

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 14.1.10
Halifax Regional Council
July 31, 2018

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by 

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Navigator Street Outreach Program

ORIGIN

October 17, 2017: MOVED by Councilor Mason, seconded by Councilor Smith **THAT** Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve an annual grant of \$45,000 to the Downtown Halifax Business Commission and Spring Garden Area Business Association for the Navigator Street Outreach Program for fiscal years 2017/2018, 2018/2019 (subject to budget approval), and 2019/2020 (subject to budget approval).
2. Authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute the attached grant agreement (attachment 4 of the staff report dated October 4, 2017) between Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC), Spring Garden Area Business Association (SGABA) and Halifax Regional Municipality.
3. Request a staff report to: a. Engage stakeholder organizations, Business Improvement Districts, and the Province of Nova Scotia, working with individuals who are street involved and homeless to assess the scope of work and understand what other resources are needed to support the ongoing success of the program; and b. Look into the potential expansion of the Street Navigator program with the understanding of the scope of resources needed (staffing, supplies, funding, etc.)

Letter dated July 19, 2018 from the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and the North End Business Commission requesting a municipal contribution of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in support of a Building Vibrant Communities Grants (BVC) Grants Program application (See Attachment 1).

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, 2008, c. 39, s. 1. subclause 79 (1)(av)(v) "The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for... av) a grant or contribution to ... (v) any charitable, nursing, medical, athletic, educational, environmental, cultural, community, fraternal, recreational, religious, sporting or social organization within the Province."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council

1. approve a contribution of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from Cost Centre M310 to the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and North End Business Association to establish a pilot initiative similar to the Navigator Street Outreach Program for fiscal year 2018/2019; and,
2. authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to execute a Grant Agreement between the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission, the North End Business Association and Halifax Regional Municipality, with terms and conditions acceptable to the Chief Administrative Officer and subject to review and approval as to form and authority by Legal Services,

contingent upon \$50,000 in provincial funding being secured through the Building Vibrant Communities Grants (BVC) Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The Navigator Street Outreach program (NSOP) was launched in May 2008 to address homelessness and panhandling in downtown business districts. The program is a proactive, positive lifeline for individuals who struggle with securing and maintaining housing and employment due to addictions, mental health issues and homelessness. NSOP works on the street, as opposed to within the shelter system.

From 2011-12 to 2014-15, HRM provided between \$34K and \$39K in annual funding to NSOP through its Business Improvement Contribution Fund.¹ In October of 2017, Regional Council approved an annual grant of \$45,000 for NSOP for fiscal years 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, subject to budget approval.² HRM funding of NSOP is governed by a grant agreement. In 2017-18, Downtown Halifax Business Commission and Spring Garden Area Business Association contributed \$31,500 and \$13,500 to the program, respectively.

Although the current downtown Halifax-based NSOP responds to requests for assistance in Dartmouth and the north end Halifax, there is currently no sustained on-street NSOP presence in these areas. North end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth are home to many social agencies, mental health supports and affordable housing options. This clustering of services and supports attracts individuals with employment, housing and mental health addictions-related challenges.

The North End Business Association (NEBA) and the Downtown Dartmouth Business DHBC Commission (DDBC) have requested a greater Navigator-like presence in their districts. In October 2017, Regional Council requested a staff report based on engagement with BIDS, the Province, and others that outlines the feasibility of, and resources required to, expand the Navigator Program.

DISCUSSION

In June 2018, the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, and Heritage released its 2018-2019 guidelines and application forms for the Building Vibrant Communities Grants (BVC) Grants Program. The BVC grant represents an opportunity to secure provincial funding to establish a greater Navigator-like presence in downtown Dartmouth and north end Halifax.

In its second year, the BVC Grants Program is part of the provincial government's four-year \$20-million poverty reduction initiative. It invites municipalities, post-secondary institutions, non-profits, and other

¹ NSOP funding of \$34k in 2011/12; \$34k in 2012/13; \$37k in 2013/14 and \$39k in 2014/15.

