

NO: R030

COUNCIL DATE: February 26, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 21, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Finance**

FILE: **1850-20**

SUBJECT: **Council Initiatives Funding Request - Immigrant Link Centre Society**

RECOMMENDATION

The Finance Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Approve from the Council Initiatives Fund, a funding contribution of \$5,000 in support of Immigrant Link Centre Society.

INTENT

Immigrant Link Centre Society (“ILCS”) has submitted a request to the City to provide a funding contribution to support their Free Food Program.

DISCUSSION

ILCS is a registered charity committed to combating food waste, safeguarding the environment, and supporting the well-being and economic growth of new immigrants and low-income families. Founded in 2016 by a passionate team of five individuals, ILCS embarked on a mission to rescue surplus food that would otherwise end up in landfills from select grocery stores. Over the years, ILCS’s volunteer workforce has grown to 350 dedicated individuals who diligently collect fresh food from partnering grocery stores within the lower mainland. Once the food is collected, it is sorted and redistributed to benefit 3500 individuals each month. ILCS’s Free Food Program is a community-driven initiative dedicated to preventing food wastage and enhancing access to nutritious food for individuals facing financial challenges including low-income families, immigrants, refugees, and seniors. Efficient transportation and logistics are crucial for timely food collection and distribution. ILCS is requesting that the City consider providing a funding contribution of \$10,000 towards the cost of gas to run a reefer truck to pick up food from various grocery stores and deliver it free of cost to people in need in Surrey.

FUNDING

Staff have evaluated the current request to ensure it is compliant with the Council Initiatives Fund Utilization Policy. Staff recommend that Council support the ILCS’s Free Food Program through a funding contribution of \$5,000 from the Council Initiatives Fund.

Appendix "I" attached to this report documents the balance in the Council Initiatives Fund based on an assumption that Council will approve the recommendations of this report.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve from the Council Initiatives Fund, a funding contribution of \$5,000 in support of ILCS's Free Food Program.

Kam Grewal, CPA, CMA
General Manager, Finance

Appendix "I": Council Initiatives – Allocations for 2024



**2024 FINANCIAL PLAN
COUNCIL INITIATIVES**

Description	Amount	Allocation to date	Remaining
Carried Forward from Prior Year	240,000		
2024 Proposed Budget	<u>260,000</u>		\$ 500,000
Surrey Hospitals Foundation - Celebration of Care Gala		12,500	
SFU President's Surrey Community Mixer (Proposed)		5,000	
Immigrant Link Centre Society (Proposed)		5,000	
Princess Margaret Secondary School - LeoCraft Design Team (Proposed)		15,000	
Allocations for 2024		<u>\$ 37,500</u>	<u>\$ 462,500</u>