

NO: **R033**

COUNCIL DATE: **February 24, 2020**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **February 11, 2020**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **8000-30**

SUBJECT: **Application for a Union of BC Municipalities Community Childcare Planning Grant**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support space creation community actions in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the “Task Force”) and the Centre for Child Development.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support for the City applying for a grant under the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program to support space creation community actions in collaboration with the Task Force and the Centre for Child Development.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM Community Child Care Planning Program is provincially funded and is intended to assist local governments to engage in childcare planning activities in order to develop a community childcare space creation action plan. In order to better meet the childcare needs of families, under Budget 2018, the Province announced expanded investment in the childcare sector totalling \$1 billion over three years. This includes \$237 million to improve access to childcare, including funding the creation of 22,000 new licensed childcare spaces.

On February 11, 2019, Council endorsed a UBCM grant application to develop a childcare space action plan in collaboration with the Task Force and the Centre for Child Development (Corporate Report R030; 2019 attached as Appendix “I”). The City was successful in receiving the \$25,000 grant, and has since conducted the following actions in 2019-2020:

- Task Force workplan created;
- Data inventory and map of licensed childcare spaces in Surrey;
- Space Prioritization Calculator (draft) that can be used to assess and prioritize potential licensed childcare sites; and

- Preliminary review of practices and policy improvements that can expedite the development of licensed childcare in Surrey.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey childcare action plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive childcare services.

The Task Force has previously identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal childcare system:

- Lack of affordable childcare;
- Insufficient childcare spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs;
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a childcare system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive childcare system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profit organizations to deliver childcare services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and this grant will allow the Task Force to continue its work. The Task Force recommendations have been provided to the Province and a representative from the Province is a member of the Task Force who works collaboratively with Task Force to address the needs in Surrey.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in childcare planning activities in order to develop a community childcare space creation action plan. Additionally, the Child Development Centre and Options Community Services will each provide in-kind support of \$5,000 to the project subject to the successful receipt of grant funding. If successful, the City will utilize the grant to hire a part-time consultant to work with the Task Force to continue its work. The total project budget is \$35,000.

The project goals for 2020-2021 are as follows:

- Collect and integrate additional data from the City and School District #36 into the existing Phase 1 map of data from Child Care Resource & Referral (“CCRR”) and Licensing Branch (Fraser Health);
- Provide this multi-variate data set and map to the Province to support applications from local organizations seeking capital funding;
- Distribute the Space Prioritization Calculator Tool, in addition to existing tools from CCRR Licensing Branch (Fraser Health), and the City to potential proponents considering the development of licensed childcare facilities;

- Support the recruitment and retention of ECE and applicable staff for licensed childcare programs;
- Develop a community engagement plan and carry out surveys, focus groups, and seek other sources of information that will inform this plan; and
- Leverage knowledge at the Task Force to inform further long-range planning by all members of the Task Force.

The identified activities are feasible with acquisition of the grant and continued significant in-kind contribution by all members of the Task Force.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Age-Friendly Community- DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare;
- Age Friendly Community – SD 14: Ensure sufficient high-quality childcare spaces are available in the City;
- Learning – DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families; and
- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council authorize the submission of an application to the UBCM’s 2020 Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support space creation community actions to expand quality childcare opportunities in Surrey.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix “I” - Corporate Report R030; 2019

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R030

COUNCIL DATE: February 11, 2019

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 7, 2019
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture FILE: 8000-30
SUBJECT: Update on the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force and Applications for two Union of BC Municipalities Grants

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Child Care Planning Program for a grant of up to \$25,000 to develop a child care space action plan in collaboration with the Surrey Community Child Care Task Force (the "Task Force") and the Centre for Child Development; and
3. Endorse a Union of BC Municipalities grant application submitted to the Community Space Creation Program for a grant of up to \$1 million dollars to establish a purpose-built modular building for childcare ages 0-5 at the Don Christian Community Centre.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Task Force and to receive Council's endorsement of two Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") grant applications submitted.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2015, Council received a presentation from the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care that discussed its vision of establishing a Task Force.

Subsequent to this presentation, Council received a request from City staff to recommend a City staff member co-chair the Task Force (report attached as Appendix "I"). Daljit Gill-Badesha, Manager of Healthy Communities in the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department was assigned to this role; Ms. Gill-Badesha is also a member of the Provincial Child Care Council to Minister Chen, Minister of State for Child Care. The other co-chair is Gerard Bremault, CEO of the Centre for Child Development. The assignment of the two co-chairs formalized the establishment of the Task Force in 2016 by the Surrey Working Group on non-profit child care.

