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**REPORT TO FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2023**

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants 2022 Annual Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Capital Regional District (CRD) external grants activity for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The CRD Grants team provides support to divisions across the organization as they pursue external grant opportunities with funders. Services apply for projects in alignment with their capital and service plans, adjusting and requesting amendments when opportunities unpredictably arise. The CRD Grants team informs divisions of upcoming opportunities, reviews applications, conducts research and engagement with external programs, advises on grant inquiries and regularly reports to the Board through Finance Committee on activity.

Appendix A details external grants activity and application status for the period ended December 31, 2022. This report also provides an update on the one-time Safe Restart for Local Governments Funding (Appendix B) and an update on the status of grant-funded projects (Appendix C).

The CRD has been reporting annually on grants since 2019. Staff track key performance indicators including application activity and amounts awarded. The availability of grant programs, lengthy review process, and competitive nature of grants can make it challenging to compare grant success on a year-by-year basis.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

2022 Activity

1. 52 grant alerts circulated
 - 5 additional summaries with supplementary information provided for high value programs
2. Grant application activity
 - 41 applications reported in 2022
 - 30 applications approved
 - 17 pending results
 - 8 declined / cancelled / withdrawn
 - 3 partnership applications

3. Grant coordination and reporting
 - 5 external grants staff reports were provided bi-monthly to the Finance Committee
 - 5 annual reports; external grants, Safe Restart, Grants-in-Aid (GIA) and 2 Community Works Fund (internal and external) reports
 - 1 other Grant Report relating to Regional GIA
4. Financial administration
5. Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement

The following table provides a summary of external grants activity with a comparison to 2021. With the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project (CAWTP) grant program complete, staff will no longer include updates going forward. Additionally, all Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) grants have been received from CMHC. While the implementation of the program will continue for several years, no further grants from CMHC are expected through this program.

Table 1: Grants Awarded for 2022

Grants Awarded	2022	2021
Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project (CAWTP)	\$36M	\$81.8M
Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) ¹ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) grant	No further funds anticipated	\$5.8M
External Grants Awarded	\$12.9M	\$29.3M
Total	\$48.9M	\$116.9M
Rate of Return (excludes CAWTP/RHFP)	13.5x	32.6x

¹RHFP includes funding from the CRD, BC Housing (contribution), and CMHC (grant). In 2020, each partner committed \$40M towards affordable housing, for a total of \$120M. BC Housing's contributions are not received by the CRD, but are funds distributed to third parties.

Safe Restart

The COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants for Local Governments provided \$425 million across the province to assist local governments impacted by COVID-19. The CRD received nearly \$2 million to assist with COVID-19 response and post-recovery expenses. Projects were awarded based on alignment with grant program criteria, and included revenue shortfalls, corporate Emergency Operations Centre expenses and allocations to Local Area Services. The CRD is required to report on funds until fully spent. Appendix B provides an update on expenses from 2020-2022, and funds committed for 2023.

Service Delivery Implications

Applying for grants is often time-sensitive where programs launch unexpectedly, disrupting service and work plans. Staff endeavor to seek funding for projects identified in capital plans aligned with community needs (refer to Appendix D); however, when opportunities arise adjustments and implications are brought forward for approval.

CONCLUSION

Staff continue to monitor and track key performance indicators, which are driven by the variability of external grant program availability. The CRD Grants team works with and across services to maximize funding opportunities. Staff proactively manage various processes for optimal financial management and adjust work plans when funding programs become available and where capacity and resources permit.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Capital Regional District External Grants Activity 2022
- Appendix B: Safe Restart Funding for Local Governments – Regional and Local Services Projects
- Appendix C: Update on the Status of Grant-Funded Projects
- Appendix D: Grant Alignment with Community Needs