

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services
Child Care and Early Years

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Kelly Emery
Director of Child Care and Early Years
Date: July 29, 2019
Subject: Single Source – Urban Indigenous Child Care

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Urban Indigenous Child Care funding be single sourced to Ska:na Family Learning Centre at a total value of \$3,120,000. This funding is meant for new licensed Indigenous child care in Chatham and Wallaceburg.
2. The Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreements.

Background

The Procurement By-law #03-2016 was adopted by Council on January 11, 2016. The Single Source section of the Procurement states the following:

A non-competitive direct award of Contract may be used to purchase Deliverables from Municipality funds only and with a value above \$100,000 with the approval of Council under the following circumstances:

- a. To recognize exclusive rights, or to maintain specialized products that must be maintained by the manufacturer or its representative or where the Municipality is contractually bound to purchase a Deliverable from one Supplier;

Comments

We recommend sole sourcing Urban Indigenous Child Care Centres to Ska:na Family Learning Centre for the following reasons:

- A detailed literature review in both Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent determined that Ska:na Family Learning Centre is the only Urban Indigenous Child Care provider in our area;
- The County of Lambton and the Municipality of Windsor-Essex have been

contacted and neither Municipality conducted an RFP knowing that there are no other Urban Indigenous providers;

- Community needs assessment was conducted in 2017 to support the proposal and the ongoing collaboration with the entire community with the continuation of the “Urban Indigenous Working Group”;
- This operator works jointly with the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre to provide Indigenous services to off-reserve families in Windsor-Essex, Sarnia-Lambton and it would be advantageous to have them provide coordinating services in Chatham-Kent;
- Chatham-Kent and Bkejwanong Children’s Centre have sizeable waitlists and Delaware Early Learning Centre indicated a need for off-reserve child care for Indigenous People attending school or working in Chatham;
- The funding would assist in retrofitting space in order to provide Urban Indigenous Child Care;
- Enhance Indigenous control of service design and delivery;
- Foster greater opportunities for Indigenous children to be immersed in their culture and language from an early age;
- Indigenous child care will support improved outcomes for Indigenous children including healthy child development, parent and family supports, and greater participation in employment and training for parents;
- The funding is intended to support programs that are flexible, culturally responsive, reflective of communities and supportive of Urban Indigenous children and families.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

Engagement and consultation took place through several venues;

- Child and Youth Planning Network
- Cross-sector meetings
- A Journey Together Planning Table

A needs assessment survey was developed and implemented with Urban Indigenous families. These surveys indicated a need for:

- The opportunity to build a relationship with indigenous staff leading and working within the program.
- Culturally responsive content in programming
- Transportation supports
- Flexible hours of operation
- Programming that offers a range of services covering special needs, healthy child development, etc.

Financial Implications

The project is 100% funded from the Ministry of Education and if the Municipality fails to meet the requirements of the transfer payment agreement, the ministry will recover capital funding.

The total project cost of \$3,120,000 be funded from Child Care and Early Year's account 15826.69127.CSCBCAP.

Prepared by:

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