

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
 RAPPORT

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DATE 14 April 1999

TO/DEST. Coordinator
 Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Commissioner
 Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **FUNDING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN-
 NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT (NCB) FUNDING
 RECOMMENDATIONS, 1999**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the allocation of \$500,000 for Funding to Support Families and Children for 1999 as recommended by the Allocations Committee, as described in Annex A.

PURPOSE

This report presents the recommendations of Social Service's Allocations Committee for Funding to Support Families and Children for 1999. Funds allocated will be formalized within the standard process for agencies receiving ongoing funds.

BACKGROUND

In June 1998, a report entitled National Child Benefit System describing the introduction of the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) and implications for the Region was received by Community Services Committee. The federal government implemented the NCBS in July 1998. This resulted in municipal savings because the NCBS is deducted from social assistance benefits.

On 28 October 1998, Council approved the overall plan for the reinvestment of \$2.m (annualized) in municipal savings resulting from the deduction of the federal National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) from social assistance benefits. The overall plan allocated funds to 3 envelopes: child care, employment supports and building community capacity. The latter envelope is intended to ensure ongoing community capacity in a range of community programs and services that will assist children, youth and high risk families. Funding to Support Families and Children is the name given to the funding envelope designated for building community capacity.

In July 1999, the NCBS will be increased by 50%, and a further increase of 50% will be implemented in July 2000. These increases will result in further municipal savings. Therefore, a second round of allocations will occur in the fall of 1999 for funds becoming available in the year 2000. By July 2000, the program will be fully in place.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has informed municipalities that the provincial and federal governments expect and require that municipal savings be reinvested in a manner consistent with NCBS objectives. The federal and provincial governments are developing an accountability process which will include municipalities to ensure that savings are reinvested in programs for families and children.

The NCBS objectives are:

1. To prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty; and
2. To promote attachment to the workforce - resulting in fewer families having to rely on social assistance - by ensuring that families will always be better off working.

Funding to Support Families and Children meets the NCBS objective of preventing and reducing the depth of child poverty by strengthening families and meeting children's health and developmental needs.

Social Services further identified the following principles to guide the allocation process for Funding to Support Families and Children. These include:

1. Focusing on low-income, social assistance recipients and working poor families;
2. Targeting youth, high risk families and young children;
3. Breaking down the social isolation of children and families;
4. Building community capacity by supporting community-based programs and services;
5. Reflecting community diversity of race, gender and language; and
6. Supporting joint, collaborative initiatives.

Development of Priority Areas Within Funding to Support Families and Children

To develop the funding priority areas within the Funding to Support Families and Children envelope, Social Services gathered information from a range of sources, including:

1. A priority-rating survey sent to agencies, client representatives on the Task Force on Poverty, and Regional staff. Forty-eight (48) responses were received.
2. One-on-one interviews and focus groups with Regional staff.
3. Recently released data from Canada's National Longitudinal Study on Children and Youth.
4. The Poverty Funding Framework for United Way and Regional Social Services, Final Report, June 1997.
5. People First: Report of the People's Hearings on Poverty, March 1998.
6. Doing Less With Less, SPC Report on the 1997 Ottawa-Carleton Community Agency Survey, Spring 1998.
7. "All I Need Is A Job": Interim report of the Monitoring Ontario Works Action Research Project, October 1998.

Priority areas were then identified based on the literature review, focus groups and survey responses. The priority areas are: Parenting Support, Children/Youth/Counselling and Food Security.

1. Parenting Support

Programs and services focusing on this priority area offer support to parents experiencing difficulties, link families with community resources and help parents acquire and maintain positive parenting practices. A focus of parenting support is early intervention for parents of children age 0-6 years.

2. Children/Youth/Counselling

Children/youth/counselling is a priority area which includes a range of responses to specific needs. For example, programs might include services for children residing in emergency shelters, outreach and support services to pregnant and parenting teens, some of whom are living on the streets or who are otherwise alone and without supports, and enhanced counselling, drop-in and outreach services for youth, school-aged children and families across the Region.

