

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK – OCTOBER 2021

The Community Investment Fund invests in local initiatives delivered by not-for-profit community agencies and other partners. These initiatives target gaps in the delivery of human services, complement or enhance Regional programs, and deliver on policy priorities set by Regional Council.

The Region is committed to strengthening community capacity and social infrastructure to improve the ability of communities to identify and respond to the needs of residents.

Priority Groups

The Community Investment Fund will focus on supporting projects that address the needs of residents from marginalized and vulnerable groups that would most benefit from programs and services, including but not limited to:

- Indigenous, Black and other racialized populations
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit (LGBTQ2S) communities
- Newcomers
- People living with disabilities
- Residents living in focus areas identified under the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region
- Residents living with low income
- Seniors
- Women

Investment Priorities

At the beginning of each term of Regional Council and after its strategic priorities are set, Community Investment Fund program priorities will be confirmed with Council. These approved investment priorities will inform the selection of projects during the term of Council.

For 2022 – 2023, the Community Investment Fund will focus on projects and initiatives that support:

- Pandemic response and recovery
- Organizational growth and development for small or new non-profit agencies
- Implementation of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region
- Other critical needs that fill human services gaps as identified by staff, including in consultation with collaborative tables such as the Human Services Planning Board of York Region

Project Selection Processes

Assessment and selection will be informed by a variety of methods, including:

1. Call for Proposals Processes

Open Call for Proposals

The open Call for Proposals process will be used to invite proposals for projects and initiatives from qualified service providers to respond to a community need or service gap. This process will be a public competition to solicit as many proposals as possible to identify the best available project to respond to a human service need.

Limited Call for Proposals

The limited Call for Proposals process will be used to invite proposals from select candidates who are invited by Community and Health Services Department to submit a project proposal to respond to a human service need. Invitations to participate in the limited call for proposals process will be issued to organizations based on their expertise and capacity to deliver the needed service.

In both open and limited call for proposal processes, project proposals will be assessed against considerations that include:

- Support for needs of priority groups
- Alignment with program investment priorities
- Strength and soundness of the project plan
- Funding requirements
- Fiscal health of the organization seeking funding

2. Direct Selection

In circumstances where there is a distinct subject matter expert or existing program already excelling in responding to a human service need, or in emergency situations that require a rapid response, Community Investment Funding may be allocated directly to an organization to deliver a project or initiative.

Direct selection decisions will be informed by considerations that include:

- Urgency of need
- Organization's ability to leverage existing human services infrastructure
- Historical success or uniqueness of project in responding to the same or related need
- Strength and soundness of the project plan
- Funding requirements
- Fiscal health of organization seeking funding

Approval

All projects and funding allocations are subject to the approval of the Commissioner, Community and Health Services.

Investment Term

The investment term for projects and initiatives selected for Community Investment Funding will be informed by individual project scope and implementation plan. Projects receiving multi-year funding will be subject to an annual review.

Reporting on Program Activity and Outcomes

Results of the Community Investment Fund will be reported to Council annually.

The program will continue to undergo periodic reviews as part of continuous improvement and any significant changes will be brought forward to Council for consideration and approval.

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