

## ANTI-RACISM COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

### RECOMMENDATION

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the grant funding allocations outlined in Attachment 1 of the February 7, 2023, Community Services report CS01550, be approved.

Requested Council Action		Decision required	
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle		ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals	
CONNECTED This unifies our work as we achieve our strategic goals.		Healthy City	
City Plan Values	BELONG.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CS00872, February 14, 2022 Anti-Racism Strategy</li><li>OCM00991, May 16, 2022 Community and Safety and Well Being Strategy</li></ul>		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CS00820, November 15, 2021 Community Safety and Well-being Priority Action Item Investments</li><li>CS01365, October 25, 2022 - Anti-Racism Grant Program Recommendations</li></ul>		

### Executive Summary

- In November 2021, \$1.174 million in one time funding was allocated to the Anti-racism Advisory Committee from the Community Safety and Wellbeing funds.

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- The intake cycle of the one-time program took place in the Fall 2022 with 55 applications received, totalling \$10.6 million in funding requested. Fourteen of these applications, totalling \$2.87 million in funding requested, were shortlisted for funding consideration.
- Administration is recommending the disbursement of \$1.174 million in funding to five of these fourteen organizations.

## **REPORT**

In November 2021, City Council increased Administration's operating expenditure budget by \$1.4 million on a one-time basis to support community safety and wellbeing initiatives. This included additional grant funding allocations to the Anti-racism Advisory Committee (\$1.174 million), the Sisters Dialogue/Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues Community Safe Walk initiative (\$45,000), The African Canadian Civic Engagement Council initiative to support community cultural and psychological safety (\$81,000), and honorariums to enable citizen participation in engagement activities to advance the development of community safety and well-being actions (\$100,000).

The Anti-Racism Community Safety Fund is a one-time program designed to support local initiatives and outcome-based activities in four areas that promote anti-racism approaches to community safety in Edmonton. Requests for funding were considered for projects and initiatives that ranged in cost from \$150,000 to \$250,000. This range was intended to differentiate the funding opportunity from the existing \$300,000 per year Anti-Racism Grant Program established in the beginning of 2021 where awarded grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Four focus areas had been identified as priorities by the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to support the foundation for the funding program:

1. Community Justice: Promoting interventions for youth and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) communities at risk, including encouraging the positive exchange of views and co-creation of solutions among Edmonton's BIPOC communities in areas such as restorative justice, crime prevention, victim services and youth justice committees.
2. Mental Health: Bridging gaps and providing spaces for Edmonton's BIPOC communities' healing and wellness.
3. Employment: Reducing barriers to hiring, providing leadership training and workplace skills training, including encouraging partnerships between employers and employees.
4. Social Participation: Encouraging BIPOC communities to participate in community sport, arts and culture, as well as the creation and changing of public narratives.

## **Application and Review Process**

- The Anti-Racism Community Safety Fund followed many of the same principles and procedures of the existing \$300,000 per year Anti-Racism Grant Program;
  - Established Program guidelines provided to all applicants
  - Community review and adjudication
- Unique differences were integrated to separate this one-time funding opportunity from the existing \$300,000 per year Anti-Racism Grant Program;

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- An 'Expression of Interest' Phase was used to filter out applications that did not adequately align to the focus areas and program guidelines.
- An 'Invitation for Proposal' Phase then streamed applicants to complete a comprehensive submission where their proposal, plans and other documentation was scored by an interdisciplinary community panel.
- Fifty-five Expressions of Interest were received by the August 20, 2022 deadline for a total of over \$10.6 million of proposed programs and services.
- Expressions of interest were reviewed by City Administration using two levels of assessment. The first assessment was a technical review to determine if applications met the basic eligibility requirements of the grant. The second level assessment was to determine; alignment of the proposed project to the overall goals of the grant, capacity of the organization to deliver the proposed project, and the potential impact that the project would have in the community.
- Organizations that were unsuccessful in the Expression of Interest stage were invited to contact Administration for an opportunity to get feedback on their application.
- Fourteen applications were then advanced to the 'Invitation for Proposal' stage with a September 21, 2022 deadline for a total of \$2.87 million.
- The review and adjudication was completed at the end of October 2022. Groups were informed that awards would be delayed until 2023 due to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee pausing meetings until the new year.
- A nine member panel of community adjudicators assessed the proposals using a scoring rubric taking into consideration the following elements to create an order ranking:
  - Capacity of the organization to successfully coordinate the proposed project based on past experience.
    - Leadership: staff and board leadership, executive transition planning.
    - Mission, Vision and Strategy: conduct organizational planning, assessment and development.
    - Financial Management: manage day-to-day activities and long range plans to ensure financial health.
    - Communications: use marketing, online presence, media relations and social media to raise awareness and attract attention and resources to the organization or issue.
    - Strategic Relationships: establish connections with colleague organizations, stakeholders and decision-makers that can help advance the mission and possibly spark collaboration.
  - Project Planning - the proposed activities, timelines, budget etc., are logical, likely to result in the desired outcomes and apply a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens.
    - Methodology, approach and project timeline from start to delivery.
    - Community relations, community engagement and public consultation approach.
    - Financial feasibility of the proposal.
    - Exhibits project readiness and phasing considerations.

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- Expected Impact - the proposed project will likely have the desired impact on the identified target community groups.
  - Sound theory of change and/ logic model.
  - Program evaluation plan, measures and outcomes.

### **Review Outcome**

- The review panel's list of recommended grant recipients was not able to be presented and/or ratified as the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee had paused its meetings for a period of time.
- A total of four applicants are being recommended for full funding, with a fifth applicant recommended for partial funding based upon the remaining funds available (Attachment 1).

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

The recommended Anti-Racism Community Safety grant awards will be funded from the \$1.174 million in one-time funding previously approved by Council from the Community Safety and Wellbeing funds.

## **COMMUNITY INSIGHT**

The Anti-Racism Advisory Committee advised on the development of The Anti-Racism Community Safety Fund one-time program. Individual members from the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee were able to participate in the adjudication and review process. However, the final recommendations were unable to be presented to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee due to a pause in Committee meetings.

### **GBA+**

A GBA+ approach was used to ensure that the community review panel was formed in a manner that had a balance of perspectives. It was important that the panel would be able to provide intersectional insights and perspectives in addition to the objective scoring rubric used. It was recognized that even with an objective scoring rubric, some subjectivity and bias can still enter into the review process. This was addressed and discussed prior to the review process beginning with shared orientation and discussion with the panel. Various factors that were taken into consideration as community members were selected and appointed were: Immigration and settlement journey (refugee and/or economic class and/or 2nd generation), educational backgrounds, professional backgrounds, age, gender, race, and culture to create a balanced review panel that could provide insight from perspectives outside Administration.

## **ATTACHMENT**

- Attachment 1- Anti-Racism Community Safety Fund: Recommended Award Recipients