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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"Singh, Sandra" <Sandra.Singh@vancouver.ca>
Date: 7/6/2020 2:51:14 PM
Subject: Questions on Council Report - Community Housing Incentive Program Grants

Dear Mayor and Council,

I received some advance questions regarding the Community Housing Incentive Program report scheduled for this week. Please see below for staff responses.

Q: Is the funding derived all or in part from the EHT?

The total \$25M CHIP budget is comprised of: \$17M from Empty Homes Tax funding and \$8M from DCLs allocated towards housing.

Q: If not, is there opportunity to have the funding come from the 2021 EHT?

There may be an opportunity to seek additional funding from the 2021 Empty Homes Tax fund to expand the CHIP program should the level of interest exceed the program's current approved budget. Applicants will be expected to meet CHIP's objective of deepening affordability in social housing projects and align with other Council housing priorities, as well as achieving land use/regulatory approvals within the capital budget cycle (2019-2022).

Q: Is the funding derived from DCL's and the % allocated to housing?

\$8M of the total \$25M CHIP budget is derived from DCLs allocated towards housing.

Q: Is the funding not from EHT or DCL's and comes specifically from tax funded/borrowing for capital?

The CHIP funding does not come from tax funded/borrowing for capital.

Q: Is the report were to pass, is the funding expected to be disbursed in 2020 and to come from this year's capital budget?

The funding will be disbursed when each project achieves building permit issuance. There may be 1 or 2 projects achieving this milestone in 2020, but it is more likely that the funds will actually go out in 2021.

Q: Further, can Council get a sense of how the CHIP program worked? What was the number and diversity /range of applicants received? Who applied? How many received funding? How many didn't and who were they?

The CHIP grant application is done on a rolling intake basis, in recognition that each social housing project will be at a different stage in the development process. We received a significant amount of interest after the launch, possibly due to the increased grant amounts and the timing of the BC Housing funding call. Currently, we have received 11 applications, and prioritized projects that had their land use/regulatory approvals in place to advance for Council approval. These are the 4 projects being put forward for consideration. We anticipate providing 4-5 more "approval-in-principle" letters (not legally binding) to support our non-profit partners in accessing funding opportunities from other levels of government, with the caveats around securing land use approvals, financial review and final Council approval. A range of non-profit/co-op housing providers submitted applications, serving a variety of household types such as urban Indigenous, seniors, women fleeing violence, individuals living with mental health and/or addictions, and co-op housing for families.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.