

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022**

SUBJECT **2021 Grants-in-Aid Annual Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of Electoral Area Grants-in-Aid activity, including COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants, for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND

Under the Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP), dated March 24, 1977, and amended April 17, 1985, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has authority to deliver Grants-in-Aid (GIA) within the Electoral Areas (EA). These are one-time grants provided through tax requisition to community non-profit organizations or societies that deliver projects in the Juan de Fuca (JDF), Salt Spring Island (SSI), and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) EAs.

GIA budgets are determined through the annual planning process in consultation with each EA Director. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed throughout the year. With support from the EA Director, projects are selected based upon demonstrated benefit to the community and in alignment with GIA guidelines. In principle, GIA fund special projects and activities beyond the scope of CRD services and are excluded from requisition funding. Appendix A details GIA awarded in 2021.

COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants

The Safe Restart Grants were transferred to Local Governments to provide relief and recovery from financial impacts due to the pandemic. The existing SLP provided the authority for the CRD to administer a separate Safe Restart Program. Through consultation with each EA Director, funds were directed to various initiatives. Appendix B details Safe Restart awards in 2021.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

GIA provide local funding for events, small capital requests, and special one-time projects in alignment with community needs and benefit residents in each EA. They often serve as a critical source of funding for projects that are out of scope and excluded from CRD service mandates.

Safe Restart Grants were available to organizations impacted by COVID-19 where many applications highlighted revenue loss as a driver for support. Numerous facilities were closed or operated at reduced capacity with health restrictions following provincial orders and guidelines.

Financial Implications

2021 Activity

The following two tables provide a summary of grants awarded to EAs under the core GIA and supplementary Safe Restart GIA programs in 2021. Projects funded by core GIA in 2020 are provided for comparison.

Table 1: Core - GIA Awarded for 2021

EA	2021			2020		
	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JDF	35,375	1	250	40,000	2	3,500
SSI	54,398	8	32,951	43,000	10	36,350
SGI	100,000	25	97,807	60,000	16	59,905
Total	189,773	34	131,008	143,000	28	99,755

Table 2: Supplementary - Safe Restart GIA Awarded for 2021

EA	2021			
	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	Funds remaining (\$)
JDF	61,078	7	42,573	18,505
SSI	35,000	-	-	35,000
SGI	113,000	14	113,000	-
Total	209,078	21	155,573	53,505

EAs with a balance in Safe Restart GIA funds at the end of December 31, 2021, were carried forward into 2022.

CONCLUSION

Grants-in-Aid are available to non-profit agencies and societies delivering projects in the Electoral Areas. This year, organizations were able to access COVID-19 relief funding through the Safe Restart GIA Program. EA Directors review and support GIA and Safe Restart GIA requests. Staff assess eligibility of applications using program guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

The Electoral Areas Committee recommends to the Capital Regional Board:
That the 2021 Grants-in-Aid Annual Report be received for information.

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Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: 2021 Electoral Areas Grants-in-Aid Awarded

Appendix B: 2021 Electoral Areas Safe Restart Grants-in-Aid Awarded