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Info Item No. 1
Grants Committee
May 2, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of HRM Grants Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO

DATE: April 21, 2016

SUBJECT: **Community Grants Program 2016-17: Applications Not Recommended for Funding**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

March 31, 2016 – Application deadline for submissions to the 2016-2017 *Community Grants Program*. Council has requested that ineligible applicants be notified promptly so as to allow an organization to seek alternate funding sources.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008) s.79 respecting Council's discretionary authority to award grants and contributions to non-profit organizations and charities.

BACKGROUND

The *Community Grants Program* awards annual project-specific cash grants to eligible registered non-profit organizations/projects located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Reasons to decline funding include the eligibility of an organization (registration, debt to the Municipality, default on a prior municipal funding commitment), the eligibility of a specific project or type of expenditure. Late applications shall not be considered. The program's eligibility requirements are provided in a program guidebook and in abbreviated form on the program's application form. A copy of the guide is posted on-line and staff assistance is available prior to the application deadline of March 31st.

DISCUSSION

Appeals from applicants' are not accepted. The Grants Committee may recommend to Regional Council referral of an application for further review; Regional Council can overturn or amend a recommendation; or Regional Council may refer an application for further review. A motion to refer requires a rationale or additional information given that the standard review process has already taken into consideration the information provided in an applicant's formal submission.

In 2016, HRM Corporate Communications expanded public awareness of the *Community Grants Program* through advertisements placed in local community newspapers. The approach proved successful in raising awareness of the program but may have resulted in the number of ineligible applications and those not recommended for funding. Minor amendments to public notices and the application form in 2017 will try and direct applicants to confirm their eligibility (organization, project, and/or particular expense) *prior* to making a formal written application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines, applicant scoring, and previous awards are posted on the municipality's web site. Printed materials are also available from all Customer Contact Centres and the Corporate Call Centre. Public participation on the Grants Committee is convened through the office of the Municipal Clerk. Legislation mandates that the general public be informed of any grant or contribution through a notice in a newspaper in circulation throughout the region. The *Community Grants Program* criteria are published annually in a guidebook. Formal reports are posted to the municipality's web site and a notice publicizing awards is placed in the Municipal Notices section of the Chronicle-Herald newspaper.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ineligible Applications.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions, Finance & ICT.

Original Signed

Report Approved by: _____
Bruce Fisher, Manager Financial Policy & Planning, Finance & ICT 902.490.4493

Ineligible Applications

RECREATION & LEISURE

1.Canadian Mental Health Association: Halifax Dartmouth Branch

\$3,000 requested to purchase personal apparel (training shoes).

2.Halifax Bridge World

\$5,000 requested to pay for an existing instructional program Majority of expenses ineligible for consideration.

3.Marine Riders ATV Club

\$25,000 requested for trail construction/refurbishment of the Blue Berry Run Trail. The applicant is not the land owner; the *Community Grants Program* does not fund leasehold improvements (Guidebook, pp.14 and 15). Incomplete financial information.

4.Musquodoboit Harbour & Area Chamber of Commerce & Civic Affairs

\$10,000 requested for a Master Conceptual Plan for Musquodoboit Harbour and vicinity. The project has received \$10,000 in funding from the Musquodoboit Harbour Common Area Rate as approved by the Harbour-East Marine Drive Community Council. Community planning is not a funding category. Refer to HRM Planning & Development.

5.Nova Scotia Disc Sports

\$5,000 requested towards an instructional program for elementary schools. The expenses identified in relation to the grant are ineligible for consideration (car rental).

6.Resource Opportunities Centre

\$7,130 requested for the construction of a fence and community garden at the Prospect Road Community Centre, an HRM-owned facility. Refer to HRM Parks & Recreation.

7.St. Joseph's A. Mackay Home & School Association

\$14,432.50 requested for school playground tables and recycling receptacles. *Community Grants Program* does not fund school property or school-based programs (Guidebook, pp. 14 and 15). Refer to *District Activity/Capital Fund*.

8.St. Paul's Community Hall

\$5,000 requested for minor repairs to community hall. Applicant is not the property owner/application incomplete.

