

Request for Decision

File No: Ehh 650 065

Date January 20, 2020
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Subject Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – 2020 Emergency Support Services Grant Application

REQUEST

To approve the submission of a joint application with the District of Invermere, City of Cranbrook and Village of Canal Flats to organize an East Kootenay Emergency Support Services (ESS) Training Conference, to create a regional ESS Response Plan and to purchase necessary ESS equipment.

OPTIONS

1. THAT the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant application for \$100,000 be submitted to organize an East Kootenay Emergency Support Services Training Conference, to create a regional Emergency Support Services Response Plan and to purchase necessary Emergency Support Services equipment, with the RDEK to provide overall grant administration.
2. THAT the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant application not proceed.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The intent of the ESS funding stream is to support eligible applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and the purchase of ESS equipment. To coincide with the modernization of the Provincial ESS program, the 2020 application intake also focuses on support to local ESS programs in order to move toward electronic registration and reporting.

If successful, the grant will fund the following activities:

1. Coordination of an ESS training conference in October 2020. The conference will be held centrally in Cranbrook and will include a number of ESS training workshops related to response, Provincial modernization of the ESS program and worker care for East Kootenay ESS teams and Emergency Program Staff. If funds and space permit, we will also invite ESS teams in neighbouring regions. The funds will provide training and meals for attendees, accommodations and travel expenses for out of town ESS Volunteers within the East Kootenay Region, and event coordination costs.

2. Hire a contractor to develop a region-wide ESS Response Plan
3. Purchase necessary response equipment and supplies for East Kootenay ESS teams. These items may include computer equipment and programs, a generator, heaters and additional supplies for the Central/Columbia Valley ESS trailer to assist when setting up remote reception centres. Elk Valley's ESS trailer requires no additional equipment at this time.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Financial: Each Local Government within the region is eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in grant funding. With three additional municipalities offering to partner with the RDEK for this grant application, we will be requesting the full amount of \$100,000.

Purchasing Policy: Per the current Purchasing Policy, steps to sustainable purchasing and life cycle costing will be implemented when selecting equipment and supplies.

Partnerships: Four local governments have joined in this application, but the training, equipment and supplies will benefit the entire East Kootenay region.

Process: Should the grant application be successful; staff will secure quotes and purchase equipment necessary per Purchasing Policy guidelines. Review of the success of the project will be completed partially through a survey to attendees at the end of the Kootenay ESS Training Convention weekend as well as during debriefs of each subsequent emergency event.