

**Subject: Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 –
Amendment****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT amended Community Investment Policy - FIN-220, dated October 1, 2018, be approved.

Summary:

This policy amendment includes both housekeeping (such as removal of reference to the Audit & Budget Committee) and more substantial changes. The main changes in the amended Policy (Attachment 1) are:

- 1.4 Removes the former grant program names.
- 2.1.2. States that Council will approve all grant allocations.
- 3.1.4. Adds the “unrestricted net assets not exceeding one year operating expense” into the Policy (had formerly been part of the grant program guidelines.)
- 3.3.3 and 3.3.4. Requires that Sustaining Grant applicants would make presentations to Council; and that applicants for any other grant program may also be required to present to Council.
- 3.3.5. Formalizes the requirement that grant agreements will be required for all grant disbursements.

Background:

Council adopted the Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 on June 24, 2014, and amended it on March 10, 2015. Since the implementation of the policy, the Community Investment Program (CIP) has formalized its processes and procedures, to

ensure the highest standard of accountability and fairness. The changes recommended to the policy will further enhance these standards, and are intended to also maximize the impact of the Municipal investment in these community-based partnerships.

Leading up to the policy amendment, the foundation for the proposed changes has been laid with the social profit sector. This has been accomplished through correspondence and individual meetings with the Operating Grant recipients since May/June 2017, as well as through Council at budget workshops and grant allocation meetings in early 2018.

While there are some current grant recipients that may see a reduction in their CIP grants, many other local social profit organizations will have more opportunity to apply for funding. The process will be more accessible and transparent, with systems built in to reduce duplication and support synergies and efficiencies in programs and services delivered with the municipal funding.

Using outcome measurement, Administration will be able to report the impact and value of the programs and services that are funded by the CIP. In implementing such measurement, Council and the community will be able to see how the CIP is helping to achieve the goals and initiatives outlined in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Strategic Plan 2018-2021. This is a new initiative for 2019, and will be part of both the Sustaining Grant and Community Impact Grant agreements.

Budget/Financial Implications:

With consideration for organizations that currently receiving Operating Grants in excess of the recommended maximum grants for the Community Impact Grant (\$120,000 combined between the Community Projects/Programs and Community Events streams), those organizations will qualify for a three-year phase in plan; there are only three organizations that will require the phase-in plan.

Sustaining Grant applicants will be presumed to be “status quo” each year, with opportunity for the organizations to make special requests for changes during their presentations to Council during the budget workshops. The Community Impact Grant will be proposed in the 2019 operating budget as a \$2,000,000 lump sum, and will be allocated by Council in Q1 2019, following a Call for Applications in Q3/Q4 2018.

The \$2,000,000 Community Impact Grant amount was derived from an assumption of status quo CIP total funding (see table below; note that the Community Plan on Homelessness Grant was not considered in this calculation, as it is fully funded by other levels of government.)

Grant	2018	2019
Joint Initiatives	250,000	-
Community Development	300,000	-
Community Impact	-	2,000,000
Games Legacy	40,000	50,000
Operating	25,372,450	-
Sustaining	-	26,526,150
	26,710,150	28,576,150
Increase from 2018 *		1,816,000
<p>* Local HERO Foundation grant was \$750K in 2018, which was an interim solution to change the reporting cycle (term of grant for July to December 2018), estimated \$1.5M in 2018; approximately \$875K estimated addition in 2019 for full year operation of Conklin Multiplex.</p>		

Rationale for Recommendation:

The CIP is now in its third full year of implementation, and during that period, there has been growth in the program as well as challenges within the framework of the current CIP Policy. The enhancements to the municipal grant program being recommended will improve accountability, fairness, and impact. It also supports long-term sustainability of the organizations receiving funding, as it reduces the dependency on the municipal grant and promotes diversification of revenue streams.

Strategic Priorities:

- Responsible Government
- Downtown Revitalization
- Regional Economic Development
- Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

Attachments:

1. Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 Amendment

Community Investment Policy Amendment Presentation