

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**TO:** Select meeting type...

**FROM:** J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** January 9, 2025

**RE:** **2025 Transforming Systems Grants (Vancouver Foundation) Grant Program Funding Application**

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### **Administrative Recommendation:**

THAT the Board approve submitting a grant application for the 2025 Transforming Systems Grant (Vancouver Foundation) in the amount of \$300,000 over a three year period.

### **Purpose:**

The funding is designed to support operational costs, including salaries and benefits, to sustain or expand initiatives intended to combat poverty, exploitation, and marginalization.

### **Reference:**

### **Business Plan Objective:**

Social Development

### **Background:**

The 2025 Transforming Systems Grants (Vancouver Foundation) Grant Program supports hiring a Social Development Coordinator to advance systemic change by addressing the root causes of inequality, and supporting those most affected.

The RDOS have been working in collaboration with the United Way to improve and accelerate the provision of supports to vulnerable community members impacted by disasters. To date, this has been done primarily through the South Okanagan and Similkameen Social Response taskforce, a collective of NGOs and service providers who can be requested by the RDOS Protective Services department, and deployed by United Way to provide unique and extended supports to individuals, either through an on-site presence at evacuation reception centers, or as referrals.

The initial focus of this partnership on emergency response and recovery has been successful in supplementing the efforts of Emergency Support Services, and enhanced community preparedness through partnerships.

During this work, it was recognized that expanding this partnership between RDOS emergency

management personnel and their partners in social development to the early phases of Emergency Management – preparedness, mitigation – would increase the resiliency of our communities and our residents in disaster, and improve quality of living outside of disaster.

The purpose of this position would be to support the emergency management team in taking this expanded proactive approach, to identify gaps in service, to advocate for effective policy solutions, and support community-led initiatives.

**Analysis:**

The Grant funds would provide funding to hire one full-time staff position, for a three year period, to expand on work done in partnership with non-profit and government agencies partners to address poverty-related challenges, and reduce the impacts of emergencies and disasters to vulnerable individuals.

The Protective Services Department did request an addition of a FTE for a Social Development Coordinator in 2025 employed by the RDOS. The Board was not in a position to approve this position out of taxation, this funding opportunity will allow the Board to engage in Social Development over a three year period without affecting taxation. This funding will also allow the Board to see what can be accomplished with this type of position.

**Financial Implications:**

There will be no impact to taxation, the position and projects will be 100% funded by the 2025 Transforming Systems Grants (Vancouver Foundation) Grant Program

**Alternatives:**

Not to support the application.

**Communication Strategy:**

If the application is approved by the Board and is successful in obtaining funding, the news will be released via an information release on the RDOS website and social media outlets. There will also be an Information Release sent to the various vulnerable support organizations in the region.

**Respectfully submitted:**

*"Shane Houlihan"*

S. Houlihan, Emergency Program Coordinator

**Endorsed by:**

*"Deborah Jones-Middleton"*

Deborah Jones-Middleton, Senior Manager