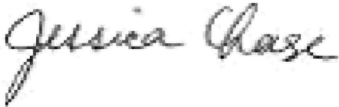




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	September 14, 2023
SUBJECT:	Building Safer Communities Grant (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children's, and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

In June 2023, Council approved the Building Safer Communities Multi-Year Plan (HSC23033) as a key initiative supporting Hamilton's Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The City, working in partnership with [Public Safety Canada](#), will move forward with the implementation of this plan to offer the Building Safer Communities Grant in Hamilton.

Following community consultation and research, the Multi-Year Plan identified three key priorities to address youth gun and gang violence in Hamilton:

- Priority 1: Expand and launch preventative programs that facilitate youth and community connections, strengthen youth capacity, and build positive pathways including employment, recreation, mentorship as well as awareness and education around the realities of gang involvement.
- Priority 2: Expand and launch programs that support youth exiting gangs through comprehensive support services.
- Priority 3: Increase system coordination to enhance existing collaboration and create system pathways among organizations that support youth to develop protective factors related to involvement in guns and gangs.

Projects will focus on supporting target populations and populations currently underserved such as Indigenous youth, Black youth, female youth, and/or newcomer youth. We recognize the important role that collaborative efforts can have on addressing complex issues such as youth violence. Therefore, we are strongly encouraging joint applications from multiple organizations. This will ensure the strengths and expertise of

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diverse organizations are leveraged to create community-based solutions that better support youth and their families.

A call for applications will be released to community organizations to ensure a transparent and fair funding allocation process, reinforcing a community-led approach.

Key details of the grant include:

- Applications will be open from September 14 – October 11, 2023.
- The grant offers multi-year funding for community-led initiatives from 2023-2026. Staff will work with successful applicants to determine program sustainability beyond 2026.
- In total, up to \$2.5 million will be invested into community initiatives through this grant to support specific priorities identified in Hamilton's Building Safer Communities Multi-Year Plan.
- There is no specified limit for funding requests.
- Applicants can apply to one or both funding streams:
 - preventative programs;
 - comprehensive support services focused on supporting youth exiting gangs

The City is committed to an open, transparent evaluation process and will release a call for community grant reviewers (with no conflicts of interest) in the coming weeks. The grant review team will review and score applications based on a transparent criterion.

More information related to the Building Safer Communities Grant, including the application documents, will be available at www.hamilton.ca/SaferCommunitiesGrant

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jessica Chase, Director, Children's & Community Services at Jessica.Chase@hamilton.ca or (905) 546-2424 ext. 3590.

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