

Community Development Grants

Policy Type: GOVERNANCE PROCESS

GP-F.2.6

Council supports the facilitation and distribution of community development grants to community-based entities to support the achievement of outcomes, which contribute to the purposes of The City, as defined by Council's Purpose Statements.

The Community Development Grant Program is designed on the following:

1 Relationship Principles

- (1) **Equity:** Fair and just treatment and access to opportunity for all people and organizations.
- (2) **Leadership:** Leadership is essential to adopt and sustain best practices.
- (3) **Collaborative Action:** Collective efforts are necessary and are most effective when organizations build from their strengths, jurisdiction, and capacity.
- (4) **Participation and Diversity:** Genuine public participation is representative, informed, and welcoming of diverse perspectives.

2 Process Principles

- (1) **Equity:** Provide a process for the fair and equitable allocation of limited City resources.
- (2) **Use of Principles and Evidence:** Using guiding principles and the best available evidence makes our vision more achievable.
- (3) **Integration:** Social, cultural, economic, and environmental goals are interrelated.
- (4) **Learning and Adaptation:** Experience, research, analysis, and flexibility are critical to long-term success. Understanding the effects of external forces and changing values helps to address risk, maximize opportunities, and maintain the capacity to adapt.
- (5) **Timeliness:** where reasonable, being proactive to address changes before they become issues.
- (6) **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Reported measured outcomes of a program will be considered when awarding funds. All funds will come with an expectation of outcome reporting.
- (7) **Transparency:** The funding adjudication process will be transparent. Applicants will be informed of the results of the funding process and will receive feedback on why their application was or was not successful.

3 Priority Setting Principles

- (1) **Leadership:** Support decision makers in making thorough and effective decisions in challenging situations.
- (2) **Use of Principles and Evidence:** Structure decision-making considerations so that supporting goals, principles and information (subjective and objective) can be clearly understood and related to the decision.
- (3) **Timeliness:** Guide decision-makers to prioritize early orientation approaches where feasible as a means of reducing the need for later intervention measures, aiming at root cause solutions.

In addition, Council supports Community Development Grants within:

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- 4 Funding Themes
 - (1) Social Development
 - (2) Sport and Recreation
 - (3) Art and Culture
 - (4) Economic Development
 - (5) Environmental Initiatives
 - (6) Indigenous Priorities

- 5 Funding Streams
 - (1) Administration should endeavor to fit any new grant programs and services into the following for alignment
 - (a) Innovation and Community Development Enhancement Project Grants
 - (i) The purpose of this short-term funding, up to a maximum of two years, is to support a multitude of groups in developing and implementing projects or programming that responds to new and/or arising needs or responds to the needs of the community.
 - (ii) The successful distribution of Innovation and Community Enhancement Projects Grant funds will lead to:
 - (A) Red Deerians having access to unique programming that addresses new and arising issues in innovative ways.
 - (B) Red Deerians having access to programming and services provided by a variety of community-based entities, including those that represent smaller minority concerns.
 - (C) Unique and underserved needs within Red Deer are met.
 - (D) New programs and services becoming available to community members from a broad range of service providers. Community-based entities are able to implement programs and services without the need for larger competitive and more formal funding structures where possible.
 - (E) Community-based entities feeling supported by The City in their efforts to have a community presence, regardless of the size, reach, and success of their application. The City will continue to engage with unsuccessful applicants to allow more entities to build capacity and a presence.
 - (b) Community Development Strategic Investment Grants
 - (i) The purpose of this funding is to support programming that is in alignment with the City's strategic goals and vision, as well as to promote Red Deer's vibrant civic life to residents and investors. These funds provide stable funding for a multi-year set term.
 - (ii) The successful distribution of Community Development Investment Grant funds will lead to:
 - (A) Red Deerians having access to programming that is in alignment with the broader strategic goals and guiding documents of The City.
 - (B) Improved community well-being (as a result of funding that is in alignment with corporate goals and strategies such as the Social Policy Framework,

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Greater Downtown Action Plan, Environmental Master Plan, Community Housing & Homelessness Integrated Plan, etc.)

- (C) Community-based entities having access to funding that advances their work towards The City's goals and vision.
- (D) Funding continuing to advance the positive relationship between The City and community-based entities.
- (c) Community Development Service Delivery Grants
 - (i) The purpose of this funding is to ensure that Red Deer has thriving, sustainable, and equitable services that have improved cost efficiency, expertise and capacity by being delivered by a community-based entity.
 - (ii) The successful distribution of Community Development Services Grant funds will lead to:
 - (A) Red Deerians having access to affordable services.
 - (B) Red Deerians benefiting from the presence of a thriving nonprofit sector that provides consistent and predictable services.
 - (C) Well informed services that benefit from the ongoing relationship between community-based entities, The City, and the community at large.
 - (D) The steady, ongoing, and transparent funding of community-based entities providing key services.
 - (E) Community-based entities having increased capacity and the ability to plan for the future thanks to stable and adequate funding.
- (d) Emergency Community Development Operating Grants (For not-for-profit entities)
 - (i) Funds to cover unexpected financial crises existing for not-for-profit entities. Funding is not to be provided on an ongoing basis. Not-for-profits entities must exhibit an intent towards attaining sustainability beyond City funding and must have a plan to accomplish this.
 - (ii) The successful distribution of Emergency Community Development Grant funds to not-for-profit entities will lead to:
 - (A) Red Deerians benefiting from stable programming and the presence of not-for-profit entities.
 - (B) Red Deerians having continued access to programs and services that have measured and positive reported outcomes.
 - (C) Not-for-profit entities having access to emergency stabilizing funds that enable the application of or access to other sources of funds.
 - (D) Not-for-profit entities clearly understanding the role of The City's support in a financial emergency.
 - (E) Not-for-profit entities in crisis having the opportunity to pivot in the face of the unexpected.

6 Governance

- (1) Unless directed by other Council policies, bylaws or legal agreements, Council directs administration to develop, document, execute and award community development grants in adherence to these policy statements.

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7 This Policy is not intended to provide capital grants and loans as outlined in GP-F-2.1 Capital Grants

Document History:

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Policy Revised	July 10, 2023