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DATE 18 July 2000

To be listed on the Community Services
 Agenda, 3 August 2000

TO/DEST. Coordinator
 Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Commissioner, Social Services

SUBJECT/OBJET **DECISION OF THE ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE FOR
 COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 COORDINATION**

INTRODUCTION

This information report presents the decision of the Allocations Review Committee pertaining to the Community-Based Public Participation Coordination. This is one of the three areas of funding included in the 2000 budget related to the Task Force on Poverty recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The People's Hearings was a process developed by a group of community organizations to provide a forum for the voices of the poor. Testimony from the hearings was captured in a report entitled People First/ Les gens d'abord (October 1997) which was presented to Regional Council. Subsequently, Community Services Committee approved a motion that a Task Force on Poverty be struck, including people who have experienced living in poverty and Regional Staff across a number of departments, to ensure the recommendations in People First became the basis for action.

Under the Task Force, elected representatives of communities of the poor came together with appointed delegates of Regional government to work together to find ways to improve the lives of people living in poverty. The Task Force was established in September 1998, chaired jointly by a community representative and a Regional representation (Social Services). The Task Force's Interim Report, People First: Creating Hope Through Change, was presented at the Community Services Committee of July 8, 1999. Committee received the report and directed Social Services to co-ordinate a preliminary costing of the report's recommendations.

In October 1999, Community Services Committee received the staff report Preliminary Costing of Task Force on Poverty Recommendations and approved motions that directed the Task Force to prioritize its recommendations for inclusion in the year 2000 budget.

In December 1999, Community Services Committee and Council approved three areas of funding for the Task Force on Poverty recommendations. They are:

1. A community based position for public participation coordination
2. Funding to Essential Health and Support Services, Transportation, and Communication to provide a similar range of discretionary benefits for the working poor as for social assistance recipients
3. Provide funding to increase access to information on how to find safe and adequate child care.

This report deals with the first item of funding approval.

COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COORDINATION

The concept for community-based public participation coordination evolved from Task Force on Poverty discussions on influencing change in public policy. Task Force members identified specific areas for change that were needed at different levels of government. Action was identified at the Regional level to ensure that these areas for change were brought to the attention of the provincial and federal governments. The Task Force proposed that a community-based position for public participation coordination would ensure that communities of the poor have an opportunity to voice their concerns and identify local issues.

The community-based position proposed will not be geographically focused or single issue focused. This will be a community development position, to be located in an existing community agency. The position will have the responsibility for mobilizing low income persons across the Region to help ensure they have a voice on a full range of issues. The position is not one of being a spokesperson for low-income people. Rather, the position will support and coordinate public participation of the communities of the poor.

This voice will be a valuable resource in identifying barriers to employment in the community and bringing these forward so that the municipality can provide mechanisms to help in the transition to employment.

Agencies subsequently invited to submit a full proposal were required to demonstrate the following:

- A community based approach to service delivery
- Knowledge and expertise on the issues of poverty, knowledge of the People's Hearings process and the Task Force on Poverty reports
- The ability to provide services in both official languages

Proposals were also required to provide:

- A description of how the organization will provide community-based public coordination services
- A description of the organization's accountability structure
- A description of the organization's experience in community development, group facilitation, community partnerships and linkages
- A description of how the organization would measure success and what outcomes it would be looking for
- An annualized budget for the provision of community-based participation coordination

REVIEW OF REQUESTS

In May of 2000 Social Services requested from the community a letter of intent to apply for funding for the equivalent of one full time community based position for the coordination of public participation. Five non-profit community organizations indicated their intention to apply and subsequently four organizations submitted a proposal for funding.

On 26 June 2000 the four applications were reviewed by an Allocations Review committee comprised of:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Johanne Tallon	Social Services, Chair of Allocations Committee
Councillor Diane Holmes	Region of Ottawa-Carleton
Bob Busby	People's Hearings Interim Committee (Faith Partners)
Louise Delisle	People's Hearings Interim Committee (Tel-aide outaouais)
Castille Troy	Aboriginal Women support Centre
Candice Beale	People's Hearings Interim Committee
Madeleine Dubois	École de service social - Université d'Ottawa
Rev. Sharon Moon	People's Hearings Interim Committee (Faith Partners)
Mengistab Tsegaye	World skills
Colleen Pellatt	Social Services
Diane Martin	Social Services

Prior to discussion of the applications, an orientation session was provided including a presentation from the People's Hearings Interim Committee.

Applications were reviewed in the following manner. Prior to the review date, Allocations Review Committee members had been provided background information pertaining to the community-based public participation coordination, a copy of the invitation to the community to apply for funding and a copy each of the four applications to be reviewed and a rating form for each application to be used as a guide in the assessment of the applications. After initial discussions of all the applications, the strengths of each application were highlighted and discussed again until the Committee arrived at a consensus.

ALLOCATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION

Through the approval of its 2000 budget, Social Services has been directed to fund a community based position for the coordination of public participation. It was determined that \$70,000 would be available in this year to address staff and overhead costs and would be renewable in subsequent years.

All applicants had been involved with the People's Hearing and Task Force on Poverty and demonstrated commitment and capacity to ensure coordination of public participation. The Allocations Review selected the Somerset West Community Health Centre as the host agency to implement the public participation process of the community of the poor. The Centre has established its credibility in community development and has an extensive network as well as a high capacity infrastructure.

Family Service Centre of Ottawa-Carleton / Centre de service familial d'Ottawa-Carleton, Entraide budgétaire and the Social Planning Council of Ottawa-Carleton / Conseil de planification sociale d'Ottawa-Carleton are the additional three organizations which submitted a proposal for funding.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Task Force on Poverty Report recommendations, including the recommendation related to the community-based public participation coordination, involved a unique community development effort which brought together various partners including the poor, the business sector, non-profit community organizations, faith partners and Regional staff. No additional public consultation was involved in the development of this report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

The amount of \$70,000 allocated to the coordination of public participation is part of the approved 2000 budget.

CONCLUSION

Social Services would like to recognize the members of the Allocation Committee for their invaluable contribution in reviewing the grant applications and making the decision for funding. Social Services would also like to recognize the People's Hearings Interim Committee both for its important contribution to the orientation session and the participation of several of its members on the Allocations Review Committee.

Social Services would also like to acknowledge and commend the four community organizations which applied to host the public participation coordination position. Each of these organizations has already contributed to the work of Task Force on Poverty and it is anticipated that their commitment will continue by working in collaboration with the host organization.

Approved by

Dick Stewart