

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title:	Building Safer Communities Grant Program Funding Recommendations
Date Prepared:	January 29, 2025
Report To:	Special Meeting of Council
Councillor and Role:	Mayor Danny Breen, Governance & Strategic Priorities
Ward:	N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

Seeking Council approval to fund recommended projects under the Building Safer Communities Grant Program.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The [Building Safer Communities \(BSC\) Grant Program](#) provides funding to community-based service providers to develop or strengthen crime and violence prevention and intervention initiatives or programs for children, youth, young adults, and their families in the City of St. John's. This grant program was made possible thanks to a three-year funding commitment from Public Safety Canada, announced in February 2023, to enhance community safety and collaboration.

The 2024-26 BSC Grant Program was developed based on the priorities and goals of the [Building Safer Communities Strategy](#) as well as [Round Table](#) recommendations, Public Safety Canada funding criteria, a comprehensive review of best practices for addressing crime and violence, and what we heard [through public engagement](#). It is included as an action item in the BSC Strategy:

- 6.1.1** Continue the [BSC Grant Program](#) until March 31, 2026, to address the root causes of violence and crime for children, youth, young adults, and their families. Projects must align with best practices noted in Section 4.2.4 and with the goals of this Strategy (p. 33).

On October 23, 2024, community-based service providers working with children, youth, young adults, and their families, were invited to [apply for funding](#) to expand or develop initiatives that address risk and protective factors and/or align with the goals and best practices outlined in Section 4.2.4 of the BSC Strategy:

- Wraparound Support Programs
- Family-Focused Programs

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- School and Educational Programs (while schools are not eligible, community-based service providers collaborating on projects with schools may apply)
- Programs for Racialized or Vulnerable Populations
- Prevention Programs
- Recreational Programs

\$575,000 is allocated for the 2024-26 grant program.

Nine applications were received with a total request of \$809,128.88. An internal evaluation committee consisting of representatives from the Departments of Community Services and Finance and Corporate Services scored applications based on the criteria outlined in the program description. Evaluation criteria were approved by Public Safety Canada in keeping with the terms of the federal contract.

The evaluation committee is recommending funding for **six** projects totaling **\$533,023.25**:

Organization	Project Summary	Amount Recommended	Rationale
Association for New Canadians	Empowering Pathways is a group intervention program designed for newcomer women and girls in St. John's who have survived intimate partner violence (IPV). Psychoeducational support groups consisting of eight seventy-five-minute sessions will help unite newcomer women with shared experiences, foster enduring connections, and ensure access to information about IPV and community resources. Funds will help support a part-time Social Worker, program materials and interpretation services.	\$23,223.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal aligns with BSC Strategy, What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps. • \$23,223.25 requested.
Canadian Mental Health Association NL Division Corporation	The Harbour Strong: Men's Mental Health Network project will foster conversations around men's roles in preventing domestic violence (DV) while participating in land-based activities like dogsledding, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Four sessions targeting Indigenous	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal aligns with the BSC Strategy, as well as What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps.

	men and boys, community leaders, activists, elders, influencers, and high-risk individuals will be held in the St. John's metro area focusing on under-serviced neighbourhoods with higher rates of DV. Funds will help support a part-time Project Coordinator, trained mental health facilitators, and outdoor/wilderness guides as well as equipment and supplies.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners include First Light and The Lonely Man Project. \$50,000 requested.
Key Assets Newfoundland and Labrador Incorporated	The SNAP (Stop Now and Plan) Program is an evidence-based model for teaching children struggling with behavioural issues, and their parents, effective emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills. The program consists of a 13-week intensive course for children, a concurrent 13-week caregiver/parent group, and additional support services such as one-on-one family counselling and school advocacy. Funds will help support Child and Family Workers to deliver the program as well as licensing fees and software.	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal aligns with BSC Strategy, What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps. \$150,000 requested.
Thrive CYN St. John's Inc.	This program is a continuation of the street outreach initiative currently funded by Building Safer Communities. Funds will support the continuation of two outreach staff to support marginalized and/or street-entrenched individuals in the downtown core. Outreach staff will continue to provide individuals with access to resources, connections and referrals to services, crisis interventions, and point-in-time care and support.	\$150,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal aligns with BSC Strategy, What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps. Partners include Downtown St. John's, NL Health Services Harm Reduction team, End Homelessness St. John's, Rotary Club of St. John's Northwest, and

