



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 24-143**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Community Development & Well-Being and IIDEA
Date of Meeting: August 13, 2024
Subject: Community Investment Fund 2024 Funding Recommendations

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 4. Foster a Caring and Inclusive Community

Goal: 4.1 Enhance community safety and well-being.

Executive Summary:

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) is a joint grant program between the City of Kingston and the United Way of Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington (United Way) based on the shared community priorities of both organizations.

A total of 39 eligible applications from 34 agencies were received in May 2024 and a total of 16 grant applications are recommended to be funded with the municipal contribution of \$230,000.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the 16 Community Investment Fund grant recommendations, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 24-143, for a total of \$230,000.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

p.p. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Peter Huigenbos, Commissioner, Major Projects & Strategic Initiatives	Not required
Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	p.p.

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Options/Discussion:

In 2011, City Council approved a new grant program that amalgamated the municipal Healthy Community Fund and the United Way’s community grants into a single program called the “Community Investment Fund (CIF)”.

There are three funding streams that align with the community impact areas defined by the United Way and the priorities of the City. These streams are: “Helping Kids Be All They Can Be”, “Building Strong and Healthy Communities” and “Moving People from Poverty to Possibility”.

A total of 39 eligible applications from 34 agencies were received in May 2024 with a total request of \$889,512.

Community volunteers, the United Way and City staff reviewed the requests in accordance with the CIF criteria. The process included a paper review of the applications and Zoom presentations to the review panels. A total of 16 applications are recommended to be funded from the City of Kingston municipal contribution of \$230,000.

All grant applications were considered against the availability of funds, the quality of the application and the need for the proposed programs. They were additionally reviewed using an IIDEA lens with a focus on the impact of services to vulnerable populations.

The next round of CIF grants will take place in the spring of 2025 pending budget approval.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

None

Notice Provisions:

None

Financial Considerations:

The approved 2024 operating budget allocated the annual \$230,000 for the Community Investment Fund Program.

Contacts:

Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Community Development & Well-Being and IIDEA, 613-546-2695 extension 4916

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Ben Leslie, Community Development Coordinator, Community Development & Well-Being and IIDEA

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Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Community Investment Fund Summary Report 2024

2024 City of Kingston and United Way KFL&A Community Investment Grant Fund Summary Report

Background

The United Way of KFL&A and City of Kingston have implemented a coordinated process so there is one application process for disbursing grants. This helps to avoid duplication and reduces the amount of work for organizations who apply for grants. The United Way provides the coordination of applications and the volunteer review process with no administration fee or charge to the City of Kingston.

This joint Community Investment Fund grant application process has been successfully implemented since 2011, with the United Way administering the granting process and aligning efforts with the funding priorities of the United Way and City of Kingston.

The City of Kingston contributed \$230,000 of their annual grant budget to this process. City funds must be disbursed during the fiscal year (i.e. by December 31, 2024). The United Way contributes to this granting process, as well, and the amount from the United Way depends on the overall amounts that are recommended by volunteers, available funding, as well as the geographic region and requests.

The process includes a review by volunteers of the applications submitted online. Applicant organizations make presentations to volunteer panels who then discuss the applications and arrive at a consensus for funding recommendations. City of Kingston and United Way staff participate as non-voting members at the panel meetings. These recommendations are then further reviewed at a special meeting of all panel chairs to ensure there is sufficient funding to meet the recommendations. This year, panel meetings were held virtually through Zoom and the all-panel chairs meeting was held in person at the United Way KFL&A with a hybrid option for chairs to attend virtually.

The final recommendations from panel volunteers for this year's process are included in this report.

Volunteers were divided into five review panels. A total of 39 applications from 34 agencies were received. All applications were reviewed in accordance with the City of Kingston and United Way Community Investment Fund Guidelines.

The total amount requested was \$889,512. This report summarizes grants recommended for **16 programs** for a total amount of **\$230,000** for approval by Kingston City Council.

All grants were prioritized on availability of funds, quality and need, and reviewed using an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Indigenization lens, as well as the impact of services to vulnerable populations. There is not enough funding to approve all applications and there are some applications that are not recommended for approval based on volunteer reviews and amount of funding available.

Volunteer panel members included: Sarah Beckstead, Cam Burns, Don Campbell, Adam Clow, Michele Finney, Lana Foulds, Lucille Groll, Joan Jardin, Keshiv Kaushal, Rebecca Kelly, Julia

Lynch, Margaret McGowan, Julie Mclachlan, Erin Nolan, Kim Peachey, Mona Rahman, Valerie Robb, Jessica Schonewille, Karen Smith and Meghan Warring.

City of Kingston and United Way staff who participated as a resource at the panel meetings:

- Benjamin Leslie, Community Development Coordinator, Community Development & Well Being and IIDEA, for the City of Kingston, served as a resource to the process.
- Kim Hockey, Vice President of Community Investment; Claire DesRoche, Community Investment Manager.