3. Food Security

Food security is a priority area focusing on families not having enough money to purchase adequate amounts of food. Food security programs which increase poor people's control over choice, quality, and access to food include a range of innovative approaches ranging from "baby cupboards" stocking emergency food supplies for infants, collective kitchens, community gardens, school breakfast programs or programs which collect excess food from stores and restaurants for meals for the poor, to name only a few.

ALLOCATIONS PROCESS

In December 1998, Social Services advertised in The Citizen, Le Droit, and community papers, informing the community of the availability of funding and calling for proposals. An information package was provided to interested agencies.

The information provided clearly stated that:

Primary consideration will be given to organizations which do not duplicate existing services and which work collaboratively with other organizations in the priority funding areas of:

1. Parenting Support
2. Children/Youth/Counselling
3. Food Security

And that Social Services funding priorities also include services and programs which address the particular needs of:

1. visible and ethnic minorities
2. aboriginals
3. francophones

On January 12, public information sessions were held in English and French at St. Paul University. Over 100 different agencies were represented. The sessions provided information on the National Child Benefit Program and how changes to the program resulted in the availability of Funding to Support Families and Children, Social Services Funding Criteria and Priorities and the Applications Process.

Review of Proposals

Social Services received a total of 107 proposals from 75 agencies. The review process involved an initial screening by Regional staff to identify proposals which met the eligibility criteria of the Region and Social Services. Of the 107 applications received, totalling approximately \$4.5m, four did not meet the basic eligibility criteria.

The 103 remaining proposals were reviewed by an Allocations Committee of 6 members comprised of a representative from the Youth Services Bureau, a representative from the Task Force on Poverty, a Regional Councillor, and 3 Regional staff. The Committee adhered to rules pertaining to confidentiality and conflict of interest.

Prior to the first meeting, each Allocations Committee member was provided with a complete package including copies of the 103 proposals, information on funding priorities, a copy of the guidelines for submissions and rating forms to assess proposals and formulate questions or points for clarification.

The Allocations Committee met for 4.5 days to review each proposal on the basis of priorities addressed, clear objectives, a well defined plan related to anticipated results, demonstrated collaboration including clearly defined roles and responsibilities of collaborators/partners and geographic area served.

A consensus of the Allocations Committee was reached for all funding recommendations.

RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS

The Allocations Committee recommend funding for 22 proposals, representing 20 different sponsoring agencies (see Annex A). In many cases proposals include collaboration with one or more community partners. A list of agencies which did not receive recommendation for funding appears in Annex B.

Unfortunately, in most cases the recommended amounts are less than the amounts requested which means that agency proposals may need to be revised. Nevertheless, the Committee is confident that adequate funds have been recommended in each case to allow agencies to build on existing strengths and develop new capacity. Funds allocated will be formalized with 3 year contracts, with possible renewal.

Six agencies which are recommended for funding were recommended for project grants for 1999 and have received project grants for the same program previously. In order to ensure continuity of these programs, these 6 programs will receive funding on an ongoing basis from Funding to Support Families and Children. To facilitate the transition, the amount of the project grant was factored in for 1999, and the balance was recommended from 1999 Funding to Support Families and Children. In the year 2000, the full amount will be provided through Funding to Support Families and Children. In the case of a 7th agency, the agency requested a phased-in approach. Therefore, the Committee recommend a pre-commitment, totalling \$128,000, from NCBS funds available in the year 2000.

Recommendations by priority area are:

TABLE 1.
Funding Recommendations by Priority Area

Priority Area	1999 \$ Recommended	% of funding
Parenting Support	\$130,000	26%
Children/Youth/Counselling	\$124,900	25%
Food Security	\$83,600	17%
Combination of 2 or more priority areas	\$161,000	32%
TOTAL	\$500,000	100%

Social Services funding priorities also include visible and ethnic minorities, aboriginals, and francophones. Some of the recommended proposals specifically address the needs of these

groups, including those received from the Somali Centre, Centre de ressources communautaires de Cumberland, Centre de ressources de la Basse-Ville, and Centre des services communautaires de Vanier. In many other cases, recommended proposals include a plan for reaching out to and serving a culturally diverse community. None of the recommended proposals address the particular needs of the aboriginal community. The Allocations Committee recommend that programs and services addressing the particular needs of aboriginals be a primary focus in the second round of allocations of Funding to Support Families and Children.

