

**Mayor's Office Report to
Priorities and Finance Committee**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
PFC2018-0925
[Report Number]
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2018 July 17

Council Innovation Fund Application

Council Sponsor: Councillor Ward Sutherland, Ward 1

Internal Sponsor(s): Community Standards, Calgary Police Service

Name of Project: Calgary Community Court: Pilot Readiness

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Councillor for Ward 1, Ward Sutherland, is sponsoring an application to the Council Innovation Fund (“CIF”) with the cooperation and support of Calgary Community Standards, The City of Calgary’s Administration, Calgary Police Service and nine other external partners including the Provincial Court of Alberta, Alberta Justice, Alberta Health Services, The Calgary Homeless Foundation, and The United Way (Attachment 1). Councillor Sutherland is requesting a withdrawal of \$250,000 as seed money to support one-time work to prepare the Calgary Community Court for operational readiness.

The Calgary Community Court is a collaboration of eleven organizations from the Justice, Social, and Health sectors (“the Collaborative”). The Collaborative recently completed a blueprint for a new system that would divert vulnerable populations (such as those facing addiction, mental health, and homelessness) charged with social disorder offences away from jail toward an integrated, court monitored system of rehabilitative supports. Evidence is overwhelming that this is a smarter approach from rehabilitation, recidivism, system-cost and public safety perspectives.

A blueprint for the new system is now in front of three levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal) and across ministries (Justice, Health and Social Welfare). The Collaborative is seeking cross-governmental endorsement and funding of \$8.4 million to operate the three-year pilot, intended to yield a proof of concept for rehabilitation of a vulnerable population, long-term systemic change, and ultimate system-level cost savings.

This initial request for \$250,000 is to hire an Implementation Coordinator who will take the blueprint to operational readiness, and to build the project evaluation platform in conjunction with the University of Calgary’s School of Public Policy (see Attachments 1 & 2).

If Council decides to fund the CIF request it will send a strong signal to all levels of government about Council’s commitment to both the Calgary Community Court and to the well-being of all Calgarians. Approval will allow the Collaborative to continue to create readiness for the Court while it secures the funds needed to operate the three-year pilot, and generate a proof of concept for long-term transformational change.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council:
 - a. Receive this application for information; or
 - b. Consider this application to utilize the Council Innovation Fund for the Calgary Community Court Pilot Readiness project in the amount of \$250,000.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRIORITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, DATED
2018 JULY 17:**

That Council consider this application to utilize the Council Innovation Fund for the Calgary Community Court Pilot Readiness project in the amount of \$250,000.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

As part of the 2010 November deliberations on the 2011 budget, Council established the CIF and directed Administration to develop Terms of Reference for the fund and create criteria that would guide Council on withdrawals request from the CIF. The Terms of Reference (see attachment 3) were adopted in March 2011 and are based on the following:

- The project will contribute to Council's goals and has potential City-wide application;
- The project is innovative or a pilot project or experiment that proposes a new or different way of doing The City's work.

Successful applications must provide detailed documentation and address one of the following:

- a) One-time start up or "seed" funds for initiatives or programs which will support or contribute to Council's priorities.
- b) Pilot projects or experiments that have potential to change city-wide policies and procedures.

Any Council member(s) can submit an application to the Priorities and Finance Committee for review and consideration and ultimately for Council consideration and approval. The proposal for funding must demonstrate credibility, fiscal responsibility and good management which will be important considerations in the evaluation of applications.

BACKGROUND

Currently there is \$1,160,450 remaining in the CIF.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

See Attachment 1, 2 & 3 for more details.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

See Attachment 1, 2, 3 & 4 for more details.

Strategic Alignment

See Attachment 1, 2 & 3 for more details.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

See Attachment 1, 2 & 3 for more details.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

See Attachment 1, 2 & 3 for more details.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

This would draw down the CIF by \$250,000 - See Attachments 1, 2 & 3 for more details.

Risk Assessment

The Terms of Reference for the CIF have been developed to support a wide variety of candidate projects. Councillors retain the discretion to develop and support applications to the CIF and Council retains the discretion and final decision-making power over withdrawals from the fund.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Councillor Sutherland is requesting a \$250,000 withdrawal from the Council Innovation Fund to support a readiness project that will support implementation the Calgary Community Court pilot. This request has the support and cooperation of Calgary Community Standards, City Administration and ten other partners. One-time seed funding will allow Administration to hire an Implementation Coordinator who will take the blueprint for the Calgary Community Court and make it operations-ready. If Council funds this Innovation Fund application, it will send a strong signal to all levels of government that Council endorse this project and this endorsement will prepare the way forward for the systemic commitments needed from all levels of government, and across ministries, to get the wider Calgary Community Court pilot project going.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attachment 1 – Councillor Ward Sutherland's CIF Application: Calgary Community Court Pilot Readiness project
2. Attachment 2 – Calgary Community Court – Briefing Note
3. Attachment 3 – Calgary Community Court – Letters of Support
4. Attachment 4 – Calgary Community Court CIF Application Signatures
5. Attachment 5 – City Manager Report – Council Innovation Fund Terms of Reference (Policy Interpretation) PAC2011-05 - 2011 March 01