

11.1 LEEDERVILLE GARDENS TRUST FUND COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS UPDATE

Attachments: 1. Leederville Gardens Trust Fund Grant Recipients Program Status Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the progress of the funding provided to benevolent not-for-profit organisations under the Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Grant Funding program;
2. **APPROVES** the request from Foodbank WA Inc for an extension to the terms of their Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Grant Agreement and for a variation to the agreed funding amount as detailed in this Report;
3. **APPROVES** the request from People Who Care Inc for an extension to the terms of their Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Grant Agreement as detailed in this Report; and
4. **NOTES** that the Executive Director, Community & Business Services will prepare and enter into a variation to the funding agreements for Foodbank WA Inc and People Who Care Inc.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an update for the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee on the progress of the grants provided under the Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Funding program and to seek approval of a variation for the Foodbank WA Inc (Foodbank) Grant Agreement and the People Who Care Inc (PWC) Grant Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

At the Special Meeting of Council on 30 March 2020 it was resolved that Council:

- ‘1. *As trustee of the Leederville Gardens trust fund ENDORSES the allocation of up to \$1 million from those funds for the provision of urgent relief of people in need as a direct or indirect consequence of the conditions imposed by COVID-19;*
2. *INVITES Expressions of Interest from Registered Public Benevolent Institutions to be considered for funding under Recommendation 1 above; and*
3. *NOTES that the outcome of the expression of interest process in Recommendation 2 above will be presented to the City’s COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee for consideration and approval.’*

Following this, administration invited suitable Public Benevolent Institutions (PBI’s) to submit their Expression of Interest for funding under this program. Applications were assessed by Administration and funds approved to PBI’s at the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee meetings as per the below schedule:

Meeting Date	PBI	Amount
28 April 2020	St Vincent De Paul	\$200,000
28 April 2020	Uniting Care West	\$129,000
5 May 2020	RUAH	\$27,800
5 May 2020	People Who Care	\$105,000
12 May 2020	YMCA of WA	\$138,000
9 June 2020	Foodbank WA	\$178,476
30 June 2020	Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service	\$68,559

Agreements have been entered into for all organisations listed in the above schedule.

In September 2020, Foodbank formally requested an extension and variation to their grant, following lower than expected uptake of their support and services within Vincent. Foodbank asked that the range of products that they deliver be expanded and to be able to distribute support to partner community service organisations delivering services within the City of Vincent. This would enable them to expand their support to people experiencing homelessness and those who accessed services within Vincent but were not residents.

At the meeting on 3 November 2020 it was resolved that the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee:

1. *NOTES the progress of the funding provided to benevolent not-for-profit organisations under the Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Grant Funding program;*
2. *APPROVES the request from Foodbank WA Inc for a variation to the terms of their Leederville Gardens Trust COVID-19 Relief Grant Agreement as detailed in this Agenda Paper; and*
3. *NOTES that the Executive Director, Community & Business Services will prepare and enter into a variation to the funding agreement for Foodbank WA Inc.'*

A request for an extension of the grant period by Foodbank WA was not endorsed, however it was noted by the Committee that Foodbank could resubmit their request for extension closer to the end of the grant funding period should they still wish to do so.

DETAILS:

Administration has worked closely with the grant recipients to monitor the progress of the grant programs. Further details regarding the progress of each grant is listed in Attachment 1.

The original intent of the COVID-19 Relief Funding program, as set out in the agenda paper presented on 30 March 2020 states:

The current COVID-19 pandemic has raised the potential of imminent hardship being experienced by many of our more disadvantaged and at-risk community members. This may place extra strain on the services and programmes currently provided by various not-for-profit, charitable or volunteer organisations and exacerbate areas of underserved demand.

It is noted that all the organisations delivering emergency relief and financial relief support have seen a slower than expected uptake in services. It is believed that the financial support measures which were implemented on a Federal level, including Jobkeeper and Jobseeker payments, utility and mortgage relief, provided a 'buffer' to people who may have been experiencing financial difficulty. Since these measures have been wound back, there has been no significant increase in demand from City residents for these support services.

The end of the State Government Rent Moratorium means that there may be spike in demand over the coming months if rental price and availability pressures result in additional people experiencing financial hardship.

Foodbank WA Inc Grant Extension and Variation Request

The City has received a second request from Foodbank for extension of their grant.

Foodbank received grant funding to the amount of \$178,476.00 plus GST to deliver food hampers and some ready-made meals to residents in the City from July 2020 to March 2021.