			<p>Indigo Parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150,000 requested.
YMCA of Northeast Avalon Inc.	<p>The YMCA Alternative Suspension program is aimed at secondary level students who are experiencing difficulties in their academic and social development. Students ages 12-17 will be referred to the program by their School Administrator for a period of 3 to 5 days. Funds will help support Alternative Suspension Program Coordinators to work with youth to develop personalized intervention plans to address identified risk factors and meet the needs of students while working on the objectives set by the school.</p>	\$90,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal aligns with BSC Strategy, What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps. • \$94,428 requested.
YWCA St. John's Inc.	<p>Creating Space is a gender-based violence (GBV) prevention program currently delivered in three local high schools (Holy Heart, PWC and Gonzaga). Through this project the YWCA will increase partnerships with high schools, while expanding age-appropriate content to deliver Creating Space in junior high schools. In addition to four-week groups and school-wide advocacy projects, the program will develop stand-alone, class-based workshops focusing on core GBV prevention topics aligned with the Safe and Caring Schools Policy. Funds will help support a full-time Program Coordinator, program materials and equipment.</p>	\$69,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal aligns with BSC Strategy, What We Heard recommendations, best practices and identified gaps. • \$80,000 requested.

The six recommended projects best address Building Safer Communities and Public Safety Canada program goals, priority areas, and identified gaps with a focus on addressing the root causes of crime and violence for marginalized children, youth, young adults, and their families.

All projects funded through the 2024-26 program must be completed with final reporting provided to the City's satisfaction no later than March 2, 2026.

The continuation of any community projects funded through last year's BSC Grant Program (i.e., Thrive) will be subject to the satisfactory completion and reporting provided by March 31, 2025.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:

The project is funded through the City's Building Safer Communities contract with Public Safety Canada until March 31st, 2026. Remaining funds will be reallocated to support other BSC initiatives.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

Public Safety Canada and the organizations noted above.

3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: No

If yes, are there recommendations or actions that require progress reporting?

If yes, how will progress be reported? (e.g.: through the strategic plan, through Cascade, annual update to Council, etc.)

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.

A Connected City: Develop and deliver programs, services and public spaces that build safe, healthy and vibrant communities.

5. Alignment with Adopted Plans:

- [Healthy City Strategy](#)
- [10-Year Affordable Housing Strategy, 2019 to 2028](#)
- Envision St. John's [Municipal Plan](#) and the Envision St. John's [Development Regulations](#), Amended 2022
- City of St. John's [Accessibility Plan](#) 2024-2026

- City of St. John's [Declaration in Support of the Rights of Indigenous People](#)
- [Building Safer Communities Strategy](#)

6. Accessibility and Inclusion:

The BSC Grant Program was developed to address risk and protective factors and/or align with the goals and best practices outlined in Section 4.2.4 of the BSC Strategy, which are noted above. Risk factors encompass negative elements in the lives of individuals or within a community. They have the potential to increase the presence of crime and/or violence, victimization, and/or the fear of crime and/or violence in a community. These factors may increase the likelihood of individuals engaging in criminal or violent behaviour or becoming victims themselves.

Additional consideration was given this year to proposals that target the following underserved populations of children, youth, and young adults:

- Indigenous people
- Racialized people
- Newcomers
- Women and girls
- People involved in the Justice system

7. Legal or Policy Implications:

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a legal agreement with the City of St. John's for project funding.

Successful applicants will also be bound to the terms and conditions of the City's Building Safer Communities contract with Public Safety Canada.

8. Privacy Implications:

N/A

9. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

Once Council provides approval, all applicants will be notified of the funding decisions.

The City will issue a media release including brief summaries of projects approved for a BSC Grant.

10. Human Resource Implications:

N/A

11. Procurement Implications:

N/A

12. Information Technology Implications:

N/A

13. Other Implications:

N/A

Recommendation:

That Council approve the following recommendations for funding under the Building Safer Communities Grant Program:

Association for New Canadians - \$23,223.25

Canadian Mental Health Association NL Division Corporation - \$50,000

Key Assets Newfoundland and Labrador Incorporated - \$150,000

Thrive CYN St. John's Inc. - \$150,000

YMCA of Northeast Avalon Inc. - \$90,000

YWCA St. John's Inc. - \$69,800

Prepared by: Michelle Smith, BSC Coordinator

Approved by: Krista Gladney, Manager – Healthy City and Inclusion

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Building Safer Communities Grant Program Funding Recommendations.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 30, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Krista Gladney - Jan 29, 2025 - 4:34 PM

Tanya Haywood - Jan 30, 2025 - 9:04 AM