



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 9, 2021

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

FILE:

RE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES' SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

PURPOSE

To consider a COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments - Strengthening Communities' Services Program Grant Application to support and address unsheltered homelessness.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 24, 2021, Strathcona Regional District Board meeting a letter was received from the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness (Coalition) requesting participation in a collaborative working group to discuss, plan and inform the development of a grant application for the UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program. At that time the Board passed the following resolution:

Cornfield/Kerr: SRD 281/21

THAT a regional application to the Strengthening Communities' Services Program be prepared for consideration at the April 14, 2021 Board meeting.

The grant program addresses unsheltered homelessness exacerbated by COVID-19 and related community impacts. Applications are due on April 16, 2021.

Funding is available for projects to:

- improve the health and safety for unsheltered people experiencing homelessness,
- reduce community concerns related to impacts of homelessness,
- improve coordination of services, and
- increase capacity for service delivery.

Funds available for the program are based upon population. An application from the Strathcona Regional District could request up to \$1.25 million in funding.

Representatives from the Strathcona Community Health Network, the Coalition, the City of Campbell River, the Strathcona Regional District, social service groups and local businesses collaborated and developed a draft grant application for the Strengthening Communities' Services Program. The draft application includes:

- operational funds for Kwesa Place, Hama?Elas community kitchen and the food bank,
- enhanced coordination capacity of nonprofits to address homelessness and food security,
- training for service provider staff and volunteers,
- regional expansion of outreach services, and

- storage for belongings, downtown security and clean-up for the safety of people experiencing homelessness to positively impact the community.

As the primary applicant, the Strathcona Regional District’s responsibility would include applying for, receiving and managing the grant funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a regional application to the Strengthening Communities’ Services Program as outlined in the April 9, 2021 report from the Chief Administrative Officer be approved, and

THAT the Regional District commit to overall grant management if the application successful.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments, Strengthening Communities’ Services program is available through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). The purpose of the funding is to help protect public safety and health, and support safe reopening of the economy. It is specifically geared towards providing services to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and addressing the related community impacts.

Funding requirements stipulate that funds must be spent in a one-year timeframe and cannot include any major capital investment or land purchases.

The intent of the Strengthening Communities’ Services Program is to assist eligible applicants with:

- Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people experiencing homelessness;
- Reduced community concerns related to the impacts of homelessness;
- Improved coordination among health/social service providers, Indigenous organizations, community and government;
- Increased capacity of eligible applicants to work with homeless persons and Indigenous organizations towards culturally safe and trauma-informed responses.

At the March 24, 2021 Strathcona Regional District Board meeting, the board chose to participate in the temporary collaborative working group to discuss, plan, inform and develop a draft application for consideration at the April 14, 2021 board meeting. The Strathcona Community Health Network, the Coalition, the City of Campbell River, the Strathcona Regional District, several service providers and the Downtown Business Improvement Association worked together to develop a comprehensive response to provide services to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and to address the impact to the communities within the regional district.

The details of the proposed grant application and budget are listed in the attached Summary of Proposed Activities. Existing social service and health organizations will provide the services and activities in each of the nine proposed programs. Strathcona Regional District staff were advised

by UBCM that applicants may submit multiple eligible programs as one application and funding may be approved for all or a portion of the full application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant provides up to \$450,000 for communities with populations between 5,000-40,000, and up to \$1.25 million for communities between 40,000 and 75,000 population. The proposed regional application has a draft budget of \$1,209,191.

The grant will cover 100% of eligible costs. If the Strathcona Regional District is not successful with this grant application, the proposed activities would not proceed unless alternate funding could be obtained.

The Strathcona Regional District would be responsible for receiving, managing and reporting on the funds. An eligible administration fee was included in the application to assist with the grant management.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

A regional approach provides access to significantly more funding, positions the Strathcona Regional District as a partner in addressing regional homelessness and improves the ability for some service providers to reach an area broader than Campbell River.

The proposed activities were developed in collaboration with the Coalition Working Group. Multiple meetings were held to discuss the grant criteria, the current gaps in services and the capacity of service providers to build upon existing services or deliver new programs.

