

**To:** **COUNCIL**

**Meeting Date:** **09/28/21**

**Subject:** **Request for Funding - ACCKWA**

**Submitted By:** **Sheryl Ayres, Chief Financial Officer**

**Prepared By:** **Tyler Harding, Financial Analyst**

**Report No.:** **21-277(CRS)**

**File No.:** **C1101**

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## **Recommendation(s)**

THAT report 21-277(CRS) Request for Funding - ACCKWA be received;

AND THAT Council supports the Grants to Groups Committee's recommended grant of \$10,000 to ACCKWA.

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

- To provide bridge funding and operational funding to a community organization that is offering programs and services that improve the health and wellbeing of the most marginalized residents of the City of Cambridge who have been impacted by the pandemic.

### **Key Findings**

- The Grants to Groups Review Committee consists of Councillor Nicholas Ermeta (chair), Mayor Kathryn McGarry, Councillor Donna Reid and Councillor Mike Mann.
- Upon the completion of the Grants to Group Committee 2021 review process \$65,200 was allocated to groups of the \$94,700 available, leaving a balance of \$29,500 unallocated. This balance could be used for emergency requests that arise throughout the year.
- On June 24, 2021 the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA) approached the City of Cambridge to advise of a new program they are running to assist the most marginalized members of the community and this was being done in coordination with multiple organizations (Slides from this presentation

are attached as Appendix A). This new program is called the Cambridge Multi-Agency Community Space (MACS). Throughout the time this program has been in effect they have had 1,303 user interactions which have included showers being accessed, clothing rooms being accessed and many harm reduction interactions.

- On July 28, 2021, ACCKWA contacted the City to request emergency bridge funding to help with the continuance of this program due to the timing of other funding streams available. Without the requested bridge funding and operational funding there is a risk that they will not be able to efficiently staff this program which can lead to increased harm to marginalized members of the community.
- The Grants to Groups Review Committee is recommending \$10,000 be provided to ACCKWA, as requested.

## Financial Implications

The City of Cambridge has allotted \$94,700 in the 2021 Operating Budget to support and enable the work of local non-profit agencies and groups dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents. This year an amount of \$7,500 was held back and \$22,000 was unallocated for a total of \$29,500 that could be used for requests as they arise throughout the year. Therefore, this funding can be provided through the Grants to Groups funds established in the 2021 Operating Budget.

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## Background

In 2021 the Grants to Groups Committee allocated \$65,200 of the \$94,700 available to community groups. The committee intentionally leaves some funds unallocated each year in order to address requests that arise throughout the year. This year, \$7,500 was intentionally held back and \$22,000 remained unallocated leaving a balance of \$29,500.

On July 28, 2021, ACCKWA approached the City of Cambridge to request emergency bridge funding and operational funding to help with the continuance of a new program they have partnered with called the Cambridge Multi-Agency Community Space. This program is designed to provide a space to help support the unsheltered homeless by providing access to basic needs such as cooling and heating, clothing, showers, laundry, snacks and water, medical care and outreach and mental health workers.

The funding is required as ACCKWA is experiencing timing issues with different funding streams available to them and are at risk on not having sufficient resources to continue the program at its current level.

The Grants to Groups Committee is recommending funding of \$10,000 to be provided out of the unallocated portion of the Grants to Groups funding approved in the 2021 Operating Budget.

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## Analysis

### Strategic Alignment

PEOPLE To actively engage, inform and create opportunities for people to participate in community building – making Cambridge a better place to live, work, play and learn for all.

Goal #2 - Governance and Leadership

Objective 2.5 Focus on the responsible management of financial resources, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The primary goal of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge's Grant request program is to enable and encourage effective citizen involvement in community groups and in civic events related to the self-fulfillment of individuals, and to attempt to provide an excellent quality of life in the community.

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## Comments

The Grants Review Committee is recommending that ACCKWA be allocated \$10,000 of the remaining \$29,500 of funding that was approved through the 2021 Operating Budget.

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## Existing Policy/By-Law

Policy #C-10.080 – Grants to Groups

The objectives under the Grants to Groups Policy (C-10.080) include:

- To provide municipal funds or other forms of financial assistance, in limited amounts to community groups and/or organizations that warrant City support, and show a desire to help themselves.
- To consider each grant on its own merit and to deal with it in as equitable and objective a manner as possible. To ensure that an adequate administrative system of review and counselling takes place with the groups or organizations making requests. This should include reviewing the groups' future plans and the management of their respective funds.
- To ensure that a proper system of accountability is developed and maintained by the community groups and /or organizations requesting and receiving approval for assistance from the City.

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## Financial Impact

The Grants to Groups Committee is recommending that \$10,000 of the remaining \$29,500 in Grants to Groups funding that was approved during the 2021 Operating Budget be provided to ACCKWA.

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## Public Input

The requestor (ACCKWA) provided a presentation on their new program called MACS as well as a formal request for funding.

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## Internal/External Consultation

The Grants to Groups Committee has unanimously agreed to provide this funding. The requestor (ACCKWA) has made a presentation regarding the new MACS program they are running and has been made aware that we are investigating funding opportunities.

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## Conclusion

The Grants to Groups Committee is recommending that \$10,000 be provided to ACCKWA for emergency bridge funding and operational funding.

