

NO: R238

COUNCIL DATE: December 4, 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council **DATE: November 30, 2017**

FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture **FILE: 01-2017**

SUBJECT: Application for a UBCM Age Friendly Communities Grant

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve the submission of an application to the UBCM's 2018 Age Friendly Communities Grant Program for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to initiate the development of a Mobile Community Care for Seniors, ("MCCS"); and
3. Request that the City Clerk forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Surrey Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee and to the Social Planning Advisory Committee as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support for the City to submit an application for a grant under the UBCM Age Friendly Communities Grant Program and in collaboration with other key partners, to initiate a MCCS. Council approval this application is a requirement of the Age Friendly Communities Grant Program application criteria.

BACKGROUND

The Age-friendly Communities Grant Program is Provincially funded and intended to assist local governments in BC to best support aging populations, develop and implement policies and plans, or undertake projects that enable seniors to age in place, and facilitate the creation of age friendly communities. Age Friendly Communities Grants have been offered to 144 local governments and 286 plans or projects have been completed or approved for funding.

DISCUSSION

Staff, in partnership with Seniors Come Share Society and the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee, have prepared an application for funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the Age Friendly Communities Grant Program (the "Grant"). The Grant will be utilized to develop a MCCS initiative by the City of Surrey in partnership with Seniors Come Share Society and key community stakeholders.

Mobile Community Care for Seniors (MCCS)

The Mobile Community Care for Seniors will consist of utilizing existing resources that will include, use of the city bus and further expansion on the partnerships of the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee. The funding will enable the purchase of the equipment and administration support that would facilitate providing basic support resources to seniors who are un-housed or unsettled due to various circumstances. The integrated 'mobile unit' will help to address the issues that seniors may be experiencing which can directly impact their health and ability to be resilient and remain connected and engaged in the community.

Seniors who are living in transitional situations can find themselves unable to access support resources such as help to fill out forms for identification, fair pharmacare and seniors financial supplements (SAFER, GIS, OAS, CPP, income taxes). The 'mobile unit' will provide the ability to serve clients directly in the community at the neighbourhood level. In addition, to support seniors with some basic health care needs, a qualified health professional will be able to conduct blood pressure checks, minor foot or other wound care, checking for diabetes and flu shots (specific to the time of year).

The success of the MCCS will be through collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders such as Seniors Come Share Society, Fraser Health representatives, community-based seniors service organizations, Public Safety, RCMP, Fire Services, Surrey Food Bank, local faith based community groups, university students in nursing, social work or gerontology, service clubs and local businesses in the community.

To ensure the highest access opportunity for those who need it, there will be a process to identify specific neighbourhoods that will include those living at 'high risk' for becoming unhoused or those who are presently unsettled. The MCCS will be scheduled twice a month in various neighbourhoods within all six town centres.

The overall goal of the MCCS is to support seniors so they are able to find their own home, have access to basic needs and remain engaged and independent in their community.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This initiative relates to the Sustainability Charter themes of Inclusion and Health and Wellness. Specifically the initiative supports the following Desired Outcomes and Strategic Directions:

- Housing – DO14: Supports are available to enable all people to live as independently as possible in the community.
- Age-Friendly Community – DO 15: Surrey's youngest and oldest residents are valued community members.
- Age-Friendly Community – DO 19: Supports are available for healthy aging in place.
- Health Services and Programs – DO1: Surrey has a full range of high quality, community-based health and social services and programs that address health and wellness.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- Approve the submission of an application to the UBCM's 2018 Age Friendly Communities Grant Program for a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to initiate the development of a Mobile Community Care for Seniors, ("MCCS"); and
- Request that the City Clerk forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Surrey Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee and to the Social Planning Advisory Committee as information.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation & Culture