

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending July 26, 2013

REPORTS

1. Community Investment Strategy Implementation – Wellbeing Grant Program Goals

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None

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TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Community and Social Services
Community Engagement and Social Services

DATE July 25, 2013

**SUBJECT Community Investment Strategy Implementation –
Wellbeing Grant Program Goals**

REPORT NUMBER CSS-CESS-1334

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report will communicate the new Wellbeing Grant Program goals to Council. These goals have been based on community input and goals recently developed by residents and service providers as part of the Community Wellbeing Initiative (CWI). This is in line with the implementation plans for the Community Investment Strategy.

KEY FINDINGS

In September, 2012, Council approved the Community Investment Strategy and the development of five new investment mechanisms (Report # CSS-CESS-1221). One of these mechanisms was the Wellbeing Grant Program which is a multi-sectoral funding program. This grant program was designed to direct City funding to community benefit organizations to achieve community wellbeing. At its meeting in March, 2013 Council approved the program model and the creation of a resident panel (the Wellbeing Grant Allocation Panel) to review applications and allocate funding to successful community organizations (Report # CSS-CESS-1311). Council agreed to the terms of reference for the new panel in April, 2013 (Report # CSS-CESS-1317).

This information report is designed to communicate the new goals for this program which are based upon the goals recently developed by residents as part of the Community Wellbeing Initiative. The 21 goals cover eight domains of wellbeing and have been based on the 3,000+ ideas, opinions and aspirations of Guelph residents and local service providers. The voice of Guelph residents is being heard through numerous innovative community engagement opportunities which began during the summer of 2012 and continue still. These opportunities also encourage residents to work together to bring about the community change they seek. The Wellbeing Grant Program gives the City an opportunity to support these aspirations.

Applicants to the new grant program will have to show how their proposals will

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contribute to these goals. The new goals will help everyone (Council, staff, the grant review panel, residents and applicant organizations) understand what the grant program is designed to achieve. This will help focus the investment to areas that are important to the community. The goals will help staff track and communicate the achievements of the program and the important work that community benefit organizations carry out across Guelph.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Wellbeing Grant Program budget, which is subject to annual Council approval, will be allocated to areas that contribute to the 21 program goals.

BACKGROUND

The Community Investment Strategy, approved by Council in September 2012, lets people know how the City will support and work with community benefit organizations. Moving forward, it will ensure the City makes clear, consistent and open decisions.

The strategy will make it easier for community benefit organizations to find information about the possible supports available to them. It will also mean that residents will hear more about the City's investment in community organizations and the impact this work has on wellbeing.

The Wellbeing Grant Program is for community benefit organizations looking for financial support. Eligible organizations can apply for small operating, project, or capital grant funding. This means grants can be used for funding day-to-day operations, one-off events, special programming or projects, or capital items. This program is significantly different from the City's previous community grant program. The new program consists of a robust policy with clear goals, improved accountability and transparency measures, performance measures and reporting components.

The Wellbeing Grant Program offers funding on an annual basis. The program will be accepting applications from eligible organizations in early September 2013 for grants covering January – December 2014.

A new panel of Guelph residents will review the grant applications and allocate the funding on behalf of the City. Residents with the appropriate skills and knowledge will be selected to join the panel. They will make decisions using a clear set of guidelines that have been agreed upon by City Council. The panel will also annually report to Council on how the grant funding was allocated.

REPORT

The new Wellbeing Grant Program will have 21 grant goals covering eight domains of wellbeing. The Wellbeing Grant Panel will use these goals to make decisions about grant allocations. Only those organizations that clearly show how their grant

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will contribute to these goals will receive funding. Those organizations that receive funding will have to report on their achievements using performance measures that they have chosen. These reports will be submitted to the City approximately a year after the original grant is awarded. This approach is a significant improvement on the City's previous community grant program which lacked formal goals and process to identify and collect performance indicators to help track achievement. In contrast, the new program will require grant recipients to report concrete measures to show:

1. How much work was done
2. How well the work was done
3. What difference it made (contribution to the wellbeing goals)

Grant program applicants must demonstrate how they will support **two** of the wellbeing domains. Specifically they need to show how their grant proposal will support one goal (see the list of goals in ATT-1) from each of their chosen domains. The domains of wellbeing are:

- Community Vitality
- Democratic Engagement
- Education
- Environment
- Health Populations
- Leisure and Culture
- Living Standards
- Time-use

The 21 goals have been based on the 3,000+ ideas, opinions and aspirations of Guelph residents and local service providers. These have been gathered through the Community Wellbeing Initiative (CWI). The voice of Guelph residents is being heard through numerous innovative community engagement opportunities which began during the summer of 2012 and continue still. These opportunities also encourage residents to work together to bring about the community change they seek. The Wellbeing Grant Program gives the City an opportunity to support these aspirations.

The grant program goals were developed in the following way:

1. A review was undertaken of [CWI materials](#) and products including
 - engagement findings report
 - resident survey findings report
 - community profile report
 - Design Team materials and their CWI goals
 - [Canadian Index of Wellbeing domain reports](#)
2. Review and refinement of the draft goals was completed in consultation with the CWI project manager and Wellbeing Grant Program staff working group.
3. Approval of the final goals was done by the Community Investment Strategy Management Group. This group has been in place throughout the entire Community Investment Strategy project and continues to play an oversight

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role in the implementation of the strategy. The group consists of general managers from Community Engagement, Culture and Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Business Services, Public Works, Legal and Finance.

Staff's aim is to review the grant goals every three years to ensure that they continue to maintain their relevance to the community, the City and the grant program. This process will link with future Community Wellbeing Initiative and other appropriate engagement activities that involve Councillors, City staff, residents, partner organizations and the local business community.

Council will receive a report in the first quarter of 2014 listing the successful 2014 Wellbeing Grant Program grant recipients. This report will also include a summary of their intended activities and the anticipated contributions to community wellbeing in Guelph.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Organizational Excellence

- 1.1 Engage employees through excellence in leadership
- 1.2 Develop collaborative work team and apply whole systems thinking to deliver creative solutions
- 1.3 Build robust systems, structures and frameworks aligned to strategy

Innovation in Local Government

- 2.2 Deliver Public Service better
- 2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement

City Building

- 3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City
- 3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Community Engagement & Social Services Liaison
Culture and Tourism
Business Services
Parks and Recreation
Budget and Financial Services
Public Works
Legal Services

COMMUNICATIONS

The new program goals are being communicated through the Community Wellbeing Initiative Design Team networks; on Guelph.ca; via targeted email updates to potential applicants; through open information sessions for community benefit organizations; advertised in City News in the Guelph Tribune.

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ATTACHMENTS

ATT-1 Wellbeing Grant Program Goals

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Wellbeing Grant Program Goals

Community Vitality



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Connect, understand and celebrate Guelph's diversity
- ⊗ Feel safe and respected
- ⊗ Have opportunities to discuss and resolve issues together
- ⊗ Support and care for each other

More about Community Vitality

Community Vitality is about the strength, activity and inclusiveness of relationships between residents, private sector, public sector and civic society organizations that fosters individual and collective wellbeing.

What it means to Guelph: Feelings of trust and safety, volunteering rates, caring for others, and having the opportunity to connect with other citizens in informal settings to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Democratic Engagement



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Are heard and their needs are valued
- ⊗ Experience a culture and environment of comfort and trust so that people can collaborate and engage
- ⊗ Are more involved in civic life and have ownership of what is happening in Guelph

More about Democratic Engagement

Democratic engagement measures the participation of citizens in public life and in governance; the functioning of Canadian governments; and the role Canadians and their institutions play as global citizens.

What it means to Guelph: Citizen participation in public life and the functioning of the municipal government and opportunities for citizens to be informed and engaged.

Environment



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Use active transportation methods to get around and enjoy Guelph
- ⊗ Enjoy healthy and integrated natural heritage system that values ecological infrastructure strengthening
- ⊗ Reduce residential energy, water consumption and household waste

More about the Environment

Environment measures the state of and the trends in Canada's environment by looking at the stocks and flows of Canada's environmental goods and services.

What it means to Guelph: Green space, transportation, watershed quality, state of natural resources, and sustainability of ecosystems, and the engagement of environmentally-minded citizens in civic action to preserve ecological infrastructure.

Healthy Populations



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy
- ⊗ Have equitable, affordable, accessible, effective and appropriate resources to support and maintain their health

More about Healthy Populations

Healthy Populations measures the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of the population by looking at different aspects of health status and certain determinants of health. It includes the formal health care system and services provided.

What it means to Guelph: Physical, mental and social wellbeing, physicians, hospitals, clinics, and the full range of health care services providers.

Leisure and Culture



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Enjoy arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation opportunities that are accessible, affordable and contribute to individual and community identity
- ⊗ Have opportunities through sport, recreation, arts, cultural activities to gather, stay connected and celebrate community
- ⊗ Have access to a range of local cultural and recreational spaces for meeting, sharing and participating

More about Leisure and Culture

Culture/Arts/Sport/Recreation measures activity in the very broad area of culture, which involves all forms of human expression; the more focused are of the arts; and recreational activities including sports, which involves all forms of volunteer activities in culture, recreation, and sports.

What it means to Guelph: All forms of human expression, arts, culture, sport and recreation, and healthy lifestyles. Activities in this domain can create and celebrate community identity, facilitate exchange and understanding among socially, economically, and culturally diverse groups, and attract visitors and new businesses.

Living Standards



Goals

Residents...

- ⊗ Live in housing that is affordable and adequate for their needs
- ⊗ Eat good quality, nutritious, affordable and accessible food
- ⊗ Have access to and benefit from economic opportunities
- ⊗ Can move around the community to participate in community life

More about Living Standards

Living Standards measures the level of distribution of income and wealth, including trends in poverty; income volatility; and economic security, including the security of jobs, food, housing and the social safety net.

What it means to Guelph: Trends in poverty, income, and economic security (jobs, food and housing) and the ability to move about the city.

Education



Goals

Residents...

- Have access to informal opportunities to learn new skills that support their wellbeing

More about Education

Education measures the literacy and skill levels of the population, including the ability of both children and adults to function in various contexts and plan for and adapt to future situations.

What it means to Guelph: Literacy and skill levels, ability to function, plan and adapt to future situations. Includes learning at all ages from early childhood to informal learning as adults outside the formal education system.

Time Use



Goal

Is about...

- Optimizing the flow of residents around the City to maximize availability of personal time

More about Time Use

Time Use measures the use of time, how people experience time, what controls its use, and how it affects wellbeing. Included in Time Use are activities such as general volunteering, commuting, and convenience of shopping.

What it means to Guelph: Working long hours, commute time, and time pressures.