

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

THAT the amended Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220, dated October 8, 2019, be approved.

Summary:

The Community Investment Program (CIP) supports a broad spectrum of programs and services by providing grant funding and agreements to community groups and social profit organizations responsible for delivering various recreational, cultural and social programs and services. The CIP Policy identifies financial support criteria to meet the needs and priorities of the Region. There are five grant categories:

1. Community Impact Grant
2. Sustaining Grant
3. Games Legacy Grant
4. Community Plan on Homelessness
5. Community Capital Grant

This policy amendment is to set parameters for the Community Capital Grant requests through the Community Investment Program Policy.

The changes in the amended Policy are (Attachment 1):

- **1.3** Adding "Community Capital Grant" definition
- **3.1.4.2** Adding clarity to the total amount of unrestricted net assets.
- **3.2.1** Clarifying the process to bring forward funding requests that do not fall within eligibility criteria.

- **3.3.3** Adding Applicants requesting a Grant for “funding through” the Sustaining Grant Program or “Community Capital Grant” must make a presentation to Council.
- **3.5.2** Adding that Community Capital Grants exceeding \$100,000 will include a commemorative plaque acknowledging the support from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- **3.5.3** Adding that Community Capital Grants of less than \$100,000 may be requested to include a commemorative plaque.
- **4.** Adding criteria for funding limitations and ineligibility for Community Grants.

These additions to the policy ensure that the Capital Grant requests are processed fairly and that the funding request supports the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo’s key strategies and community priorities that are aligned with the 2018 - 2021 Strategic Plan.

Background:

Council adopted the amended Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 on October 1, 2018. That amendment included formal processes and procedures to ensure the highest standard of accountability and fairness were obtained through the distribution of funding to applicants that conformed with the Guidelines in the Policy.

Until 2019, there had been little demand for the Community Capital Grant, and the 2018 amendment was silent on the eligibility and guidelines for Community Capital Grant funding requests. This amendment addresses requests for capital projects and this program enhancement will increase the effectiveness of the policy.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The Community Investment Program is in its fifth year of application, first approved by Council in 2014. There has been continued growth and enhancement to the program over that time, with amendments in 2015 and 2018. The investments support core infrastructure, develop and improve organizational business practices and fund innovative and collaborative partnerships with the intent to provide effective programs and services for the residents of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

The addition of Capital Grant Funding process to the Policy will permit applications to be considered fairly and equally. Without this amendment the lack of determination of eligibility makes it difficult to measure whether approvals or denials are processed fairly and equitably. The proposed amendments reflect research on best practices in other municipalities in Alberta (Lethbridge, St. Albert, and Edmonton).

Strategic Priorities:

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

Attachments:

- 1. Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 Amendment**
- 2. Community Investment Program Policy FIN-220 Amendment Outlining Changes**