

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: FOOD SUSTAINABILITY GRANT REQUESTS

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “Food Sustainability Grant Requests” dated January 20, 2025, of the Executive Committee of Council meeting, be received for information.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on January 20, 2025, received and adopted the attached report providing information on Community Grants as they relate to the Burnaby Food System Strategy.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of
Council,

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES
SUBJECT: **FOOD SUSTAINABILITY GRANT REQUESTS**
PURPOSE: To provide information on Community Grants as they relate to the Burnaby Food System Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Food Sustainability Grant Requests” dated January 20, 2025, be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Review of grant requests with a food sustainability component is aligned with the following Council-adopted policies and plans/strategies:

- Equity Policy (updated 2020);
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011);
- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022); and
- Burnaby Food System Strategy (2024).

2.0 BACKGROUND

In 2023 and 2024, several requests were made to the Executive Committee of Council (ECC) for Community Grants by non-profit associations that provide food support to those in need in Burnaby. The requests were denied while the City developed a food system strategy. On October 16, 2024, Council adopted the Burnaby Food System Strategy (Attachment 1).

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Previous Community Grant Submission Details

In 2023, a Community Grant request for an Operating grant in the amount of \$10,000 was received from Gordon Presbyterian Church for their Don't Go Hungry program. Their application noted that they serve approximately 561 family members per week in the Edmonds's area.

The Don't Go Hungry program provides free grocery hampers every Saturday at Trinity Presbyterian Church Edmonds (formerly Gordon) serving the South End of Burnaby. The standard hampers include dry goods, meat, dairy, breads and produce. The program is open for anyone in Burnaby who needs food support.

In 2024, a similar request from St. Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church was submitted for \$7,000 in support of their community meal program that offers a free meal to those in need monthly with approximately 50 to 60 participants each month.

In addition to these applications, there have been other requests for food initiative support that have a nominal cost to the user associated such as Backpack Buddies and Quest Society.

Support for two food security organizations in Burnaby was provided in 2024 through the Community Grant program as both initiatives had outreach that included emergency shelter, shower programs, bus passes etc. These two organizations were: 1) The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby and 2) Ryan’s Rainbow Emergency Food Outreach.

Recommendations from Burnaby Food System Strategy

The following sections identify areas of the Burnaby Food System Strategy that relate to Community Grants:

Medium-Term Goal:

Theme 4: Community Sector Support

- *Section 4.15 - Review the City’s existing community granting program to better align with and support the needs and capacity of Burnaby’s social service sectors.*

Long-Term Goal:

Theme 4: Community Sector Support

- *Section 4.12 - Consider establishing a small grant program for food security organizations to upgrade facilities, purchase fridges/freezers, expand or install responsible waste management (e.g. composting,), and generally improve the spaces that programs use to provide food to people. This could include matching funds from other levels of government, as available.*

Community Tables

Staff have noted there are community tables (networks of non-profit organizations) that would benefit from operating grants to support coordination of their work, but would be ineligible under the current grant policy.

Examples include:

- A new community-based food security table (coordination of free groceries and meal programs);
- A new community-based poverty reduction table (alignment/coordination of poverty reduction initiatives);
- Burnaby Early Childhood Development community table; and Community Based Seniors Services Network (age-friendly heat response awareness).

The first two initiatives are less than a year old. A single non-profit might be able to apply on their behalf but often the host organization may have an operating budget of over \$200,000. In addition, these types of initiatives might not have 60% of their operating budgets covered from other sources.

To allow initiatives like these to apply for a Community Grant, a new eligibility category could be considered for operating grants of up to a certain dollar value for coordination of community tables.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If changes are made to the Community Grant Policy or should clarification on applications relating to food sustainability be required, they will be communicated via the City’s application and website.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The current annual budget for Community Grants is \$400,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Juli Halliwell, General Manger Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Burnaby Food System Strategy (2024)

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Kathryn Matts, Administrative Officer 2, and reviewed by Blanka Zeinabova, Sr. Manager Legislative Services.