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## Signature

### Division Approval

Reviewed by Legal Services



**Name:** Sheryl Ayres, CPA, CGA

**Title:** Chief Financial Officer

### Departmental Approval



**Name:** Dave Bush

**Title:** Deputy City Manager

## City Manager Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Calder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Name: David Calder**

**Title: City Manager**

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## Attachments

- Appendix A – ACCKWA Service Expansion, MACS 2020-2021

# **ACCKWA Service Expansion Harm Reduction - Cambridge MACS 2020-2021**



# Current State

- ACCKWA has supported individuals in Waterloo Region living with and at risk for problematic substance use, HIV, hepatitis C and related STIs and other infections for 34 years
- 16 staff and a team of 5-8 peers provide support through over 18,000 interactions annually (4 new added positions through emergency funds)

# Current State

- 3 Support Programs
  - Support Services
  - Volunteer Program
  - Peer Program



# Current State

- 2 Sites
  - ACCKWA Main Office - South Kitchener
  - Cambridge 150 Main Street

# Current State

- 5 Prevention Programs
  - Gay Men's Sexual Health
  - Women's Community Development
  - African, and Caribbean Community Development
  - Youth Sexual Health
  - Harm Reduction

# Current State

- 5 clinics
  - Psychiatric Consultation
  - PrEP Clinic (HIV Prevention)
  - HIV Care and Infectious Disease Clinic
  - Nurse Practitioner-led Primary Care
  - HIV / STI Testing and Treatment

# Harm Reduction Pre-Pandemic

## Kitchener (2 sites)

- 4850 interactions (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)
- 1892 unique individuals
- 62% increase over 3 years (2015-2018)

## Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank

- 2133 interactions (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)
- 593 unique individuals
- 100% increase over 3 years (2015-2018)

\* Underestimates of scope of issue – numbers for ACCKWA sites alone

\* Stats have continued to grow monthly this calendar year



# Harm Reduction Program Scope

## 1 Staff Program Sustainability

Interactions 2 years: 11 000

- **2.5 Fixed Sites**
  - 150 Main
  - Langs CHC North Dumfries (2 times/month)
  - ACCKWA Main Office
- **4 Outreach programs limited**
  - Deliveries (limited)
  - Street Outreach (limited)
  - A Better Tent City
  - Cambridge Encampments (limited)

## 3 Staff Program Sustainability

Interactions 2 years: 21 510

- **4 Fixed NSP Sites**
  - KDCHC (in development)
  - Langs CHC North Dumfries (launching this September)
  - 150 Main
  - ACCKWA Main office
- **4 Outreach Programs**
  - Deliveries
  - Street Outreach
  - A Better Tent City
  - Cambridge Encampments

# Harm Reduction Program Scope

## 1 Staff Program Sustainability

- **Advocacy Work**
  - No capacity
- **Opportunities to Grow/Respond**
  - No Capacity
- **Additional Program Responsibilities**
  - Reporting
  - Community awareness events (limited)
  - Naloxone and Substance Use trainings (limited)

## 3 Staff Program Sustainability

- **Advocacy Work**
  - Safe Supply
  - CTS Cambridge
  - UPHNS Education and capacity building
- **Opportunities to Grow/Respond**
  - Expand programming into rural communities
  - Develop safer supply tools
- **Additional Program Responsibilities**
  - Reporting
  - Community partners
  - Community awareness events
  - Prevention education workshops
  - Naloxone Trainings

# Cambridge Multi-Agency Community Space (MACS)

## Brief History

- March 2020 COVID-19 Wave 1 Lockdown. Loss of food, harm reduction, healthcare for homeless and people who use drugs.
- Spring 2020 Cambridge Self Help Food Bank, CMHA, Langs CHC, Waterloo Region Housing Services, Lutherwood came together in order to deliver services to the most marginalized population in order to address their outstanding needs.
- Summer 2020 ACCKWA came aboard as the flagship agency leading service coordination and delivery.
- May 2021 Waterloo Region approved MACS for a 2 year rent-free lease.
- Currently MACS partnerships ACCKWA, CSHFB, Langs CHC, CMHA, Lutherwood, Waterloo Region Housing Services & Stonehenge.



# MACS Supports for Unsheltered Homeless

- The drop in provides unsheltered individuals with access to basic needs (cooling / warming center, clothing donations, shower services, laundry services, and snacks and water).
- Access to medical care (Langs IPC, Sanguen Van).
- Access to outreach workers and supplies.
- Housing services and system navigators.
- Specialized street mental health outreach.
- Safe harm reduction supplies, Naloxone and harm reduction outreach workers.



# MACS Stats

Site Interactions: March 2021	
Total # days drop-in open	22
Average of Daily Service Users	59
Total # MACS Service User Interactions	1303
# ACCKWA Harm Reduction interactions	423
# Lutherwood interactions	71
*Number of IPC interactions	25
Number of times showers were accessed	112
Number of times clothing room Accessed	30
**On-site overdoses attended	4

\*Typical IPC interactions 40-60

\*\* Typical monthly overdoses range 3-8

# Conclusion

- Loss of combined emergency funding will result in loss of the 2 additional harm reduction staff and the 2 Cambridge MACS staff.
- ACCKWA overall service volume is projected to increase by between 22% and 56% between 2021 and 2022 if current trends continue. The increase is attributed to Cambridge MACS and Harm Reduction Program service volume.
- Fatal opioid overdoses in Waterloo Region increased from 61 in 2019 to 105 in 2020. This is an increase of 58%.