The City of Vancouver is seeking additional Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the 2018 Social Innovation Project Grants program. **Deadline for receipt of EOIs is Friday, September 28, 2018**.

PLEASE NOTE: this call is for City of Vancouver funding only.

The **Healthy City Strategy** sets out 13 aspirational goals, 22 targets and 45 indicators for tracking the overall health of the City. To learn more about the Healthy City Strategy please visit www.vancouver.ca/people-programs/healthy-city-strategy. To move the dial on these measures, we know there is a need for innovation and that we require different ways of thinking and acting to significantly make progress on complex issues.

While we will consider EOIs dealing with a range of social issues, this year we are particularly interested in projects that deal with one or both of the following issue areas:

1. **Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors**
2. **Applying an "Indigenous lens" to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous projects.**

What does the City mean by the term 'social innovation'?
There is no universally-agreed upon definition of social innovation but, in general, a socially innovative approach:

- addresses social issues through learning, testing and/or experimenting with new strategies to positively affect change;
- impacts broader social, political and/or economic contexts in relation to an issue(s);
- explores what might work to trigger longer term systems change, rather than implementing "program models" with known actions and clear end points; and
- recognizes that, while the long-term goals of a social innovation might be defined, the path to achieving those goals may be much less clear.

In the context of Indigenous communities, 'innovation' may more often take the form of looking back to old traditions and rediscovering how those teachings show both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities the way forward.

What is the amount of a SIP grant?
The total budget for the 2018 SIP grant stream is $200,000, of which $32,000 is targeted for social innovation in the food system, drawing on Indigenous knowledge, skills, and relationships.

The number of projects we will fund - and, therefore, the size of any one grant - will be determined largely by the number of EOI we receive. For example, in 2017 we funded one food systems project for $32,000, and three other projects at $100,000, $50,000 and $12,000. You can find details of the funded projects online at 2017 Social Innovation Project and Other Social Grants.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The Lead Organization is a registered non-profit society, community service co-op or social enterprise wholly owned by a non-profit and in good standing with the Registrar of Companies; OR a registered charity, in good standing with the Canadian Revenue Agency.

2. The Organization has an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers. No staff member can be a voting member of the Board or Executive.

3. The Organization's by-laws must have provisions that no Board member can be remunerated for serving as a director.

4. The organization must demonstrate accommodation, welcomeness and openness to people of all ages, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identities (including trans*, gender-variant and two-spirit people), ethnicities, cultural backgrounds, religions, languages, under-represented communities and socio-economic conditions in its policies, practices and programs, except in instances where the exclusion of some group is required for another group to be effectively targeted.

5. The Organization shall not act in the capacity of a funding body for, or make grants to, other groups or organizations.

6. The Organization must have the demonstrated functional capacity and sufficient financial resources to deliver the services or programs for which funding is sought.

Projects must:
- Be one-time only (1 to 2 years duration);
- Advance City priorities and strategies;
- Focus on innovation;
- Be pilot or start up initiatives;
- Target gaps and emerging needs;
- Leverage additional resources from other funders and/or institutions; and,
- Demonstrate partnerships with other community organizations.

Format of the EOI
Your EOI should be submitted electronically (in Word format) to the address below and be no more than three pages long (no attachments). While brief, you should address the following questions in your submission:

1. What is the systemic issue your project will address?
2. What do you want to learn through this project?
3. How will those most impacted by the issue being addressed be engaged in the needs/ gaps identification and project design?
4. Briefly, describe what project activities will occur and over what time period. *Note: City of Vancouver SIP funds must be spent within 2 years of the date the grants are approved by City Council.*
5. What is the evidence – research literature, documented practice, input of the people or communities most affected by the issue, etc. – that is informing the project activities?
6. How will you track and document what you are doing and assess the impacts of your actions?
7. How will you know whether or not what you are doing is resulting in productive change?
8. Why do you believe 'the time is ripe' for your project? i.e., what leads you to believe there is openness to change in the existing system?
9. Who will you partner with and how will partners be involved?
10. What resources – financial and otherwise - will you need to support your project?

What will the City be looking for when reviewing your EOI?
- A clear statement of the question you are trying to address through your project.

- A clear description of the social issue you want to address and how and why you believe the project you are proposing will make a difference.
- A clear and concise description of the approach and activities your project will take to achieve its goals.
- Evidence of how you have/will engage people who will be most impacted by the project.
- Evidence that the lead organization has the capacity to manage the project.
- Openness to changing work culture, structures and activities based on learnings through the project.
- Strategies for documenting process/change/results.
- Documented demonstration of strong community partnerships.
- Openness to collaboration and learning with others.
- Leveraged resources from other funders and/or institutions.

Are there types of projects/activities that the City will <u>not</u> consider funding?
- Existing ongoing projects/programs and/or those seeking replacement of funding cuts from another source.
- Projects that are clearly wholly or primarily within the mandate of another level of government or funder (e.g., medical system, employment training).

How to Submit Your Expression of Interest
- Please email your EOI to: socialpolicygrants@vancouver.ca no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, September 28, 2018.
- Please be sure to include the lead organization's full address, plus the name, position and contact information for the person authorized by the organization to submit the EOI.

What Happens Next?
EOIs will be reviewed by City staff and select applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal for a Social Innovation Grant. Those invited forward will be notified by October 5, 2018. Full applications will be due by October 31, 2018. Based on their review of the full applications, City staff will bring recommendations forward to City Council in December. *Note: City of Vancouver SIP funds must be spent within 2 years of the date the grants are approved by City Council.*

Questions?
Please contact Eric Kowalski at eric.kowalski@vancouver.ca, 604-871-6780.

Additional Sources/Resources

Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Seniors in Vancouver (SILAS): Strategies for Reduction and Prevention – May 2018
https://www.timescolonist.com/islander/island-voices-solutions-for-loneliness-require-innovation-vision-1.23419435

Social Innovation and Indigenous Communities (McGill 2015).
https://www.mcgill.ca/isid/files/isid/uakn-paper-social-innovation-and-Indigenous-communities-march-2015.pdf

Indigenous Innovation Summit Report 2015
http://nafc.ca/wp-content/themes/nafc_new/assets/summit2015/assets/pdf/NAFC_IISReport2015_Web.pdf