



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 24th, 2008
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RTS No.: 7565
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 16, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Managing Director of Social Development
SUBJECT: 2008 Civic Child Care Grants: Allocation 3 of 3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the following 2008 Civic Child Care grants:

- i. Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant of \$20,078 to the Vancouver Society of Children's Centres;
- ii. Program Development Grant of \$3,500 to Kitsilano Day Care Society;
- iii. Program Development Grant of \$3,500 to Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House;
- iv. Program Development Grant of \$3,500 to Little Mountain Neighbourhood House

Source of funds to be the 2008 Child Care Grants Budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1990, Council approved the Civic Child Care Strategy which set out to:

- support the viability, accessibility and quality of existing child care services;
- assist child care initiatives in high need areas;

- encourage and support efficient, coordinated administrative services required for a child care system in Vancouver to lever other sources of child care funding, whenever possible.

In 2003, Council approved the strategic plan “Moving Forward” - Child Care a Cornerstone of Child Development Services, which set out a vision of child development hubs in each community in Vancouver.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval for one Research, Policy Development and Innovations Grant to the Vancouver Society of Children’s Centres and three Program Development Grants to Kitsilano Day Care Society, Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House and Little Mountain Neighbourhood House for a total of \$30,578.

BACKGROUND

Since the early 1990’s, Council has provided funding for a number of small one-time-only grants to non-profit child care societies to facilitate local research and innovation (Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant), assist with new program development (Program Development Grant) and support programs that experience financial instability (Program Stabilization Grant) as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Each year, staff receive requests from non-profit societies for these project funds. Grant categories and the specific requests are described below.

DISCUSSION

Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant

This grant supports new child care research, policy and other projects whose aim is to improve practice throughout the city.

The Vancouver Society of Children’s Centres (\$20,078)

The City has been a leader in facilitating socially sustainable communities through the creation of public amenities such as child care. In 1994, the Vancouver Society of Children’s Centers (VSOCC) was created by the City to operate child care in city-owned facilities in the downtown district. VSOCC has gained valuable experience and knowledge in opening and operating new city owned child care facilities.

The grant amount for \$20,078 would enable the Vancouver Society of Children’s Centre to increase the capacity of non-profit organizations less experienced in opening and operating new child care centres. This will be accomplished by:

- Gathering together all of VSOCC’s considerable experience with opening a new child care centre into a tool box, and;

- Undertaking a pilot project to provide training and consultation services to a non profit organization proposing to operate one of the city's new child care centres.

The materials developed and tested through this process will be available to any child care operators proposing operating new facilities in the future.

Program Development Grant

The Program Development Grant is for non-profit organizations that are developing new or expanding licensed group child care, preschool, or out-of-school care. The grant is to help pay non-capital costs to assess community needs, incorporate and license a centre, policy and procedural development, staff recruitment, board development and to fundraise for capital costs and operate during start-up phase. Grants are to cover the costs of opening a new facility or expanding existing services.

Kitsilano Day Care Society (\$3,500)

Kitsilano Day Care Society was founded in 1972 to operate a 25 space non-profit child care centre for children aged two-and-a-half to school age. The Centre is located on land owned by the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House. These two organizations have worked closely together to provide quality services for children. Kits House has given the Day Care notice to end the lease for June 30, 2009, as they are making plans to redevelop their three properties. The Day Care Society is committed to finding a new facility in order to maintain, if not increase, their 25 spaces. The Program Development Grant of \$3,500 will assist the Day Care board and staff to find a new site and conduct capital fundraising.

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House (\$3,500)

Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House operates a 30 space school-age child care program at Nootka Elementary School in East Vancouver. Due to increasing demand, Frog Hollow is expanding the program to 40 spaces. The Program Development Grant of \$3,500 will support costs involved with expanding the program such as the new license, permits, additional procedures development and staff recruitment.

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House (\$3,500)

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House is applying for a Program Development Grant to support the expansion of their Out of School Care program from 30 to 40 children. The Grant of \$3,500 will support costs such as advertising, interviewing, staff training and meeting licensing requirements.

Program Stabilization Grant

No applications were received for a Program Stabilization Grant. As such, funding was re-allocated to the Program Development and Research and Innovation Grant budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On April 15, 2008, City Council adopted the final 2008 Operating Budget, which included a 1% general inflationary increase to the Child Care Grant Budget. The 2008 budget for the Civic Childcare Grants is \$1,115,162, of which \$1,084,584 has been allocated. Approval of the four grants recommended in this report will leave no balance remaining in the 2008 Child Care Grants Budget.

Program	2008 Budget	Approved Allocation (RTS #7324)	Approved Allocation (RTS#7399)	Recommended Allocation (RTS#7565)
Childcare Enhancement Grants	\$750,030		\$750,030	0
Program Stabilization	\$10,000			0*
Program Development	\$5,578			\$10,500
Research & Innovation	\$15,000			\$20,078
City-Wide Support Services	\$224,220	\$224,220		0
Administration of City-Owned Facilities	\$110,334	\$110,334		0
Total	\$1,115,162	\$334,554	\$750,030	\$30,578

**No applications were received for a 2008 Stabilization Grant so staff are recommending allocating these funds to the Program Development and Research and Innovation Grant.*

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Access to affordable, quality child care is important to creating inclusive, socially sustainable communities. Child care increases parents labour force participation, aids in healthy child development, and supports economic growth. These grants will support the development of 20 new school-age spaces, the relocation and preservation of 25 licensed group spaces and support the opening and delivery of 49 quality, licensed, group spaces.

CONCLUSION

This is the third of three reports related to the allocation of the 2008 Civic Childcare Grants. The Social Development Department is recommending Council approval for:

- One Research, Policy Development and Innovation Grant - \$20,078 for the Vancouver Society of Children's Centres
- One Program Development Grant - \$3,500 for Kitsilano Day Care Society
- One Program Development Grant- \$3,500 for Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House
- One Program Development Grant- \$3,500 for Little Mountain Neighbourhood House

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