

Revised 2020 Emergency Resiliency Fund (ERF) Terms of Reference

Background

In 2015 December, Council approved the creation of a one-time \$30 million Community Economic Resiliency Fund. Of this total amount, \$5 million was directed to the establishment of an Emergency Resiliency Fund “to assist non-profit organizations and City business units experiencing excess demand as a result of the economic downturn and global events”, to be administered by the Community Services department.

In 2020 May, Administration recommended an additional \$15 million be allocated to the Emergency Resiliency Fund to enable non-profit partners to respond to the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic and support their ability to contribute to Calgary’s social, economic and cultural response.

Purpose

The purpose of the Emergency Resiliency Fund is to enable non-profits, including The City’s civic and community partners, to continue to serve Calgarians during the response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic event by ensuring adequate services are available, and to pursue partner capacity to support Calgary’s social, economic and cultural recovery from the event.

The Emergency Resiliency Fund provides funding to **three strategies**:

- 1. \$8 million to enhance support** for the programs and services of Calgary non-profits impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic response, thus enabling increased access for families and individuals and helping to prevent escalation of social problems. This strategy will leverage already-submitted funding proposals including those related to basic needs.
- 2. \$2 million directed to arts and cultural organizations** through the Calgary Arts Development Authority’s (CADA) grant programs to meet immediate needs and address the increased demand for funding that supports organizational sustainability. This funding will help ensure Calgary has a strong and resilient local arts community that supports economic resilience and offers arts and cultural opportunities for Calgarians and visitors.
- 3. \$5 million for The City’s civic and community partners** that are significantly impacted by COVID-19 public health orders, including closure of facilities, have experienced significant decreases in revenue, and require funding during the response and recovery phase to support organizational stability.

Strategy Details

Strategy 1: Enhanced support to programs and services of Calgary non-profits impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic response

Funding Process

Current relief funding proposals submitted by non-profit organizations to the Social Services Support for COVID-19 program (a partnership with the Government of Alberta) and the COVID-19 Community Response Fund (a partnership with United Way of Calgary) that have not yet been awarded funding due to high demand will be reviewed and assessed for eligibility for ERF funding. If there are remaining ERF funds available after this first stage, new applications specific to the ERF will be considered until funding has been fully allocated.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

To be eligible for funding, the following criteria must be met:

- The applicant is registered as a non-profit organization under the *Societies Act* or the *Companies Act* (Alberta) and operating within the Calgary city limits.
- The applicant has a track record of effective program or service delivery.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate all funding proposals in this strategy:

- Demonstration of increased or new demand, or need to facilitate increased access for service associated with the current COVID-19 response, and an inability to meet the demand with existing resources.
- Demonstration that proposed program/service will provide immediate support to individuals, families or communities in need.
- Demonstration of how this one-time funding will have a measurable impact on individuals or families through clearly stated objectives and an evaluation plan.
- Demonstration of the organization's capacity and competency to act/respond in a timely matter once funding is provided.

Funding recommendations and decisions

Applications for funding will be assessed by a review panel comprised of staff from Calgary Neighbourhoods and community funding partners, as appropriate. Priority will be given to applications that were already reviewed for alignment to existing pandemic response funds, but were not supported due to limited resources. Final funding recommendations will be made by Calgary Neighbourhoods and approved by appropriate signing authorities within City Administration. Funding agreements will clearly outline accountability and reporting requirements.

Strategy 2: Targeted partnership with Calgary Arts Development Authority (CADA)***Funding Process***

Calgary Arts Development will receive flow-through funds to be allocated to arts and cultural organizations to address gaps in funding identified by CADA in the response and recovery phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. The existing funding agreement between The City and CADA will be amended to include additional reporting requirements, criteria specific for one-time funding for response and recovery and other requirements related to this funding.

Strategy 3: Targeted funding for The City's civic and community partners that are significantly impacted by COVID-19 public health orders.

Funding Process

Civic and community partners will request funding through their City liaison to address critical financial gaps created by decreased revenue and continuing operating expenses.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Civic and community partners as defined in the *Investing in Partnership Policy* (CP2017-01), which defines Civic Partners as independent organizations that receive an operating grant or other investment over \$500,000 and Community Partners as those that receive an operating grant or other investment under \$500,000. Community Associations and Social Recreation Groups would not be eligible.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate funding requests:

- Significant impact on operations due to COVID-19 public health orders, including lost revenue associated with a facility closure.
- Demonstration that the organization has challenges using existing cash flow and reserves to meet operating costs.
- Development of a plan to address operating challenges longer term to demonstrate that funding request is a one-time requirement.
- Identification that the organization has first accessed all other available funding programs including programs from other orders of government to address operating budget gaps.
- Review of the organization's financial capacity including available funding, reserve funding and related foundations, and governance and risk management practices.
- Consideration for supporting critical financial gaps during the response and as regular revenue sources stabilize and return to normal.

Funding recommendations and decisions

Requests for funding will be assessed against the evaluation criteria and other information previously collected about partner operations and financial health. Existing funding agreements will be amended to include additional accountability and reporting requirements as necessary. Final funding recommendations will be made by Calgary Neighbourhoods and approved by appropriate signing authorities within City Administration.