9.Stonecrest Empowerment Society of Nova Scotia

\$5,000 requested for individual program subsidies. Incomplete application. Majority of expenditures appear to be ineligible for funding.

10.VSI Business Accelerator Society

\$3,998.30 requested to fully fund the purchase of computer equipment and supplies to support a student teach computer skills to seniors. Grants to individuals or entrepreneurial ventures or computer skills instruction not funded under the *Community Grants Program*.

AFFORDABLE & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

11.YWCA Halifax

\$5,232.50 requested for cleaning ventilation ducts. Cleaning is not an eligible expense (Guidebook, p.17).

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

12. North Preston Medical Society

\$30,000 requested for assorted building repairs. The *Community Grants Program* does not fund child care or early childhood education. With the exception of the Wee Care Developmental Daycare Society¹ (serves exclusively children with a disability), HRM's assistance to daycares has been in relation to playgrounds, a heritage preservation assessment², or a community/commemorative garden³. Refer to Grants Program staff for assistance with future funding applications.

13. Red Bear Healing Home Society

\$900 requested to purchase a laptop for a summer student to publicize a free voice mail service. Incomplete application.

14. Samuel R. Balcom Centre Association

\$18,742.70 requested to fully fund the purchase and installation of a generator for an HRM-owned facility. Incomplete application. Not an officially recognized HRM comfort centre.

15. St. Thomas Baptist Church

\$30,000 requested for repairs to church and parsonage. Not a registered heritage property. With the exception of registered heritage properties or church halls serving communities with limited recreational facilities, the *Community Grants Program* does not fund religious/faith-based facilities or programs.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

16. Association of University Business Development Centres

\$5,000 requested for business skills workshops for persons post-incarceration. Incomplete submission. . A link to the funding category's objectives/priority outcomes is unclear. The *Community Grants Program* does not fund workshops for personal or professional development.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

17. Doors Open Halifax Heritage Society

\$4,917 requested to design and print an event brochure for *Open Doors* an annual two-day event hosted in June. The *Community Grants Program* does not fund festivals and events (Guidebook, p.28). Refer to HRM Parks & Recreation.

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

18. African Canadian Youth Leadership Conference Society

\$5,000 requested for youth mentorship. Applicant organization not registered 12 months as of date of application deadline (incorporated February 11, 2016), application incomplete and majority of expenses would be ineligible for consideration.

19. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax

\$3,650 requested for an existing neighbourhood youth program and the majority of expenses are ineligible for consideration.

¹ Grant towards adaptive playground for Wee Care Centre; programs and services target infants and children with physical challenges and include specialized medical services (occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy) supported by fundraising and non-recurring grants. Cunard Street Children's Centre outdoor stage

² Cunard Street Children's Centre.

³ Veith House/Halifax Children's Foundation and Home for Colored Children.

20.HeartWood Centre for Community Development

\$5,000 requested towards general operating costs for an existing program. Incomplete (no quotes) and majority of expenses are ineligible for consideration. A link to the funding category's objectives/priority outcomes is unclear.

21.Filipino Association of Nova Scotia

\$2,000 requested for scholarships and general administrative expenses. The *Community Grants Program* does not provide operating grants.

COMMUNITY ARTS & CRAFTS

22.Bus Stop Theatre Cooperative Limited

\$15,000 requested to purchase assorted lighting equipment. Late application.

23.Compania Azul-Flamenco Made in Atlantic Canada

\$7,000 requested to fully fund the installation of a dance floor in a private residence.

24.Dartmouth & District Pipe Band Association

\$5,000 requested for the purchase of assorted small items for musical instruments. Incomplete application. Applicant is in default of reporting requirement for 2015 grant in the amount of \$5,000 towards the purchase of specialized instrumental equipment.

25.John Howard Society of Nova Scotia

\$3,223 requested to purchase assorted art materials and security background checks for art classes in Central Nova Scotia Correctional facility. Ineligible expenses: recurring art and craft supplies and individual instructional workshops (Guidebook p.31). Art therapy not an eligible expense (Guidebook, p.31) but from the program description this project appears to be facilitated arts classes.

26.St. Cecilia Concert Society

\$5,000 requested to fully fund web site enhancements. Late application.