² See <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/171017rc-mins.pdf> and <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/regional-council/171017rc1414.pdf>

groups to submit project proposals to address poverty and improve the lives of low-income Nova Scotians. The results, outcomes, and approaches from these projects will be collected to better understand what has been most effective and help to create a *Nova Scotia Poverty Reduction Blueprint* that will guide actions for poverty reduction from 2021 onward.

Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in funding per project. Applications are due July 24, 2018.³

Applicants will be informed of grant decisions by the week of August 27, 2018.

This year, BVC target projects will address at least one of four themes: children, housing, mental health and addictions, and economic inclusion (workforce attachment).⁴ The NSOP model addresses three of the four theme areas.

- Mental Health and Addictions: NSOP assists with setting up mental health and addictions-related appointments, transportation to appointments and coordinating follow-up. Assistance is offered to access treatment options, complete referral processes and/or secure transportation to Detox Units across the province.⁵
- Housing: NSOP supports individuals who are precariously housed, homeless and/or street-involved to address barriers in accessing housing. NSOP supported individuals receive help with housing searches, damage deposits, identification, power and phone arrears, rental arrears, transportation to viewings, securing funding and references.⁶
- Economic Inclusion (Workforce Attachment): Where individuals are motivated and assessed to be job-ready, the NSOP offers help in securing and maintaining employment. Support may include:
 - providing bus tickets to get to a work site;
 - replacing identification (to apply for work, open a bank account, or cash checks);
 - providing necessary work tools, clothing or specialized equipment (interview appropriate clothing, steel-toed boots, anti-skid shoes etc.); and,
 - paying for specialized training programs (e.g. safe food handling, traffic control course, fall arrest course).⁷

HRM staff met with NEBA, DDBC, Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) and Public Good Society to discuss the BVC funding and the desirability and feasibility of an initiative similar to the NSOP and based in north end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth. The working group agreed that DDBC and NEBA would submit a BVC application, supported by partners, proposing that:

- a full-time Coordinator position would be created and be based in north end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth;
- DDBC and NEBA would co-manage the program;
- Dartmouth Housing Helps and MOSH would provide the pilot Coordinator with office space; and,
- The proposed budget would be \$90,000 provided by NEBA DDBC and amounts requested from HRM and the province (see Attachment 2).

³ The application form is accessible at: <https://cch.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/building-vibrant-communities-program-application-form.pdf>.

⁴ Program guidelines are available at: <https://cch.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/inline/building-vibrant-communities-program-guidelines.pdf>

⁵ Of the 222 service users helped in 2016-2017 by the downtown Halifax based NSOP ~46% had mental health concerns, ~73% struggled with at least one addiction and ~24% struggled concurrently with addictions and mental health

⁶ In 2016-2017, the downtown Halifax based NSOP supported 29 individuals (plus 2 children under 16) to secure housing, prevented 15 evictions and helped 8 individuals in relocating to their home community.

⁷ In 2016-2017, the downtown Halifax based NSOP supported 23 individuals in securing and/or maintaining employment and an additional 11 individuals with upgrading their education.

Joint funding and in-kind support would allow the Coordinator to: (a) provide navigation and outreach services to support vulnerable populations; (b) foster networking and advocacy between businesses, the community, and service providers; and; (c) provide education and outreach on Environmental Safety Harm Reduction and Mental Health First Aid.

Business community and service provider support for the pilot program is reflected in the letters submitted by NEBA and DDBC (see Attachment 3). Since the application deadline for the BVC Program was July 24, 2018, a funding application has been submitted. NEBA and DDBC are acting as the joint-lead BVC funding program applicants (see Attachment 4). The funding application acknowledges that the municipal contribution is unconfirmed.