Summary of Recommendations to Kingston City Council

Helping Kids Be All They Can Be

No. of Grants Recommended: 4	Total \$s Recommended:	\$38,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funding Recommended
Almost Home Kingston	The Gift of Life	\$6,000
Centre for Abuse and Trauma Therapy	STAR Kids: Supporting Therapy Access & Resources	\$8,000
Maltby Centre	2SLGBTQIA+ Youth and Parenting Group Training	\$4,000
The Food Sharing Project	Food Friends	\$20,000
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$38,000

Grant Descriptions

Almost Home Kingston: \$6,000 is recommended for the *Gift of Life* project to replace the current supply of breast pumps which are provided to families; however, near the end of their life after being used for approximately 15-20 years. Grant funding will be used to purchase hospital grade Medela Pumps to help mothers provide breast milk to their premature babies. The average gestation of the babies born whose parents stay at Almost Home is 24-37 weeks, and families could stay at Almost Home anywhere from a few days to four months. Providing breast pumps will allow mothers to pump as soon as they arrive.

Centre for Abuse and Trauma Therapy: \$8,000 is recommended for *STAR Kids project: Supporting Therapy Access & Resources*. The STAR Kids project will support children in overcoming the developmental impacts of trauma, which will help ensure they are able to learn and meet their developmental trajectories; where they can thrive and reach their full potential. Through therapy, children learn essential coping skills and develop resilience, which will help increase their sense and self-worth and confidence. By extending therapy support to caregivers, the project will foster connectedness within families, reducing conflict and facilitating positive relationships. Grant funds will ensure fees for therapy services are not a barrier, therefore, enabling trauma therapy to as many children as possible.

Maltby Centre: \$4,000 is recommended for *2SLGBTQIA+ Youth and Parenting Group Training*. The project will provide comprehensive training to qualify staff to offer affirmative CBT treatment groups and services to 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and for their families. The AFFIRM approach integrates identity affirmation with cognitive-behavioural therapy to improve well-being. The training is designed to help youth manage stress, support mental and sexual health, enhance coping skills and validate strengths of participants. Once trained, staff will run regular groups for youth and caregivers and provide affirmative services to clients on an individual basis. The groups are geared to age groups and can be delivered in person or virtually.

The Food Sharing Project: \$20,000 is recommended for *Food Friends*. The demand for meal and snack programs at schools continues to rise, and for a growing proportion of students the meal they receive at school is the most nutritious (sometimes only) meal they get that day. Staff time has diminished in schools resulting in most programs consisting of packaged food placed in classroom bins or grab and go carts. Grant funding will be used to hire a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to develop the Food Friends program, working with school coordinators to assess their needs, then recruit and train volunteers who support a specific school on a regular basis to prepare and distribute more nutritionally robust meals and snacks. The Volunteer Coordinator will also be responsible for promoting volunteer opportunities, providing training and offering ongoing support to the volunteer teams.

Building Strong and Healthy Communities

No. of Grants Recommended: 7	Total \$s Recommended:	\$116,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funding Recommended
Bloom Skills Centre	VIA Rail Cafe	\$12,500
Family and Children's Services of FL&A	Umoja Hub	\$18,000
Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest	Youth Connections	\$17,000
Martha's Table Community Program	Martha's Grows!	\$11,500
Rustle Church	Rustle Church Accessibility Project	\$25,000
Trellis HIV & Community Care	Indigenous Programs	\$15,000
Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac	Safe with Milli	\$17,000
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$116,000

Grant Descriptions

Bloom Skills Centre: \$12,500 is recommended for the *VIA Rail Café project*. This project is an expansion of the CommUnity Cafe program which offers accessible skills training and learning opportunities for young adults with intellectual and developmental exceptionalities. By partnering with VIA Rail Canada, a second café can be opened where students who might not yet be able to work fully independently, can be provided with support on the job. The Cafe will provide employment for those that might not otherwise be able to work, and opportunities for those to continue to grow and develop as they work toward independence. VIA will provide space at a minimal cost and grant funding will be used to purchase needed equipment to start the café.

Family and Children's Services of FL&A: \$18,000 is recommended for the *Umoja Hub*. Funding will support the development of a community-based hub grounded in Afrocentric service delivery and supportive resources, inclusive and accessible wrap-around programs, and counselling services to empower families and help them address their concerns regarding

equitable and culturally supportive access to services and supports, including inclusive, accessible after school, weekend and summer programming, to bridge the existing service delivery gap.

Kingston Native Centre and Language Nest: \$17,000 is recommended for the *Youth Connections program*. Grant funding will support staffing costs and honorarium for elders/knowledge keepers to provide a barrier-free weekly drop-in program, activities and cultural and social supports for Indigenous youth in the urban Kingston area between the ages of 12-24.

Martha's Table Community Program: \$11,500 is recommended for the *Martha's Grows! Project*. The agency has recently expanded to serve a much larger population over the last year. To meet the demand while providing both a safe and sanitary environment for food preparation, food storage and serving the public. Funding will be used towards replacement of the roof and purchase of needed additional kitchen equipment.

