations for shelter, land site, transition work etc. Coordinator will work with business to mitigate concerns, would plan anti stigma workshops and presentations and work with peer coordinators to enhance relations in the community.
 3. To assist Cowichan Women Against Violence to renovate a kitchen at the women's shelter to support the ability to be able to provide food for women accessing services.
 4. To provide laundry passes for unhoused people to reduce the amount of discarded clothing in the region.

Outcomes

- Less people will be on the streets where currently there are NO options
- Increase safety in neighbourhoods
- Decrease negative interactions with bylaw
- Decrease stigma
- Help alleviate mental health and wellbeing of community and unhoused people
- Reduction of feces, urination and public spaces being used for washrooms
- Decreased garbage
- Decrease number of instances of open drug use
- Concerns about impact of toxic brain injury and anoxic brain injury from poisoned drug supply resulting in unpredictable behaviours could be reduced by providing people a place to go
- Improved coordination between partners
- Providing a gathering place where service providers can work together but also have access to individuals
- CWAV- CMHA- allows them time to develop shared responsibilities amongst organizations and determine how to develop shared service delivery model.
- A “doer” to follow up on action items. Facilitate coordination of partners to continue to develop the community strategy with identified needs and priorities

Estimated Budget is 600,000

This funding is meant to enhance the funding for the Village project by providing some of the basic services to the remaining approx. 83 people in our region who remain unhoused at this time.