



Community Social Investment Framework Presentation

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Background

- As noted in the Regional Recovery Framework and Action Plan (#2020-COW-22), the development of a Community Social Investment Framework that will support the allocation of social services investments to community non-profits serving residents who are facing the greatest needs and barriers, was noted.
- As a result of the Recovery efforts, a comprehensive overview, analysis and review of the current process surrounding the community investment allocations within the department, was conducted. This was initiated, in partnership with the Region's Internal Audit Division (IAD) within the Finance Department.
- The project has since been led by the Social Services Department, with continuing consultations across the Region (e.g. Economic Development and Tourism, Finance, CAO's office).
- As the Service System Manager on behalf of the Province, the Social Services Department has a responsibility to build system capacity to respond to local needs (e.g. early learning and child care, housing and homelessness, social assistance).

Comparable Models

- A jurisdictional scan was conducted, where comparable models and approaches were reviewed and summarized for the identification of best practices. These models included; City of Toronto, Region of Peel, and the City of Ottawa.
- Each municipality approached the allocation of funding related to community investments, in a similar manner:
 - Funding streams noted for capital, governance shortfalls, ongoing and sustainability requirements, etc.
 - An existing scoring system for applications,
 - Linkages to principles and values noted within the municipality's Strategic Plans,
 - An annual review process and transparency of reporting to Council
 - Community engagement and feedback utilized for the development of the approaches.



NEW - Proposed Community Social Investment Framework

Community Engagement Considerations

- The Region has an opportunity to engage with the larger community in the development of this Framework and can do so in a manner that is sincere to see positive perceptions from community partners around the fairness of the project and the impact and effect of long-term outcomes.
- Supporting enhanced public engagement – the intent is that this will coincide and work closely with the identification of best practices utilized for the budget modernization project currently underway.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Within the Framework, staff will work alongside with the newly established Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Division within the CAO's office to ensure an active role in the coordination of services and development of service provider organizations in the Region, particularly non-profits.

Aligning to the Region's Principles and Goals

- Within the **Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (CSWB)**, municipalities can identify where there is already work underway in the community to address a specific issue and to avoid duplication, identify existing strengths and resources, determine where there may be gaps in services or required resources, and capture opportunities.
- Clear linkages to the Region's Strategic Plan and Recovery Framework and Action Plan can be noted throughout.
- Received support and adoption of the Framework (in principle) from the Durham Region Funder's Table. This group works to ensure that funding allocations for the Charitable and Not-for-Profit sectors are coordinated and informed by local data, considering geography, equity and need.

Clear and Transparent Application Process

- The importance of a clear and transparent process of community investment allocation decisions is integral to the success of this program.
- An accessible and simple process for indicating an intent to apply for funding, followed by a more rigorous review and risk assessment will be included in this Framework.
- An 'Organizational Effectiveness' tool has been developed and shared with the Funder's Table for feedback. It was developed with the intent of addressing the following;
 - Understanding the need for supporting both grassroots as well as established organizations,
 - Provide quantitative assessment for areas of; Operational, Governance, Human Resources, and Financial.

Proposed Funding Streams

Sustainability Fund: Utilized with up to a 3-year partnership commitment (subject to annual approval of the Region's Business Plans and Budget) with the community organization for projects that support medium-term operational costs (e.g. staffing, rent, utilities).

Emerging and Emergency Needs Fund: Utilized to address emerging needs in the community as they arise – homelessness, supportive housing, poverty prevention, etc.

Capacity Building Fund: Utilized to support organizations that are lacking capacity to deliver key programs and services to the community. These programs would align with the Strategic goals of the Region and support the health and well-being of the community. Capacity funding would be provided with a plan in place to leverage partnerships in the community for future sustainability and assessed on an ongoing basis for effectiveness and relevance.



Next Steps - Implementation

Considerations

- Pilot the Framework in 2021 within the Housing division (i.e. Homelessness Funding). Subsequent reports will be prepared and shared with Council outlining the community engagement efforts and any recommended revisions to the overall Framework.
- A comprehensive Community Engagement Plan will be developed and implemented in 2021, to ensure adequate representation and considerations are made in the creation and expansion of this Framework.
- On an annual basis, the Organizational Effectiveness tool and this Framework process will be reviewed by the Region's Internal Audit Division (IAD) for effectiveness and appropriateness of the approach (e.g. entity controls, oversight and governance, etc.).
- Development of a change management approach to support non-profit agencies currently receiving funding that may be subject to additional constraints.
- It is intended that this Framework will enhance the current methods and approaches for allocations to community agencies via service delivery contracts in the Social Services Department (e.g. Homelessness Prevention (CHPI), Social Investment Fund, etc.).



Thank You

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