

BRIEFING

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Item # 14.2

People, Innovation and Collaboration Services Briefing to
Regular Meeting of Council
2023 April 25

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2023-0388

Update on Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

This is a Briefing to inform Council on the final status regarding the use of funding directed for business support, to mitigate impacts of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic as set out in C2021-0725 and PFC021-1366. Specifically, it sets out the distribution of three Reopening Grant Programs and the Restrictions Exemption Program Business Support Grant that provided direct financial relief to eligible businesses. The Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program is now considered closed.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Following the implementation of restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, The City of Calgary implemented several programs that provided direct financial relief to businesses to help them navigate challenges related to these restrictions. In May 2021, Council established Reopening Grant programs to assist (1) Restaurants and Breweries; (2) Fitness Facilities; and (3) Entertainment Establishments (C2021-0725).

In September 2021, the Reopening Grant programs were consolidated into the Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program (PFC021-1366), which was used to fund the Restrictions Exemption Program Business Support Grant. Through these grant programs, The City provided \$12,644,000 in direct financial relief to 4,569 businesses whose operations were significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Details on the distribution of the funds can be found in Attachment 1.

The criteria for receiving relief under the Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program was that business must be “significantly impacted” by COVID-19 restrictions. After restrictions were lifted, some of the previously approved COFLEX funding was no longer required and after 2022 December 31, no further funding could be allocated to COFLEX programs and initiatives. As such, Administration has determined that it is now appropriate to close the Calgary COVID-19 Business Support Program.

ATTACHMENT

1. Distribution of Grant Funding