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REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

SUBJECT 2023 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Annual Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of Electoral Area (EA) Grants-In-Aid (GIA) activity, including COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants, for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

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 core GIA within the EAs. These are one-time grants provided through annual tax requisition to community groups that deliver projects in the Juan de Fuca (JDF), Salt Spring Island (SSI) and Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) EAs.

Under the existing SLP authority, the CRD has been administering a second GIA stream funded by one-time COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants since 2021. Through engagement with staff, EA Directors allocated some Safe Restart grant funding to provide a top-up to the core GIA budget. All Safe Restart funding has been awarded to projects as of December 31, 2023.

For both GIA streams, applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed throughout the year. EA Directors and the SSI Local Community Commission (LCC) support projects that are selected based upon demonstrated benefit to the community respectively, and in alignment with GIA guidelines and grant program criteria. In principle, GIA fund special projects and activities beyond the scope of CRD services are excluded from requisition funding. Appendix A details core GIA projects awarded in 2023. Appendix B details Safe Restart GIA Awarded in 2023.

IMPLICATIONS

Service Delivery Implications

The one-time funding through GIA provides much needed relief to organizations that provide key services to the community above the scope of CRD services. In 2023, many of these projects included events, capacity building and small capital projects related to health, housing and community safety and engagement.

Financial Implications

The following two tables provide a summary of 2023 GIA awarded within each EA for both the core GIA and Safe Restart GIA.

Table 1: Core GIA Awarded for 2023

	2023			2022		
	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JDF	31,144	2	3,192	32,667	-	-
SSI	43,484	12 ¹	39,000	69,127	11	46,039
SGI	100,000	22	100,762	102,514	20	103,351
Total	174,628	36²	142,954	204,308	31	149,390

¹This number includes one project which was split between Core GIA and Safe Restart GIA
²This number does not include two 2022 projects that was cancelled, and GIA funds returned

In the reporting period, two 2022 applications were cancelled, and the funds were returned. Remaining funds at the end of 2023 are carried over to 2024 GIA budgets for each EA.

Table 2: Safe Restart GIA Awarded for 2023

	2023			2022		
	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)	Budget (\$)	# of Applications	Amount Awarded (\$)
JDF	-	-	-	18,505	4	18,505
SSI	10,000	2 ¹	10,000	35,000	3	25,000
SGI	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	10,000	2	10,000	53,505	7	43,505

¹This number includes one project which was split between Core GIA and Safe Restart GIA

Safe Restart GIA funds were fully spent in 2023.

CONCLUSION

Core GIA and Safe Restart GIA are awarded throughout the year under the authority of SLP. Applications with EA Directors and SSI LCC support are reviewed on a continuous basis and are assessed against eligibility criteria. Organizations who deliver projects in the EA can access the funding for special projects, including events and small capital requests. Funds that are not spent are carried over through next year’s GIA budget.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: 2023 Electoral Areas Grants-In-Aid Awarded
- Appendix B: 2023 Electoral Areas Safe Restart Grants-In-Aid Awarded