Letters of support from partners on the working group are forthcoming in support of the application.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the SRD Board choose not to apply to the Strengthening Communities’ Services Program.
2. THAT the SRD submit a regional application to the Strengthening Communities’ Services Program subject to changes (to be identified by the Board)

Prepared by:

Renée LaBoucane, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Libby King, Coordinator SCHN

*Attachments: Summary of Proposed Activities
March 24, 2021 Board Report Strengthening Communities’ Services Program Grant Opportunity*

Strengthening Communities' Services Program - Grant Application

Summary of Proposed Activities

Program	Activity	Draft Budget
Community and Homeless Individuals Health and Safety		
Team Belonging: Clean-up, Storage and Building Connections	Two person crew; one with lived experience to provide early morning clean up and connect homeless individuals to services and programs. Includes vehicle lease and supplies. Create a space for belongings of homeless population which would allow for dry, safe, daytime storage. Location to be determined.	\$171,436
Supplemental Night Time Security Program	Partner with the Business Improvement Association to improve security during prime times of concern and to help keep unsheltered homeless safe.	\$50,500
Health Supports: Food and Hygiene Services	One year support to bolster operation, supplies, food costs, facilities management and volunteer management at Kwesa Place and Hama?Elas kitchen. Implement a peer program at Hama?Elas.	\$103,000
Training and Community Capacity Building		
Training Support for non-profit¹ and public sector staff and volunteers	Funding to support training programs: community-based cultural sensitivity, trauma-informed practice, crisis management and de-escalation. Local indigenous cultural sensitivity and informational videos for training and awareness.	\$50,500 \$33,330
Community Connections and Collaborative Supports		
Expansion of the Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Supportive Service (MOUHSS)	The Kwakiutl District Council (KDC) program to expand to provide additional services in the region.	\$467,630
Bolster 'Get the Point' Program	Increased capacity and service provision of the peer based program delivered through KDC. Additional funds for supplies and expenses.	\$49,995
Community/Justice Support Worker	Support worker to connect and help navigate homeless individuals between the justice system, healthcare system and social supports.	\$121,200
Coordination of Services for people experiencing homelessness	Increase the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) and the Urban Indigenous Housing and Wellness coalition (UIHWC) ability to support and expand services, coordinate proposed grant activities, and collaborate with other services providers to address the urgent needs of the community and region. Increase capacity to coordinate food security efforts. Provide PPE, medical, hygiene, cleaning and harm reduction supplies to service organizations supporting unsheltered homeless individuals during the pandemic.	\$141,400
Food Security		
Food Bank Support	Support the Campbell River Food Bank with funds to provide food supplies for individuals experiencing homelessness and minor building renovations.	\$20,200
Total application budget		\$1,209,191



STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

FILE:

RE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES' SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITY

PURPOSE

To consider participation in a temporary collaborative committee to discuss, plan, inform and potentially apply for a grant application to the COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments – Strengthening Communities' Services Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBCM Strengthening Communities' Services Program (SCSP) is a component of the Canada-BC Safe Restart Agreement that was announced February 24, 2021. The program aims to address unsheltered homelessness that has been exacerbated by COVID-19 and related community impacts. Eligible applicants include local governments and Treaty First Nations in BC.

Funding is available for projects that improve health and safety for unsheltered people experiencing homelessness, reduce community concerns related to impacts of homelessness, improved coordination, and increased capacity for service delivery. The grant provides up to \$450,000 for communities with populations between 5,000-40,000, and up to \$1.2 million for communities between 40,000 and 75,000 population. A regional application facilitated through the SRD would allow for a grant application of up to \$1.2 million.

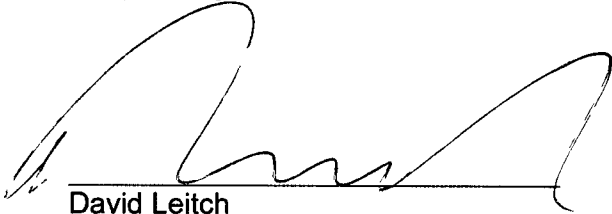
The Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) has proposed to the City of Campbell River, the Strathcona Regional District, social service groups and local businesses a collaborative approach to discuss, plan and assist with a grant application for the SCSP. The CRDCEH hopes to facilitate relationship building between stakeholders while providing a forum to help develop a robust application to support programs providing services to those experiencing homelessness.

