

**STAFF REPORT TO  
THE PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF MAY 23, 2012**

---

**SUBJECT HOMELESSNESS AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES “CAPACITY BUILDING WORK PROGRAM”**

**ISSUE**

To obtain Capital Regional Hospital District Board (CRHD) approval on the recommended use of conditional grants received from the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

**BACKGROUND**

In March 2011, the Capital Regional District (CRD) received a \$140,000 conditional grant from VIHA to “...provide community capacity to address the issues of the agency’s homeless populations.” In March 2012, the CRD received another conditional grant of \$150,000 from VIHA for the same purpose, but also to “...support healthy communities.”

Use of these funds falls under the auspices of the CRD’s Health and Capital Planning Strategies Division, responsible for both the Community Health and Homelessness Secretariat portfolios, as well as the Community Health and Wellbeing element of the Regional Sustainability Strategy.

In consideration of broad CRD and CRHD strategic priorities to ensure the Region remains socially sustainable for all citizens, and in light of this funding from VIHA, a draft 2012-2013 Homelessness and Resilient Communities Strategic Initiatives Work Program (attached) has been developed. The intent of the draft Work Program is twofold:

- 1) To work with community partners and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive ‘action plan’ to strengthen community capacity in the areas of social wellbeing, healthy communities, and homelessness and housing; and,
- 2) To clearly define the role of the CRD in each of these areas to ensure successful implementation and effective use of limited ongoing resources.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the 2012/2013 Homelessness and Healthy Communities Strategic Initiatives Work Program.
2. Not approve the 2012/2013 Homelessness and Healthy Communities Strategic Initiatives Work Program, and provide staff with further direction to amend this program and return with these amendments.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to the CRD for either option. There is a risk that a delay in finalizing and enacting such a program might cause VIHA to request the return of uncommitted funds.

**COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS**

These funds provide a unique opportunity for the CRD to engage with stakeholders and partners to address specific priorities already identified by the Board such as: the Community Health and Wellbeing, and Housing components of the Regional Sustainability Strategy; a long range plan related to seniors care needs; and, other proposed initiatives to support vulnerable populations and increase community health and resiliency. Consistent with another Board strategic priority, the plan emphasizes dialogue and collaboration with community partners, stakeholders, and First Nations groups to identify key gaps, prioritize actions and strengthen community partnerships to address the gaps.

**CONCLUSION**

These VIHA conditional grants provide a unique opportunity for the CRD to move forward with strategic priorities with stakeholders, partners and the broader community with no financial impact to the CRD. The proposed time frame of the draft program is also consistent with our understanding of the requirements of VIHA for use of these funds.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee recommends that the Capital Regional Hospital District Board:

1. Approve the 2012/2013 Homelessness and Healthy Communities Strategic Initiatives Work Program.

---

Maurice Rachwalski, Senior Manager  
Health & Capital Planning Strategies Division

---

Robert Lapham, MCIP  
General Manager Planning & Protective Services  
Concurrence

---

Kelly Daniels  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Concurrence

Attachments: 1