At the Regular Council Meeting on April 23, 2018 through Corporate Report R079; 2018, (report attached as Appendix "II"), staff provided an update on the Task Force and discussed Surrey's alignment with the Provincial Government and its goals of establishing a universal child care system in BC. The Surrey Child Care Report (the "Report") attached to this Corporate Report is a foundational research document for further partnership development locally and with other levels of Government. The Report provides the direction on community needs and next steps for action.

DISCUSSION

The main focus of the Task Force is to collaboratively develop a Surrey Child Care Action Plan that will enhance, expand and support comprehensive child care services.

The Task Force has previously identified the following challenges Surrey faces in its attempts to develop a universal child care system:

- Lack of affordable child care;
- Insufficient child care spaces to meet existing needs and future growth;
- Limited out of school care or in proximity to schools;
- Severe shortage of Early Childhood Educators;
- Quality concerns of Early Childhood Education (ECE) training programs;
- Limited local opportunities to receive ECE training programs;
- Limited space for children with financial or accessibility challenges;
- Limited capacity of local systems to support a child care system;
- Gaps in support programs;
- Historical, lack of senior government investment in a comprehensive child care system; and
- Limited capacity for not for profit organizations to deliver child care services.

The Task Force continues to address these challenges and will use this information to align Surrey's efforts with the Government of British Columbia's Plan entitled, "Child Care B.C. Caring for Kids, Lifting Up Families – The Path to Universal Child Care." The Task Force recommendations have been provided to the Government of British Columbia. To support the work of the Task Force, the City has applied for two UBCM grants under the programs of Community Child Care Planning and Community Space Creation.

Community Child Care Planning Program

The Community Child Care Planning Program will provide funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. If successful, the City will utilize the grant to hire a part-time consultant to develop a community child care space action plan. The Child Development Centre will provide in-kind matching support to the project.

Community Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program will provide funding to local governments to create new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5, with a focus on spaces for infants and toddlers. Don Christian Recreation Centre located at 6220 – 184 Street (map attached as Appendix “III”) in the Cloverdale community, has been selected as the preferred location because of the continued high growth of families with young children and the growing demand for experienced licensed preschool and school-aged care programs in the area. Currently, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department provides licensed preschool and before/after child care at the Don Christian Recreation. The Recreation Centre is located within proximity to Don Christian Elementary School. If funding is received, it will be used to establish a purpose-built modular building and expanding the programming by 16 new licensed child care spaces for children ages 0-5. The projected budget costs are as follows:

• Modular unit (shell) sized 24 x 60 ft. (7.3152m x 18.288m):	\$450,000
• Interior renovation:	\$100,000
• Site preparation & delivery:	\$100,000
• Permitting & soft cost (Architect and other consultants):	\$75,000
• Utility connection (gas, sewer, water & hydro):	\$100,000
• Indoor/outdoor equipment:	<u>\$175,000</u>
Total:	\$1,000,000

Should the City be successful in receiving this funding, a Request for Proposal (“RFP”) process will be undertaken to secure a not-for-profit child care operator.

A resolution of support by Council is a requirement to receive UBCM funding. Typically, UBCM funding applications require proof of Council approval in advance of application; in order to expedite access to this funding, UBCM has allowed municipalities to apply and subsequently receive and provide Council’s endorsement post application. Therefore, applications to both of the programs have been submitted.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of the Task Force supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

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- Health Services and programs- SD5: Support access to high-quality child care services and facilities.

CONCLUSION

Recent new investments from the Federal and Provincial Governments provide a window of opportunity to apply for funding for the Surrey community to access child care planning and capital grants through Provincial initiatives. The Task Force's readiness and involvement has been critical in seizing these opportunities and has provided further alignment with the Province's interest in Surrey and to implement a universal child care system in BC. It is recommended that Council continue to endorse the community efforts for child care by supporting both applications to the Community Child Care Planning Program Community Space Creation Program to expand quality child care opportunities in Surrey.



Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": Corporate Report R226; 2015

Appendix "II": Corporate Report R079; 2018

Appendix "III" Don Christian Recreation Centre Location Map

(appendices available upon request)