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REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 05, 2021

SUBJECT **Capital Regional District External Grants 2020 Annual Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the Capital Regional District (CRD) external grants activity for the period of January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020.

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the CRD introduced a grants dashboard to provide the Board with regular updates on the organization's activities related to external grant programs. In addition to this annual report, staff report on grant applications, awards, and forecast upcoming programs bi-monthly through committee to Board. There are additional reports detailing Community Works Funds and Grants-in-Aid that report through the Electoral Areas Committee.

Through various financial processes, including budgeting, staff actively manage revenue streams to fund operating and capital expenditures. As a critical component of revenue management and cost effective service delivery, staff continually monitor and partner with funders to align and occasionally adjust work plans with granting opportunities.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

As a result of COVID-19, grant activity during the 2020 calendar year was unique. Many previously announced programs were either cancelled or postponed and replaced with COVID-19 streams to support impacted organizations. A number of provincially funded COVID-19 grants including the Safe Restart for Local Governments were allocation-based versus traditional application programs. As a result, the rate of return key performance indicator, which is a function of staff time, is heavily skewed when comparing year to year. The following is a summary of grant activity during 2020 excluding those still under communication embargo. Appendix A provides additional detail on grant application activity.

Grants Activity Overview (as of December 31, 2020)

1. Grant alerts: 69 alerts circulated
 - 50 weekly grant alerts
 - 19 individual grant summaries
2. Grant application activity
 - 44 submitted applications in 2020
 - 27 applications approved

- 20 pending results
 - 11 declined/cancelled/deferred
3. Grant coordination and reporting
 - 9 External Grants Staff Reports were provided monthly to the Governance & Finance committee.
 - 4 Annual Reports, including reports detailing activity for external grants, Community Works Fund, and Grants-in-Aid.
 - 5 Other Grant Reports, including reports related to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, grant adjudication, and Safe Restart funding.
 4. Professional development
 5. Grant research & performance
 6. Financial administration
 7. Relationship building with Grant Program Funders

The following table provides an overview of awards for the past 2 years.

Table 1: Grants Awarded for 2020

| Grants Awarded | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project (CAWTP) ¹ | \$149.1M | \$138.9M |
| Regional Housing First Program (RHFP) ² Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) grant | \$4.2M | \$30M |
| External Grants Awarded | \$31.2M | \$6.8M |
| Total | \$187.5M | \$175.7M |
| Rate of Return (excludes CAWTP/RHFP) | 35x | 13x |

Grant Program Trends

In tracking funding trends, staff review various program alerts, notifications, and announcements. For information purposes, appendix B summarizes the top five categories of granting programs in 2020 in addition to applications submitted aligned to CRD's identified community needs, showcasing the effort and activity across the organization in support of revenue diversification.

CONCLUSION

Staff provide regular reports through both the Finance and Electoral Area committees detailing internal and external grants activity. In 2020, COVID-19 impacted the portfolio with cancellations,

¹ At the end of 2020, CAWTP had collectively year to date received \$339M in funding from provincial and federal programs.

² RHFP includes funding from the CRD, BC Housing (contribution), and CMHC (grant); in 2020, each partner had committed \$40M towards affordable housing, for a total of \$120M.

postponements, and new funding programs. Staff continue to monitor and track key performance indicators which, in 2020, are unique when compared with the prior year. Staff proactively manage the various processes for optimal financial management and adjust work plans when necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the CRD External Grants 2020 Annual Report be received for information

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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: Capital Regional District: External Grants Activity 2020
Appendix B: External Grant Program Trends