

Report SSR-SS-09-14

To: Dwight Burley, Chair and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Barbara Fedy, Director
Meeting Date: August 13, 2014
Subject: **Request for 2015 Funding Allocation for Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution SSC59-14; Endorsed by County Council September 2, 2014;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is a network of social service organizations established in 2012 in response to social issues presenting in community;

AND WHEREAS funding to support this network and the facilitation of the collaborative work to date has been supported through a Trillium Grant;

AND WHEREAS sustainable funding is necessary to support the ongoing and planned work of the network;

AND WHEREAS a letter has been received requesting a funding allocation for a total of \$20,000.00 in 2015 to support the ongoing operation of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report SSR-SS-09-14 be received;

AND THAT the request for the funding allocation be included as a budget discussion item for 2015 budget deliberations.

Background

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force has grown from a small group of like-minded citizens, agencies and ministerial partners that were localized to the Owen Sound area in 2012, to a more robust response to poverty issues across Grey and Bruce Counties.

This network now includes 22 core agencies and community members as well as 10 associate members. The need for this coordination was prompted from incidents where agencies and organizations were not necessarily filling gaps in the social safety net for vulnerable citizens and were seen to not be working together, but rather in competition with one another.

This collaborative has morphed into a strong network that meets regularly as a Task Force, with a steering committee and four pillars that inform and perform the work of the Task Force. The pillars include Food Security, Income Security, Housing and Transportation. As well, the Task Force has supported the establishment of Community Voices, Getting Ahead Graduates with lived experience who are consulted and engaged for advice on the work of the Task Force and its Working Groups.

Many of the challenges for Grey County residents living in poverty are also evident for those in Bruce County and given that many agencies support residents in both, it was clear that the Task Force needed to be inclusive to both municipalities. Presentations are being made to both Bruce and Grey County for awareness and requests for funding are being submitted to both as well.

A great deal of work has taken place over the past two years as highlighted in the letter attached and going forward, much is yet to be accomplished. At the July 16, 2014 Social Services Committee discussions took place that there is a desire for the County to hold a leadership role on reducing poverty in the region. Supporting the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force through a financial contribution is evidence of this leadership.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

The financial request is for \$20,000.00 from Grey County for 2015 and the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is requesting an additional matching allocation from Bruce County as well. Staff will be in further discussions with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to determine if funding to the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force would be eligible as a cost shared expenditure with the Ministry funding 50% of the cost.

There are no Staffing, Legal or IT considerations with the recommendation contained in this report.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Responding to the request to fund the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force supports the corporate strategic goal of ensuring services and programs are inclusive and

accessible, and reflective of the diversity of the population within the municipality. The collaborative work of this network strengthens the supports to the most vulnerable citizens of Grey County.

Attachments

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Request for Funding Letter August 2014

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force 2015 Budget Request

Respectfully submitted by,

Barb Fedy
Social Services Director

Director Sign Off: *Barbara Fedy, Director*



28 July 2014

Attn: Barb Fedy, Director
Grey County Social Services
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Re: 2015 Funding Request

Dear Barb,

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is submitting a 2015 funding request for \$20,000 in support of the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force. The funding would allow us to continue to support the coordination of the Poverty Task Force and allow for meaningful engagement between stakeholders.

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force is currently being supported by the Trillium Foundation (\$61,600 2013-2015), United Way of Bruce Grey (\$3,065.44 in 2013), Grey County Social Services and Bruce County Social Services.

The Task Force focused its first year on building trust and respect across community stakeholders through dialogue and purposeful partnerships. The Task Force transitioned from its initial Owen Sound-based community meeting in July 2012 to a formal partnership of 22 core agencies/community members across Grey-Bruce and 10 associate members.

The Task Force carried out strategic planning to build consensus/collective action ideas resulting in Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force's Purpose, Vision, Mission Statement and Strategic Directions. It has expanded its structure to include a Steering Committee, a Community Voices Advisory Group and four Action Groups focused on priority pillars: Housing, Income Security, Food Security and Transportation.

Collectively, the Task Force has spawned the partnership of 6 non-profit agencies fundraising together as March Together. In partnership with the Grey Bruce Children's Alliance it hosted a Poverty Forum focused on the Bridges Out of Poverty approach.

We have acted in partnership to leverage our community knowledge and expertise to advocate for change.

- ✓ In partnership with the Grey Bruce Children's Alliance we hosted a Poverty Forum in May 2013 to examine the next step in the Bridges Out of Poverty model utilizing Circles. The Poverty Task Force provides leadership to the Grey Bruce Circles Adaptation Planning Group.
- ✓ We highlighted utility costs and utility assistance issues to the Ministry of Energy through the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy in a meeting hosted by Bruce and Grey Counties.
- ✓ We carried out a Survey to 'under resourced' communities to assist in identifying populations-at-risk and to share 'their stories'. We submitted a formal report to

the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy Review Committee providing a rural and Grey Bruce perspective. We participated in consultation meetings at Queen's Park as part of Campaign 2000.

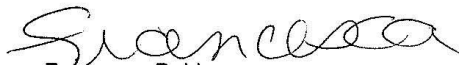
- ✓ We regularly engage with Ontario MPPs on issues arising from our Survey – housing, food security, transportation and food security issues. We supported a resolution before Queen's Park to strike a committee to look into Rural Transportation. Our letter of support and demands were read out at Queen's Park. The resolution was passed.
- ✓ In partnership with Grey Bruce Public Health, we released the Nutritious Food Basket Survey 2013 results and provided analysis.
- ✓ In January 2014 we brought members of the public together for an Open House discussion on challenges and opportunities around poverty issues in our community.

Moving forward we shall continue to:

- Develop a shared informed understanding of poverty among a diverse group of partners to have a collective impact to create sustainable change.
 - Increase sector connectedness between our 4 pillars: Transportation, Food Security, Income Security and Housing
 - Support Community Voices of the Poverty Task Force to inform and advise
 - Engage with Grey Bruce communities in a dialogue on the endorsement of a Grey Bruce Food Charter
 - Develop an action plan in response to Grey County Transportation Study
 - Host a Living Wage Imposium on October 17th Poverty Eradication Day
 - Carry out a Landlord/tenant survey to enhance landlord/tenant education
- Work with services, governments and businesses to develop a comprehensive and informed understanding of what it takes to reduce poverty and an understanding around the needs of people living in poverty.
- Develop a sustainable social planning table which holistically addresses ongoing social issues which undermine health, education, employment and appropriately resourced to meet community needs.

We are sincerely appreciative of the support of Grey County Social Services and the active participation of Grey County staff on the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force.

Sincerely,



Francesca Dobbyn
Executive Director
United Way of Bruce Grey



Revenue		budget - Annually	
Grey County	\$		20,000.00
Bruce County	\$		20,000.00
United Way Bruce Grey	\$		10,000.00
Total Revenue	\$		50,000.00
 Expenses			
Staff	\$		30,000.00
travel	\$		5,000.00
admin	\$		5,000.00
office expenses	\$		5,000.00
misc expenses	\$		3,000.00
technology	\$		2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$		50,000.00

Staffing levels

2 days a week under Trillium Grant

1 day week Jan 1-March 31

3 days a week April 1 - Dec 31

Francesca Dobbyn

Executive Director

United Way of Bruce Grey