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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

SUBJECT **Community Funding and Support Program Grant: Emergency Support Services**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is applying to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Emergency Support Services (ESS) grant stream for funding to provide reception center and group lodging training and to purchase equipment. UBCM requires that all grant applications be accompanied by a motion of support from the local government.

BACKGROUND

ESS is a provincial program delivered by local governments that meets the basic needs of British Columbians impacted by disasters by providing short-term support. Under the *Emergency Program Act*, municipalities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including coordinating emergency support services. ESS programs are largely dependent on volunteers to coordinate these services. The CRD provides emergency management services to the Electoral Areas (EAs), including delivering emergency support services to residents displaced from their homes during a disaster.

The UBCM provides funding for many community-based projects, including local government emergency programs. The CRD is applying for a 2021 grant opportunity that is available to support each of the EA Emergency Programs to augment their equipment and training capacity for ESS volunteers and program staff.

The ESS grant funding will benefit the three CRD EA Emergency Programs equally: Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island. Improved ESS equipment includes cots, blankets, and emergency rations. Additionally training will be provided to community volunteers on the mobilization and demobilization of group lodging and evacuee reception centers. The grant request totals \$24,954.80.

As part of the application process, UBCM requires a motion of support from the local government to receive and manage grant funding.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board: That the CRD Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island emergency programs for the Emergency Support Services Grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

Alternative 2

That staff be directed to not submit a grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island emergency programs for the Emergency Support Services funding stream.

IMPLICATIONS*Financial Implications*

The grant will have no impact on annual Emergency Program budgets, but provides opportunity for one-time projects that allow EA Emergency Program programs to build community resilience to disasters and emergency. Under the *Emergency Program Act*, the CRD is obligated to provide ESS to EA residents, including lodging, food, clothing and transportation to access these services. The grant request totals \$24,954.80.

CONCLUSION

The CRD is responsible for providing emergency support services in its Electoral Areas. The UBCM Emergency Support Services funding stream is an opportunity to increase disaster resilience in the EAs. If supported by the Board, UBCM will consider the CRD's grant application.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board: That the CRD Board support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island emergency programs for the Emergency Support Services Grant and direct staff to provide overall grant management.

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