



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
General Manager's Office

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 11, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Building Safer Communities Funding Agreement (HSC22041) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Chelsea Kirkby (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3539
SUBMITTED BY:	Angela Burden General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department, or their designate be authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute the Contribution Agreement, and all ancillary documents, with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness for funding through the Building Safer Communities Fund in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (b) That the Building Safer Communities Funding in the amount of \$398,280 for the 2022/2023 fiscal year be received and included within the current 2022 and 2023 annual operating budget;
- (c) That the Building Safer Communities Funding in the approximate amount of \$3,584,522 for the period of April 2023 to March 2026 be received and included in the annual operating budgets for the appropriate year; and,
- (d) That the General Manager, Healthy and Safe Communities Department or their designate be authorized, for the duration of the Building Safer Communities Funding to select, enter into and execute agreements with external organizations or persons for redistribution of funds.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2022, the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (“Public Safety Canada”) identified the City of Hamilton as an eligible recipient for funding through Public Safety Canada’s Building Safety Communities Fund (BSCF). The BSCF is a funding stream of Public Safety Canada in support of community-based programs to prevent gun and gang violence by tackling its root causes. The total funding amount expected for Hamilton is \$3,982,802.22 from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2026. This total amount of funding is not guaranteed until further agreements are executed. From this total, annual allocations have been determined by Public Safety Canada. The amount available for Hamilton in the current Contribution Agreement for the 2022/2023 fiscal year is \$398,280.22.

Healthy and Safe Communities staff have developed and submitted a work plan to Public Safety Canada for use of the 2022/2023 funding allocation between August 15, 2022 and March 31, 2023. The aim of the work plan is to implement a community-led process to develop a comprehensive multi-year plan to reduce and prevent youth gun and gang violence through trauma-informed and healing-centred community engagement and through the building of strong community partnerships. This multi-year plan will be implemented from April 1, 2023 until March 31, 2026 with the remaining anticipated BSCF budget of \$3,584,522.00.

Alternatives for Consideration - Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The City has been identified as a recipient for a total of \$3,982,802.22 between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2026 through Public Safety Canada’s Building Safer Communities Fund to support prevention of youth involvement in guns and gangs. This total amount of funding is not guaranteed until further agreements are executed. Any significant changes to the contribution amounts will be brought back to Emergency Services and Community Services Committee for approval. The amount available through the current Contribution Agreement from August 15, 2022 until March 31, 2023 is \$398,280.22. Finance and Administration has identified no issues with the agreement and this funding has no impact on the City’s levy. The City will provide in-kind contribution through staff support for this project within the current staff complement.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At the Emergency and Community Services Committee on October 7, 2021, staff were directed to respond to a motion related to youth violent crimes.

To address the motion, staff supporting Hamilton's Youth Strategy and Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan completed a review of holistic community programs being used to prevent, and address youth violence, guns and gangs and facilitated an initial consultation with local service providers to understand the context of youth violent crimes in Hamilton. An update on this work was provided to the Emergency and Community Services Committee at its meeting on May 5, 2022 (Report HSC22017).

In May 2022, Public Safety Canada identified the City as an eligible recipient for funding through their Building Safety Communities Fund. There was not a formal call for proposals for this funding, however, the City was still required to submit a formal application to Public Safety Canada.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Staff from Healthy and Safe Communities consulted with leaders across the department to inform the application submitted to Public Safety Canada. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's System Leadership Table was also consulted to review and provide feedback on the submission.

Legal Services and the Healthy and Safe Communities' Finance staff have assisted in reviewing the Contribution Agreement. No concerns with the Agreement were identified.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) is targeted to municipalities and Indigenous communities at greatest risk for gang-related firearm violence. The amount available for Hamilton is \$3,982,802.22 from the time a project begins to March 31, 2026.

The BSCF has three principal objectives:

- Support municipalities and Indigenous communities to develop community-based prevention and intervention strategies and initiatives to tackle gun and gang activities;

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- Increase the knowledge of the nature, scope and challenges of the identified recipients to tackle gun and gang activities; and
- Support recipients to develop a plan to sustain successful prevention and intervention activities upon completion of the five-year program.

Recipients can redistribute their funding to organizations running programs aimed at engaging children, youth and young adults in skill-based activities, trauma-recovery, and/or focusing on departure from gangs. Funding received under the BSCF may not be used by eligible recipients to fund ongoing core activities, which includes police officer salaries. Initiatives must be new and implemented with a plan to measure its results and consider its time-limited nature.

The City has submitted a one-year work plan outlining the activities that are planned for the first year of funding which will take place from August 2022 until March 31, 2023. This approach provides the City with flexibility to contract a dedicated project consultant to coordinate the development of the larger multi-year plan. In year one, the City will also provide funding to community organizations to support the development of the multi-year plan by:

- Engaging with youth, community members, and service providers;
- Mapping existing services and resources related to youth violence, guns, and gangs in Hamilton;
- Facilitating partner relationship building activities; and
- Applying a trauma-informed, healing centered approach to community engagement and create a plan to assist the City and partner organizations to become trauma-informed in their service delivery and policy development.

This multi-year plan will be implemented from April 1, 2023 until March 31, 2026 with a remaining anticipated budget of \$3,584,522.00. Once developed, staff will report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the comprehensive multi-year plan.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community

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Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None

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