Following continued lower than expected uptake of emergency relief, Foodbank have resubmitted their request for a grant extension until 31 December 2021 (see Attachment 2 {two}). Additionally they are requesting to return \$160,476 of the grant funding as they do not believe they can acquit the full funding amount even with an extension. This would result in their total grant funding reducing to \$18,000 plus GST.

In support of their request, Foodbank has advised that in February 2021, they commenced delivering (at their own cost) orders to Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS) and the Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees (CARAD) who both operate within the City of Vincent. Up until 28 February 2021 Foodbank have expended a total of \$4,611. Based on the current demand from these agencies, Foodbank believe that

revising the grant funding to \$18,000 will allow them to continue to support PICYS and CARAD throughout 2021. Foodbank would continue to arrange delivery to these agencies at their own cost, meaning the entire service would be free of charge to PICYS and CARAD.

It should be noted that Foodbank have continued to approach other charitable agencies within the City to offer support to residents, however there have been no other agencies who have taken up this service.

Administration is recommending an extension be granted to Foodbank until 31 December, and a reduction in total grant funding to \$18,000 plus GST, noting the grantee will return \$160,476 of grant funding as services were not required.

People Who Care Inc Grant Extension and Variation Request

People Who Care (PWC) have also requested a grant extension.

PWC received grant funding to the amount of \$105,000 to provide utility, medical, emergency and financial relief to residents in the City from May 2020 to June 2021.

PWC have advised that they have been working closely with local community organisations, however the demand for their services has been low within the City of Vincent. PWC have indicated that they expect the end of the rental moratorium could result in an increase in need. As of the end of February 2021, PWC have expended a total of \$34,259 with a total of \$70,741 remaining.

As noted in Attachment 3, they have requested to continue to provide support to residents within the City in need until the remaining funds have been utilised. Administration is supportive of an extension however believes that a fixed end date is required. Therefore, Administration is recommending an extension be granted to PWC until 31 December 2021.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Relevant programs have been promoted through the City's communication channels and partnerships to provide awareness of assistance available to residents.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to extend the grant period for these grants. This is being managed by monitoring and the risk is minimal, given grant agreements stipulate a return, or partial return, of grant funding is required if agreed outcomes are unable to be met. Additionally, reducing the grant amount for Foodbank will reduce the potential financial risk.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Connected Community

We are an inclusive, accessible and equitable City for all.

Innovative and Accountable

Our resources and assets are planned and managed in an efficient and sustainable manner.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any environmental sustainability outcomes.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

Increased healthy eating

Mitigate the impact of public health emergencies

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The full grant funding amount has already been provided to both Foodbank and PWC. Approval of the variation to Foodbank's grant would result in the return of \$160,476 + GST to the Leederville Gardens Trust Fund.

COMMENTS:

While it is not standard practice for the City to provide long term extensions to grant funding, it is noted that the nature of the COVID-19 emergency and unpredictability of the pandemic's impacts over the coming year means that it is not straightforward to predict the demand for support in the community.

Regardless of whether an increase in demand is experienced following the end of the rental moratorium, the nature of the grants provided to PWC and Foodbank ensures that funds are being provided to people experiencing genuine financial distress and who are most at risk should there be further impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Therefore Administration recommends that both grants are extended until 31 December 2021 and that the variation to the funding amount for Foodbank is approved, with the additional funds to be returned to the City immediately.

Organisation	Funding Type	Amount	Agreement date
YMCA	Mental Health, Youth Services	\$138,000.00	29/05/2020
People Who Care	Financial support services	\$105,000.00	29/05/2020
RUAH Community Services	Domestic Violence Services	\$27,800.00	29/05/2020
St Vincent de Paul (Passages)	Youth Services, Homelessness	\$200,000.00	29/05/2020
Uniting Care West	Homelessness	\$129,000.00	29/05/2020
Foodbank WA	Emergency Relief	\$178,476.00	23/07/2020
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services	Aboriginal Health Services	\$68,559.00	21/08/2020

Grant period End Date	Acquittal Due Date
31/05/2021	30/06/2021
14/06/2021	14/07/2021
31/05/2021 (extended)	30/06/2021
30/11/2020	30/12/2020
20/10/202	20/11/2020
31/03/2021	30/04/2021
30/06/2021 (extended)	30/07/2021

Status Update

In progress. The 5 Youth Mental Health First Aid courses have been delivered. Expecting completion and acquittal as per agreed timeline

Seeking extension and variation to reduce grant amount as per report

In progress - extension was granted as funds have not been fully expended

Grant has been acquitted. An amount of \$12,438 was returned due to an underspend in program costs.

Acquittal received, currently seeking further information before finalising this.

Seeking extension and variation to reduce grant amount as per report

In progress - extension was granted as funds have not been fully expended