

Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment Program 2009 Allocations

Date:	October 21, 2009
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommendations for the organizations that applied for municipal support under the 2009 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program. Of the 43 applicants, 19 are recommended for funding totalling \$158,300.00. An amount of \$10,000.00 has been held for appeals.

The Identify 'N Impact Investment program enables a wide variety of youth-led groups and community organizations to provide engagement opportunities for youth. The 2009 recommended projects provide opportunities to engage youth across the city, particularly African Canadian youth and youth in priority neighbourhoods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve the Identify 'N Impact allocations totalling \$158,300.00 to 19 applicants as recommended in Appendices A and B, and an amount of \$10,000.00 be held for appeals.
2. The Community Development and Recreation Committee forward this report to the Community Partnership and Investment Program Appeals Sub-Committee for the purpose of hearing appeals and reporting on the allocation of the appeals fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2009 Approved Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In 2006, City Council approved the Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund for youth-led projects to enhance engagement opportunities for youth through community organizations and groups. The funding is provided under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c.11). In August, 2009 Council approved the report "Appointment of the 2009 Identify 'N Impact Review Panel" which provided direction to appoint the 2009 INI review panel. <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cc/decisions/2009-08-05-cc38-dd.htm>

The 2009 Approved Operating budget includes an amount of \$168,300.00 for the Identify 'N Impact Investment fund to support youth-led projects.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City's Community Safety Plan and the Toronto Youth Cabinet have clearly identified the contribution that meaningful engagement opportunities for youth make, both to healthy youth development and to broader community safety. The Identify 'N Impact Investment Fund supports youth engagement activities that help young people to turn their ideas into actions in their communities.

COMMENTS

The purpose of the 2009 Identify 'N Impact (INI) Investment program is to provide support to youth-led activities initiated in the City's 13 priority neighbourhood areas. The program works through youth led groups and/or organizations working with racialized youth, with a key focus on African Canadian youth. Priority is given to projects that involve youth in all aspects of the planning and delivery of activities; and has the added value of allowing projects that reflect youth culture and communication styles.

2009 INI Outreach and Support:

For 2009, organizations were able to access a variety of supports to prepare an INI application. A proposal writing workshop was held for youth interested in applying for funding which taught basic elements of proposal writing with examples specific to INI. One information session was held at City Hall to provide applicants with an overview of

the program, information on priorities, lists of projects funded in the past and information on preparing an application. Agency Review Officers and Community Development Officers provided one-on-one support for applicants with information on meeting the program requirements and understanding the application process. Resources were available on the City's web-site for background information.

Applications for the 2009 process were available in hard copy and through the City of Toronto web-site at www.toronto.ca/grants/ini. Notices were mailed and emailed to groups to inform them of the availability of the application. The City web-site provided the full application package including application form, guidelines, relevant City of Toronto policies, contact information and lists of previously funded projects. The majority of organizations and groups used the web-site to access the application package. To facilitate youth in submitting their applications, 2009 INI accepted electronic version of applications through e-mail.

Application and Review Process:

Youth Review Panel:

The INI fund has been set up to involve youth throughout the process including the review of applications. Representatives of the Toronto Youth Cabinet and past panel members worked with staff to recruit and select 12 panel members from priority neighbourhoods through an outreach and interview process. Panel membership is reported annually to Council for approval in the spring.

Panel members participated in two days of training workshops including topics of team building, the City's granting process, anti-oppression, grants accountability and risk management framework, developing and using evaluation tools and assessing effective trustee relationships. Information about the panel members is posted on the City web-site.

Assessment process:

Applicant organizations and the requested project must meet the INI eligibility criteria and be assessed as having a strong fit and appropriate performance levels using the assessment criteria. The assessment process for 2009 INI for each application included a discussion among the panel members based on a review of documents such as project description and data, work plan, budget, and organizational structures. The process included the use of an assessment tool to determine the fit of the project proposal with the INI goals, priorities and criteria. Applicants were contacted for additional information if needed. Staff supported the panel during the assessment process with information on City policies and best practices for assessment and funding practices.

A key area of project assessment is the level of youth involvement and youth-led activities. Panel members considered the level of involvement of youth in planning, managing and delivering the project, as well as the involvement of youth in the City's 13

priority neighbourhood areas and/or racialized youth, particularly African Canadian youth.

2009 Applications and Recommendations Overview:

A total of 43 applications were received for the 2009 INI, requesting \$409,586.76, almost 2.5 times the INI approved budget of \$168,300.00. One application was late. Forty-two applications were from new organizations that had not received funding in 2008: 18 of these are recommended for funding; and 1 returning project is recommended.

For 2009, allocations totalling \$158,300.00 are recommended to 19 applicants. Of the recommended projects, 15 provide focused activities in 9 of the 13 priority neighbourhoods (Crescent Town, Eglinton East-Kennedy Park, Jamestown, Jane/Finch, Malvern, Lawrence Heights, Scarborough Village, Steeles-L'Amoureux and Weston-Mt. Dennis) and four projects have a citywide focus. All the funded projects involve youth engagement and the development of youth leadership skills and opportunities for youth decision making. Seven projects focus on racialized youth/African Canadian.

The number of proposals that demonstrated a strong fit with the INI goals, priority areas and funding criteria is larger than could be recommended within the total amount of funds available in the program. Allocation recommendations were made for those proposals that demonstrated the strongest fit and addressed the range of priorities in INI. In order to fund all the applicants that demonstrated a strong fit with the INI program, an additional amount of \$75,682.76 would be required. An amount of \$10,000.00 is available for appeals.

Applications by status with the INI grants program:

Number of new applicants:	42	New applicants recommended	18
Number of returning applicants:	1	Returning applicants recommended:	1

The allocation recommendations for 2009 are included in Appendix A, which lists all applicants and their requested project amounts. Detailed information on individual applicants and their proposed project is included in Appendix B. Appendix C provides a project description for all recommended applicants. Applicants have been notified of the recommended allocation and have been informed about the appeal process.

Program Issues:

The Identify 'N Impact funding program is now in its fourth year of operation. The INI program model provides civic engagement opportunities for youth to be involved in the ongoing operation and implementation of this program.

Over the years, the INI program has identified the challenges of locating organizations that are willing to trustee youth-led groups that cannot normally access funding. Community Resources staff have explored ways to make the process of working with a

trustee better for funded projects. These include: individual contacts with groups; encouraging community agencies to establish a trustee network to mentor youth groups; and establishing a working relationship with the George Brown College Institute of Entrepreneurship and Community Innovation to trustee and provide guidance to some funded projects. This support benefits those youth groups who need a trustee to work on their projects.

The Council meeting schedule in 2010 is shortened due to the municipal election in November 2010. The INI application deadline and allocations process is being reviewed. An earlier timeline may be implemented to accommodate the change in Council schedule.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Identify 'N Impact Investment Program 2009 Recommendations
Appendix B: Detailed Organization Recommendations – Summary Sheets
Appendix C: Descriptions of 2009 Recommended Projects