Social Services recognizes the valuable work being done by all the agencies which undertook the time and effort to submit proposals. Given the limited funding available, the Allocations Committee identified those proposals which appear to most closely fit the NCBS objectives as well as the mandate of Regional Social Services.

Allocations Committee - Remarks

Those proposals which fit better under the mandate of Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health were generally not recommended. The NCBS is not the appropriate funding stream to address issues of inadequate funding of core areas falling within Ministry mandates.

The Allocations Committee considered the geographic distribution of programs in reaching final funding decisions. While the Committee did not allocate funds on a per capita basis across the Region, it did take into consideration meeting the needs of under-served or isolated areas with limited access to or proximity to other resources with a view in mind of providing access to resources across all areas of the Region of Ottawa-Carleton.

The Allocations Committee recognizes that a gap in the priority area of food security remains. A total of \$83,600 (about 17% of the funding available) has been recommended for programs whose primary focus is food security. The Committee expressed support for food security continuing to be a priority area for funding through the second round of allocations of Funding to Support Families and Children. As noted above, services and programs which address the particular needs of the aboriginal community is also recommended as a primary focus for the second round.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Social Services undertook a priority rating survey involving community agencies, consumer representatives on the Task Force on Poverty and Regional Staff. In addition, interviews and focus groups were held with Regional Staff and a range of reports produced by the community were reviewed (see section above on Development of Funding Priorities). Once priority areas were established, community information sessions were held. Lastly the Allocations Committee was established including representatives from the community, clients, Social Services staff and Regional council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

The recommended allocations involve the reinvestment of existing funds.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart*

CP/

1999 NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT
PRESTATION NATIONALE POUR ENFANTS - 1999

**FUNDING TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN - FINANCEMENT DE SOUTIEN À LA
 FAMILLE ET AUX ENFANTS**

#	AGENCY	PROGRAM TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	\$ REQ.	\$REC.
1	Big Brothers of Ottawa-Carleton (BBOC)	Mentoring / Matching Program for Boys with Disabilities	Children / Youth / Counselling	\$10,000	\$10,000
2	Boys & Girls Club of Ottawa-Carleton	Project Shelter	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling	\$69,600	\$20,000
3	Canadian Mothercraft of Ottawa-Carleton	Birth and Parent Companion Programs of Canadian Mothercraft	Parenting Support Child / Youth / Counselling Food Security	\$30,000	\$20,000
4	Centre de ressources communautaires de Cumberland	Programme à l'enfance.	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling	\$23,820	\$9,000*
5	Centre de ressources de la Basse-Ville Centre de jeunes de la Basse-Ville Est d'Ottawa / Lowertown Youth Centre	Basse-Ville jeunesse en santé	Children/ Youth/ Counselling	\$30,900	\$12,900*
6	Centre des services communautaires de Vanier	Groupe de soutien de pairs pour parents francophones	Parenting Support	\$15,600	\$13,500
7	Centretown Community Health Centre	Supporting Parents Supporting Children: Services for Isolated Families in Centretown	Parenting Support	\$67,225	\$20,000*

#	AGENCY	PROGRAM TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	\$ REQ.	\$REC.
8	Centretown Community Health Centre	The Good Food Box program of Ottawa-Carleton	Food Security	\$66,555	\$45,000
9	Children's Aid Society Ottawa-Carleton	Caution: Parents Learning!	Parenting Support	\$89,197	\$50,000
10	Community Resource Centre of Goulbourn, Kanata and West Carleton	Bullying Prevention Program	Children / Young / Counselling	\$37,187	\$18,000
11	Family Service Centre of Ottawa-Carleton	Family to Family Ties	Parenting Support	\$40,000	\$24,000
12	Nepean Community Resource Centre	Baby Cupboards in Community Health and Resource Centre	Food Security	\$28,600	\$28,600
13	Nepean Community Resource Centre	Family Visitor - Bayshore	Parenting Support	\$27,832	\$23,000
14	Overbrook-Forbes Community Resource Centre	Young People Helping People - Jeunes-entraide	Children / Youth / Counselling	\$39,000	\$24,000*
15	Parent Resource Centre	Growing Up Downtown	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling Food Security	\$64,970	\$34,000*
16	Pinecrest-Queensway	Leaping Lizards - A Health Promotion and Early Intervention Strategy for Children Living in Poverty	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling	\$31,260	\$24,000
17	St. Mary's Home / Maison Ste-Marie	Reaching Out to Pregnant Youth at Risk	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling	\$64,000	\$39,000
18	Somali Centre for Family Services	Take Charge	Children/Youth / Counselling	\$67,000	\$20,000

#	AGENCY	PROGRAM TITLE OR DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	\$ REQ.	\$REC.
19	Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Sponsor - Community Gardens Network	Community Garden Network	Food Security	\$41,955	\$10,000
20	South-East Ottawa Centre for a Healthy Community	Voices of Youth	Children / Youth / Counselling	\$24,550	\$20,000
21	The Door / La Porte	Opportunities For Youth	Parenting Support Children / Youth / Counselling Food Security	\$47,720	\$15,000*
22	Youth Services Bureau	Mentoring InSchool Project	Children / Youth / Counselling	\$35,000	\$20,000*
				TOTAL:	\$500,000

*These agencies have additional amounts pre-committed from NCB funds available in the year 2000, as follows:

Centre de ressources communautaires de Cumberland - \$15,000

Centre de ressources de Basseville - \$18,000

Centretown Community Resource Centre- \$20,000

Overbrook-Forbes Community Resource Centre- \$15,000

The Door- \$25,000

Youth Services Bureau - \$15,000

Annex B

<u>Agencies Not Recommended:</u>
Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre
Andrew Fleck Child Care Services c/o Child Care Information
Arlington Woods Church
Association of Somali Canadian Teachers of Ottawa-Carleton (ASCTOC)
Banff Avenue Tenants Association
Better Beginnings Better Futures (SEOCHC)
Blair Court Community House
Caldwell Family Centre
Canadian African Women's Organization
Canadian Mental Health Association
Career Station
Carlington Community and Health Services
Catholic Family Service of Ottawa-Carleton
Catholic Immigration Centre
Centre David Smith Centre
Centre de Formation et d'Aide pour les Démunis
Centrepointe Child Care Corporation
Children at Risk / Enfants en Péril
Coalition Féminine des Afro-Francophones
Confederation Court Community Organization
Coopérative Ami Jeunesse Inc.
Coopérative Carroussel pour parents et enfants francophones Inc.
Crossroads Children's Centre
Debra Dynes Family House
Diaspora congolaise du Canada - Apolitique "Diacocan Inc."
Dispute Resolution Centre for Ottawa- Carleton
Emily Murphy Non-Profit Housing Corporation
Foster Farm Family House / Britannia Woods Community House
Golden Opportunities for Youth Inc.
Guides franco-canadiennes District d'Ottawa

Agencies Not Recommended:
Harambee Centres Canada (NCR)
Harmony House
Jewish Family Services
Labour Community Services of Ottawa-Carleton
Maison Fraternité
Nelson House
Odawa Native Friendship Centre
Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation (OCRI) - School Breakfast Program
Ottawa Deaf Centre
Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy
Ottawa-Carleton Association for Persons with Development Disabilities
Ottawa-Carleton Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO)
Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services
Russell Heights Community House
Serenity Renewal for Families
Shelly Gullen
Shepherds of Good Hope
Somali Centre for Youth, Women and Community Development
Somerset West Community Health Centre
South-East Gloucester Community Resource Action Team (SOGCRAT)
Special Needs Network (SNN)
St. Joe's Women's Centre
St. Joseph's Parish
YMCA/YWCA of d'Ottawa-Carleton
Youville Centre