



COUNCIL REPORT
Development Services
For the February 25, 2020 Council Meeting

DATE: February 10, 2020
TO: Paul Gipps, CAO
FROM: Mark Koch, Director of Development Services
RE: Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy Grant Application

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

THAT Council support the collaborative grant application for \$149,000 to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) for the development of a Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy; and

THAT Council appoint a staff liaison for the duration of the project (approximately one year).

RATIONALE:

To provide Council with information on a collaborative grant application in partnership with the District of Lake Country, District of Peachland, City of Kelowna and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan. The Regional District of the Central Okanagan is the primary applicant to apply for, receive and manage the grand funding.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the Central Okanagan Poverty Reduction Committee (COPRC) was established with the goal of developing a regional poverty reduction strategy with an upstream focus. Supported by funding from the Vancouver Foundation and the Central Okanagan Early Years Partnership, the Committee set the stage for a community-driven, regional approach to addressing poverty. The COPRC gathered insights from families with lived experience of poverty, provided a systems planning workshop and developed a work plan to guide strategy development, Attachment 1. The COPRC determined that there were specific requirements needed to move ahead into strategy development including a poverty analysis, significant community engagement, further involvement of those with lived and living experience of poverty, and a governance structure and sufficient resources to plan and execute a strategy.

With additional grant funding in 2019, the COPRC contracted consultant Urban Matters CCC to create a regional community poverty analysis informed by Lived Experience and key engagement from stakeholders including Interior Health, Municipal Governments, local First Nations, and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan, Attachment 2. The analysis provides baseline data and insights into poverty at the community and regional level, and identifies eight key priorities. These priorities will help shape the next phase of this project, the development of a Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy. Key stakeholders involved in the analysis reconvened

in January 2020 for the presentation of the report, and those present agreed that pursuit of a regional strategy is valuable to each community.

A regional focus provides considerable benefits to Central Okanagan communities. A regional strategy provides for efficiencies in resources, engagement processes and advocacy. Through the City of Kelowna's Journey Home process, the community identified the need for a regional approach to complex social issues, as people move throughout the region for services, employment, childcare and housing. A regional strategy can create an action plan on policies and structures at the regional level, while building capacity within each community to address their unique needs and priorities.

At the provincial level, BC's Poverty Reduction Strategy *TogetherBC* identifies six priority action areas: housing; families, children and youth; education and training; employment; income supports; and social supports. To support poverty reduction at the local level, The Province has provided \$5 million over three years. The Regional District of the Central Okanagan has agreed to submit an application to UBCM for a Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program grant of \$149,000 to support the strategy development process.

As the primary applicant, the Regional District of the Central Okanagan will accept responsibility to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the regional partners. They will assume responsibility for the completion of the project, reporting requirements and maintaining proper fiscal management.

If the funding application is approved in May 2020, a Regional Partnership Committee on Poverty will be formed based on a formal application process and work in partnership with the Regional District of the Central Okanagan and the COPRC to provide community direction, oversight and feedback throughout the strategy development process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Staff time as a liaison to the project is the only financial implication.

ALTERNATE MOTIONS:

THAT Council not support the collaborative application to the UBCM for the development of a Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy; and

THAT Council direct staff to inform the District of Lake Country, District of Peachland, City of Kelowna and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan that the City of West Kelowna does not wish to participate in the project.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Brent Magnan, Planning Manager
Mark Koch, Director of Development Services
Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO/Corporate Officer
Paul Gipps, CAO

owerpoint: Yes No

Attachments:

1. Overview Timeline: Central Okanagan Wellness and Poverty Strategy
2. Central Okanagan Community Wellness Analysis: Executive Summary

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