



**REPORT TO HOSPITALS AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

SUBJECT **Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness Funding Request**

ISSUE

A decision is required with respect to a letter from the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness requesting increased funding from the CRD.

BACKGROUND

Since 2008 the CRD has provided \$225,000 per year to the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness (the Coalition) to support its core operations. Island Health and the City of Victoria also provide \$100,000 per year each for the same purpose with the CRD managing the City of Victoria contribution within its administrative processes. The CRD negotiates and monitors an annual service agreement with the Coalition that sets out the scope of work, relevant roles and responsibilities expected of the Coalition.

The Coalition facilitates collaboration among housing and service providers and government agencies in order to effectively address homelessness issues. CRD funding also specifically supports the Coalition in fulfilling its role as the Community Advisory Board for the Government of Canada Homelessness Partnering Strategy (2014-2019) / Reaching Home Program (2019-2024). The Coalition also facilitates community planning to support the Regional Housing First Program.

The Coalition's Youth Homelessness Task Force, supported by funding through the Victoria Foundation, is at the point of initiating the development of processes to better support youth access to housing and supports that meet their unique needs. In order to support success in the prevention of youth homelessness it is critical to implement a Housing First for Youth model which is evidence-based and supports the options necessary to respond to the specific and unique needs of youth. To support its ongoing work the Coalition has submitted a letter (Appendix A) requesting an additional \$85,000 from the CRD to directly support the capacity building within the region within this evidence-based framework. The proposed activity aligns with the Coalition Community Plan (2016-2021) priority to better address issues related to youth homelessness.

The Coalition has also submitted a request for additional funding from Island Health (\$85,000) as well as new funding from BC Housing (\$40,000) to support other elements of their work in the community. Coalition staff will be in attendance at the February 6, 2019 Hospitals and Housing Committee to present their plan for the use of the additional funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1:

That the Hospitals and Housing Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board that the request from the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness to increase their annual grant from \$225,000 to \$310,000 for 2019/2020 for one year to support a youth homelessness project, be recommended for consideration in the final 2019 budget approval process.

Alternative 2:

That the funding to the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness remain at the current funding level of \$225,000.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

Supporting the ongoing work of the Coalition to address youth homelessness will not only respond to an immediate need in the community, but will help advance an effective system through which future homelessness is reduced in the region.

Financial Implications

The CRD preliminary 2019 budget provides annual funding of \$225,000 through the CRD Community Health Service to fund the general operations of the Coalition. These funds are provided based on an annual plan negotiated between the Coalition and CRD staff. CRD and Island Health staff meet quarterly with Coalition staff to provide oversight to the agreement.

The Coalition is requesting funding for two Youth Homelessness staff positions that were previously funded through grant programs. Funding for these positions was short-term and is ending in June 2019. Staff are recommending that the CRD provide one year project funding to meet this shortfall for 2019/2020; that CRD staff work in collaboration with the Coalition and its other funding partners to develop a sustainable plan to adequately fund the operations of the Coalition to the end of the Community Plan (2016-2021) cycle; and that CRD staff provide recommendations to the CRD Board in the 2020 budget process.

At the current annual funding level of \$225,000, the annual tax impact on 2018 average residential assessment is \$1.22 and the annual tax impact on \$100,000 of 2018 residential assessments is \$0.17. Increasing the annual funding level by \$85,000 results in an increase in annual tax impact on 2018 average residential assessment of \$0.46 and an increase in the annual tax impact on \$100,000 of 2018 residential assessments of \$0.06. Table 1 summarizes the estimated average annual cost per household for the recommended funding level.

Table 1: Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Alternative	Cost	Annual Tax Impact on 2018 average residential assessment (\$724,009)	Annual Tax impact on \$100,000 of 2018 residential assessments
1	\$ 310,000	\$ 1.68	\$ 0.23
2	\$ 225,000	\$ 1.22	\$ 0.17

CONCLUSION

The Coalition continues to provide a valued and essential service in the community with respect to coordination and planning that supports effective solutions to homelessness in the region. Additional funding is required to sustain important gains made in developing effective models to address youth homelessness. The CRD could provide additional funding for one year while it works with Coalition partners to develop a longer term funding strategy to sustain its work into the future.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Hospitals and Housing Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board that the request from the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness to increase their annual grant from \$225,000 to \$310,000 for 2019/2020 for one year to support a youth homelessness project, be recommended for consideration in the final 2019 budget approval process.

Submitted by:	John Reilly, MSW RSW, Manager Housing Planning & Programs
Concurrence:	Christine Culham, Senior Manager Regional Housing
Concurrence:	Kevin Lorette, P.Eng., MBA, General Manager Planning & Protective Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

JR:mk

Attachments: Appendix A – Letter from the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness