

CSP Information Session

January 5, 2012

Commonly asked questions and answers

This information should be used in conjunction with the 2012 Information Session handouts

1) Q: Community Services funding programs are recommended for an overall reduction of 10%. Will all funding programs be cut the same amount?

A: No, we are still finalizing the way the Community Services funding streams will be reduced to provide a balanced budget for 2012. We expect to have smaller reductions for some of the smaller funding streams (such as Festivals) and reductions that are a more than 10% for some of the larger funding streams, like CSP.

2) Q: CSP is not accepting new applicants or new requests for funding because of the anticipated cuts. What will happen if the grants budget is not cut and stays the same?

A: If the Community Services Funding streams are not reduced for the 2012 budget year, staff will implement a process for considering new or increased requests.

3) Q: CSP supports many different types of programs for different target groups. How will cuts be decided? What programs will be cut?

A: CSP will review all applications with the goal of maintaining funding for high impact activities that reflect the goals of the program. Reductions will be based on individual program assessments: ***cuts will not be done as across-the-board 10% reductions to all programs.*** Programs will be ranked and only those that rank high compared to other CSP requests will be recommended.

4) Q: CSP will be doing reductions based on ranking of applications. How will that ranking process work?

A: Each year, CSP receives more requests than can be recommended within the available budget. Requests are assessed against the program criteria and priorities, and then recommendations are made based on those that are rated highest. For 2012 this process will be more detailed because the budget is being reduced. Each organization and program request will be assessed and ranked for areas such as performance, need and program fit. Those requests that are identified as low priority will no longer be recommended for funding.

5) Q: If our program is cut or reduced significantly, will CSP recommend a partial grant to help us transform or close the program?

A: The CSP funding model is Partnership, or ongoing funding. To reflect this role, CSP will make reductions in ways that work to provide organizations with the opportunity to plan for program transition or close out. For any recommended reductions, CSP will consider options for recommending partial, one-time grants for programs where significant transition or closing is needed. There will not be sufficient funds to provide a phase out or partial grant for all grant cuts or reductions.

- 6) Q: When will our first instalment payments arrive for the 2012 funding year? If our grant is cut, will we need to pay back the first instalment? Our program year starts in January—how do I know if it is appropriate to run the program or if our grant will be cut in June?**

A: We are preparing a separate letter to all funded organizations to outline the process for first instalment payments this year. As part of the CSP partnership funding model, organizations have been provided with a first instalment payment before the final allocation recommendations in June. For 2012, this practice needs to be modified to reflect the fact that some programs will be reduced or cut.

Information on first instalment payments for organizations with fiscal years starting January 1 or April 1 will be sent to organizations in order to plan appropriately.

Organizations with fiscal years that start after March will not be provided with a first instalment payment, and any approved grants will be paid out after the allocations report is approved by Council.

CSP reduction recommendations will take into consideration the organization's fiscal year, and cuts to grants will be recommended to provide as much stability for program activities as possible.

- 7) Q: Will there be service disruption for grants if there is a strike or a lockout of city employees?**

A: Community Funding Unit services include supporting applicants, assessing applications, preparing reports for Council approval, issuing approved payments and monitoring approved funding. The extent of funding program services during a labour disruption is dependent on a variety of factors that are not clear at this time. In the event of a labour disruption, information will be provided to applicants about what grant services are being provided.

It is good risk management for organizations to consider options for managing cash flow needs for programs that are funded by Community Service Partnerships program, in case funding approvals are delayed.

- 8) Q: --Our grant is less than \$10,000.00. Will you be looking at cutting small grants like these similar to the approach that was considered during the service review in the summer? Can we use the streamlining policy to move this money to another program and hopefully protect it from cuts?**

-Our grant is less than 5% of our program budget. Will you be looking at cutting grants based on the overall program budget, similar to the approach that was considered during the service review in the summer? Can we revise our overall

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program budget this year so the grant is a bigger portion of the budget and hopefully protect it from cuts?

A: The reduction approach described in the CMO service review report was applied across the board to all CPIP funded organizations, including CSP. Across the board categories for cuts are not the approach CSP is taking for the 2012 recommendations. Grants of all sizes will be assessed for the role in the program budget and the impact they make on the program viability. Small or large grants that do not make a significant difference in the ability of the program to meet its goals will be recommended for cuts or reductions. Many small grants may not, in fact, provide a significant difference in the ability of the program to meet its goals.

The streamlining policy says that at the time of application, organizations may request to move approved funding from one program to another approved program. Organizations may also request to move a program from one CSP funded organization to another CSP funded organization. This flexibility is intended to ensure the best use of funds for community needs by funded organizations. Moving money from one approved program to another approved program will not automatically protect the funds from reductions or cuts.

Case by case consideration of reductions will be based on your organization's 2012 CSP submission, as well as the program's income and expenditures from previous years. Changing the program budget for 2012 will not automatically protect the funds from reductions or cuts.

9) Q: Our organization has been a Major Recreation grant recipient, and last year we applied for those funds as part of our CSP application. Is this the same for 2012?

A: Major Recreation applicants will continue to apply through the CSP program. Your organizations will receive a detailed letter describing the Major Recreation process for 2012.

10) Q: Another funder for our programs has reduced its funding to us. Will that mean that the city will cut its funding too?

A: The external funding environment is changing and can create significant uncertainties for organizations. Losing other funding for a program does not automatically mean that the CSP funds will also be cut. Organizations that can demonstrate 1) diversified sources of funding, 2) sensible risk management plans and 3) transition plans for programs facing significant reductions, are more likely to continue receiving funding from the CSP.