There is a very short turn around time for the grant application which is due April 16, 2021. If the SRD chooses to participate in the working group and support a grant application, a resolution from the board indicating the SRD will apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the CRDCEH working group will be required. The program activities and grant application will be developed by the working group over the next few weeks. If participating, a further report with proposed grant application can be returned for consideration at the April 14, 2021 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Board appoint one or more representatives to the Campbell River Coalition to End Homelessness Collaborative Working Group.
3. THAT a regional application to the Strengthening Communities' Services Program be prepared for consideration at the April 14, 2021 board meeting.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments, Strengthening Communities' Services program is available through the UBCM. The purpose of the funding is to help protect public safety and health, and support safe reopening of the economy. It is specifically geared towards providing services to people experiencing homelessness and addressing the related community impacts. Many people who lack adequate housing are more likely to suffer from a range of health challenges, including mental health and substance abuse issues, and have been highly vulnerable to COVID-19.

Funding requirements stipulate that funding must be spent in a one-year timeframe and cannot include any major capital investment or land purchases. Only small improvements can be made to existing facilities.

The intent of the Strengthening Communities' Services Program is to assist eligible applicants with:

- Improved health and safety of unsheltered homeless people living in public or private spaces, including reduced risk of COVID-19 or other disease transmission.
- Reduced community concerns about public health and safety in neighbourhoods where unsheltered homeless populations are seeking temporary shelter and services.
- Improved coordination among eligible applicants and health/social service providers, Indigenous organizations and others working on housing, homelessness and service provision.
- Increased capacity of eligible applicants to work with homeless persons and Indigenous organizations towards culturally safe and trauma-informed responses.

All local governments and Treaty First Nations are eligible to apply. Applications for funding must be submitted by April 16, 2021.

COLLABORATION REQUEST

A letter from the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) was received by the SRD on March 8, 2021. The CRDCEH is a coalition of housing non-profits within the Strathcona Regional District. The letter requests that the SRD support and participate in the creation of a collaborative community working group to discuss, plan and inform the development of a grant application for the Strengthening Communities’ Services. A similar letter was received by the City of Campbell River on March 2, 2021. The City of Campbell River chose to participate in the CRDCEH working group.

It is proposed that projects to be included in the grant application be decided by a working group that includes representation from the following organizations:

- Downtown Safety Select Committee
- Downtown BIA
- Strathcona Regional District
- City of Campbell River
- Strathcona Community Health Network
- Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness
- 1-2 Social service organizations who directly provide services for those experiencing homelessness

Due to tight timelines, SRD staff participated in an initial working group meeting on March 18, 2021 to discuss the feasibility and parameters of a potential regional application. At the time of this report, collaborative planning meetings are scheduled to take place each Thursday morning for the next few weeks. Participation on the working group will ensure the grant application request supports and advances the SRD strategic initiative to improve the health and well-being of SRD communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant provides up to \$450,000 for communities with populations between 5,000-40,000, and up to \$1.2 million for communities between 40,000 and 75,000 population. A regional application facilitated through the SRD would allow for a grant application of up to \$1.2 million. As the working group determines a program with eligible activities, detailed budgets will be developed. The scope of the grant application and the proposed activities is dependent upon whether the application is submitted by the City of Campbell River or the Strathcona Regional District.

The grant will cover 100% of applicable costs.

If a regional model is supported, it is anticipated that the grant request would provide local social service providers additional capacity for existing services and an opportunity to expand services regionally.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL/REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

A regional approach provides access to significantly more funding, positions the SRD as a partner in addressing regional homelessness and improves the ability for some service providers to reach an area broader than Campbell River.

Regional applications must be collaborative and an SRD application will require a resolution from the City of Campbell River and any other participating governments. The Strathcona Community Health Network (SCHN) has reached out to the Ka:’yu;’k’t’h’/Che:k:tlles7et’h’ First Nations regarding participation, as well as those delivering services in regional communities to see if there are opportunities to collaborate.