Rustle Church: \$25,000 is recommended for the *Rustle Church Accessibility Project*. Rustle Church is situated in an underprivileged neighbourhood whose population is impacted by addiction, mental health, poverty and experiences greater accessibility needs than most parts of Kingston. While an exterior accessible ramp is being installed to allow people with mobility challenges to enter the building, there is need for an accessible washroom to accommodate a wheelchair or eliminate the use of stairs to remove physical barriers. Funding is for the conversion of office space into a universal washroom including plumbing, drywall, flooring, accessible door installation and fixtures.

Trellis HIV & Community Care: \$15,000 is recommended for *Indigenous Programs*. This project will focus on marginalized community members who experience wide reaching historical and systemic discrimination, specifically designed to reach those whose lived experience is impacted by the intersection of substance use and Indigeneity in a way not seen in other services. Funding will be used towards supplies and activities such as smudging, medicine making aboriginal teachings, etc., to provide Indigenous people the opportunity to reconnect with their culture and teachings to motivate recovery, well-being and stability, in an environment free of stigma and discrimination.

Victim Services of Kingston and Frontenac: \$17,000 is recommended for the *Safe with Milli Pilot*. Grant funding will be used towards cost for implementing and expanding the Safe with Milli mobile application in Kingston; a comprehensive support platform for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), to provide survivors with accessible resources, safety planning tools, and support services to empower them on their journey to safety and healing. The SWM pilot has two technologies in scope: (1) Kudo - A cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) technology platform with configurable workspaces built for teams and individuals working in public safety, and (2) Milli - A mobile app for victim-survivors to self-manage their circumstances, including logging incidents of abuse or harm, safety planning, document storage, checking in and getting help from trusted contacts, and communicating securely with connected support organizations. Milli communicates directly with Kudo, allowing for a secure way for service providers to communicate and, when appropriate, share information directly with victim-survivors.

Moving People From Poverty to Possibility

No. of Grants Recommended: 5	Total \$s Recommended:	\$76,000
Organization	Project/Program	City Funding Recommended
Addiction and Mental Health Services KFLA	ICH Drop In Refresh	\$10,000
Ryandale Transitional Homes	In House Programming	\$14,000
Tipi Moza (Iron Homes)	Affordable Program RFP	\$25,000
Well Suited Kingston	Suiting Operations	\$12,000
YMCA of Eastern Ontario	Housing Pilot Program	\$15,000
Total City \$s Recommended:		\$76,000

Grant Descriptions

Addiction and Mental Health Services KFLA: \$10,000 is recommended for the *ICH Drop In Refresh*. Grant funding will be used towards revamping the drop-in area of the Integrated Care Hub (ICH) with new, sturdy and welcoming furniture to create distinct eating, resting and lounge areas. The drop-in area is also used as an overnight overflow rest space, and is currently furnished with old, broken furniture that does not provide a welcoming environment. The new space will have the ability to divide into multiple sections for individuals to sit, eat and gather in a better atmosphere that will enhance service delivery, client well-being and positive community development.

Ryandale Transitional Homes: \$14,000 is recommended for the *In House Programming project*. The program will be developed through the hire of a contract position to work with and train current staff (i.e. house manager who are relatively new) and equip them to implement ongoing training of programming staff to provide basic skills development with residents so they can successfully return to independent living. Topics would include such things as budgeting, grocery shopping, nutritious and cost-effective cooking, resume building, job interviewing, how to deal with difficult people, time management, etc.

Tipi Moza (Iron Homes): \$25,000 is recommended for the *Affordable Program AFP project*. The agency provides affordable, supportive, not for profit housing to Indigenous peoples and connects the urban Indigenous community to cultural, education and employment support services. Funding will go towards installation of new steel roofs for two transitional housing buildings to keep them in good repair so tenants can continue to reside there for years to come.

Well Suited Kingston: \$12,000 is recommended for the *Suiting Operations program*. Grant funds will support the coordination of the program to provide men who are in need, with the opportunity to be suited with business and work attire by a trained staff person who spends time with the individual allowing for knowledge transfer regarding skills relevant to job interviews and business networking. Those suited are often new to the workplace without

means for appropriate clothing and in need of knowledge regarding workplace culture including business etiquette, respectful communication, etc.

YMCA of Eastern Ontario: \$15,000 is recommended for the *Housing Pilot Program*. YMCA has partnered with CaraCo Development Corporation, Tipi Moza, an urban First Nation, Metis and Inuit housing provider developed under the CMHC Urban Native Housing Program, and the City of Kingston, in a pilot program to manage four new single housing units as affordable housing rentals. This will provide residents of Tipi Moza's transitional housing facility with reduced market rates. CaraCo has provided a rental discount for the units, the City of Kingston, through its rent supplement program is partially offsetting the rental costs, and tenants will cover the balance of the rent through social programs. Grant funding will be used to offset program cost to assist with supports provided by YMCA for the program including staff time, apartment furnishings, program supplies, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Hockey
Vice President, Community Impact
United Way Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington