




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	November 23, 2023
SUBJECT:	Update: Building Safer Communities Grant (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children's and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

In June 2023, Council approved the Building Safer Communities Multi-Year Plan (Report HSC23033) as a key initiative supporting Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. Since then, the City has moved forward with the implementation of this plan to offer the Building Safer Communities Grant in Hamilton.

The intent of the grant is to provide multi-year funding for community-led initiatives that aim to prevent and address risk factors associated with youth gun and gang violence. From 2023-2026, nearly \$2.5 M will be invested into community initiatives through this grant to support specific priorities identified in Hamilton's [Building Safer Communities Multi-Year Plan](#). This grant is 100% federally funded through Public Safety Canada.

The grant application process was open to organizations from September 13th to October 16th, 2023 followed by grant review process. All applicants received the [evaluation criteria](#) and applications were evaluated by a review panel comprised of both City staff and community representatives.

The grant program yielded 24 eligible applications totalling over \$9.5 M in requests from community organizations across Hamilton. Upon review, nine applications were deemed excellent and considered for funding. These applications included the following organizations:

- Steeltown Athletic Club (STAC) Hamilton
- Wesley Urban Ministries and John Howard Society
- YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford
- Niwasa Kendasswin Teg

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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- Centre de sante Communautaire Hamilton Niagara
- Boys and Girls Club Hamilton-Halton
- NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training
- YWCA Hamilton
- Empowerment Squared and Children's Aid Society of Hamilton

Many applications highlighted collaborative efforts to successfully implement the proposed program as well as joint applications. This will ensure the strengths and expertise of diverse organizations are leveraged to create community-based solutions that better support youth and their families. All of the applications served one or more of the target populations, including Indigenous youth, newcomer youth, Black youth and young women.

Staff will begin notifying successful applicants in the coming days to develop funding agreements in alignment with the Building Safer Communities Grant and available funding. Given that the applications exceeded the available funding, approved funding will be based on 50% of the proposed budgets and a cap of \$600 K per applicant will be applied to all nine applications. Staff will be working with those applicants in the coming weeks to revise proposals as required in alignment with the approved funding allocations. Staff will also notify unsuccessful applicants in the coming days and if requested, will provide information on other local funders, City-led grant programs, provincial and federal funding opportunities that may align with their organization's mandate.

More information related to the Building Safer Communities Grant, please visit www.hamilton.ca/SaferCommunitiesGrant.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jessica Chase, Director, Children's and Community Services Division at Jessica.Chase@hamilton.ca (905) 546-2424 ext. 3590.

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