Based upon the collective decision of the grant working group, the details of the proposed services would be developed. As a collaborative partner, SRD staff could support the group leadership in the grant submission and if successful, provide the administrative and reporting responsibilities.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the SRD Board choose not to participate in the CRDCEH working group.
2. That the SRD Board choose not to pursue a regional application.
3. That the SRD Board choose not to pursue a regional application and alternatively supports a City of Campbell application.

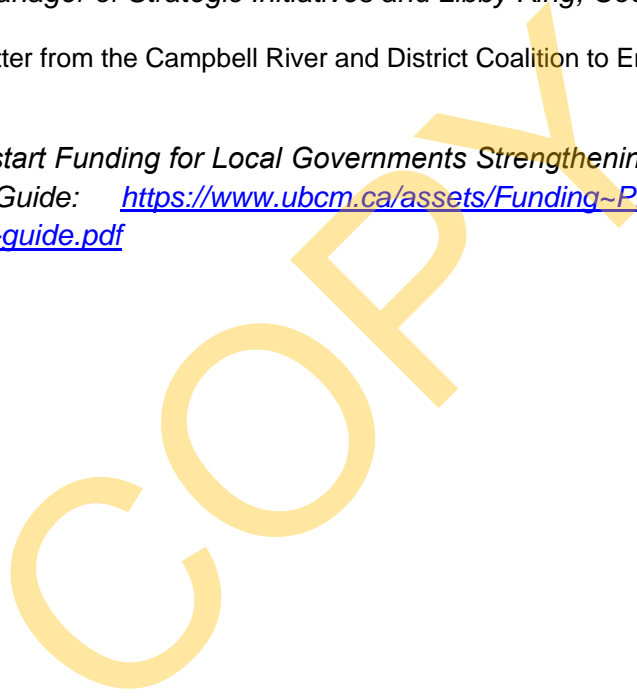
Prepared by:

Renée LaBoucane, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Libby King, Coordinator SCHN

Attachment: March 8 Letter from the Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness

Resource:

1. COVID-19 Restart Funding for Local Governments Strengthening communities’ Services Application Guide: <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/LGPS/SCS/scs-2021-program-guide.pdf>





8 March 2021

Directors
Strathcona Regional District
990 Cedar Street
Campbell River, BC
V9W 7Z8

Dear SRD Directors,

The Campbell River and District Coalition to End Homelessness (CRDCEH) would like to propose the creation of a temporary, facilitated, and collaborative committee to discuss, plan, inform, and assist with a grant application for the Strengthening Communities' Services funding available via UBCM by the Province of BC.

It is our belief that when community stakeholders come together we are able to create more meaningful impact than when we work alone. Not only could this committee serve to help guide a robust application, it could also serve as a relationship-building practice between various stakeholders.

As such, we ask for the SRD's blessing in supporting the immediate creation of such a committee that would either inform a City of Campbell River or a Strathcona Regional District application to the Strengthening Communities' Services fund.

Due to the time-sensitive nature of this potential application, we recommend a small, efficient group facilitated by an impartial party. Potential members might include 1 representative from some or all of the following:

- Downtown Safety Committee
- Strathcona Regional District
- City of Campbell River staff and council representative
- CRDCEH and/or Urban Indigenous Housing & Wellness Coalition and/or Strathcona Health Network
- 1-2 Social service organizations who directly provide services for those experiencing homelessness and are aware of current community needs.

We look forward to working collaboratively and building closer communication with the SRD on this and future projects to end homelessness.

On behalf of the Leadership Team of the CRDCEH

Sincerely,

Email: campbellriverhousing@gmail.com

Office Phone for Stefanie Hendrickson Consulting: 250-914-0919



Stefanie Hendrickson

Coordinator
Campbell River & District Coalition to End Homelessness

The CRDCEH Leadership Team is currently comprised of:

Patrick McKenna – Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North
Shannon Baikie – North Island Employment Foundations Society
Mary Ruth Snyder – Campbell River & District Chamber of Commerce
Sue Moen – Salvation Army
Alyne Neault – Sasamans Society
Candace Lindhout – John Howard Society North Island
Shelley Howard – Campbell River Head Injury Support Society

COPY

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