HRM staff believe that the proposed pilot project is an ideal candidate for BVC funding and an opportunity to strengthen ties with the provincial government on poverty-reduction matters. It should be stressed, however, that BVC Program funding is year-to-year.

If Regional Council approves funding for the pilot project, staff recommend that the grant be made in accordance with an Agreement. The Agreement would set out the terms and conditions governing a municipal contribution, including value of grant, scope of work and reporting expectations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A payment of \$25,000 is available from cost centre M310 – 8004, however, this is contingent upon \$50,000 in provincial funding being secured through the Building Vibrant Communities Grants (BVC) Grants Program.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Recommendation: Fund the pilot program in fiscal 2018/2019

Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Level (I/L/M/H/VH)	Mitigation
Financial	–	–	–	N/A
Environmental	–	–	–	N/A
Service Delivery	–	–	–	N/A
People	–	–	–	N/A
Reputation	1	1	L	
Legal and Compliance	–	–	–	N/A

Alternative 1: Decline to fund the pilot program in fiscal 2018/2019

Risk	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Risk Level (I/L/M/H/VH)	Mitigation
Financial	–	–	–	N/A
Environmental	–	–	–	N/A
Service Delivery	–	–	–	N/A
People	–	–	–	N/A
Reputation	2	2	L	N/A
Legal and Compliance	–	–	–	N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Consultations with Business Improvement District (BID) Executive Directors regarding the scope and nature of the program were undertaken. Consultations were also conducted with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, the Public Good Society and Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) during the preparation of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications identified.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Regional Council could decline to provide a grant for the pilot initiative for fiscal 2018/2019.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (DDBC) and North End Business Association (NEBA) requesting municipal contribution to the pilot project.
2. Pilot Project Budget (2018-2019).
3. Business community and service provider letters of support.
4. Building Vibrant Communities (BVC) Funding Application.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Scott Sheffield, Government Relations and External Affairs 902.490.3941.

ATTACHMENT 1

Letter from Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (DDBC) and
North End Business Association (NEBA)
requesting municipal contribution to NSOP pilot project.



July 19, 2018

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Dubé

The Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (DDBC) and the North End Business Association (NEBA) are requesting that the Halifax Regional Municipality support a Navigator Street Outreach Program (NSOP) for \$25,000 for the 2018-2019 year. This funding would be pooled with funding from the business community and potential grant money from the province. We would also request that this funding be made available on an annual basis.

Our districts have significant populations of street involved, homeless or precariously housed individuals that sometimes have difficulties accessing necessary services. The DDBC/NEBA Navigator Street Outreach Program does not intend to duplicate existing services, offered by a variety of public agencies and not for profit organizations, but to connect them in a real way with people on the street in our districts. The outreach program would also facilitate training and education for the business community to assist in resolving potential issues in a positive manner with street involved individuals.

A Navigator program already works with success in Downtown Halifax and on Spring Garden Road with municipal support and similar programs exist in cities across North America. We feel that this proposal will address a need in our communities and assist in advancing Halifax's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Halifax Regional Municipality's financial support for the proposal will assist it to become a reality.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tim Rissesco, Executive Director
Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission



Patricia Cuttell, Executive Director
North End Business Association

cc. Mayor Savage and Halifax Regional Councillors

ATTACHMENT 2

Navigator Street Outreach Program
Pilot Budget (2018-2019)

Revenue

Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (DDBC)	\$10,000
North End Business Association (NEBA)	\$5,000
Halifax Municipality (Ad Hoc Contribution Request)	\$25,000
Province of Nova Scotia (Building Vibrant Communities Grants (BVC) Grant)	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$90,000

Expenditures

Travel and Communications*	\$4,500
Program**	\$15,500
Training***	\$10,000
Wages and Benefits (1 FTE)	<u>\$60,000</u>
Total Expenditures	\$90,000

* Cell phone and tablet plus mileage for the Navigator.

** Program expenditures include a variety of expenses including, but not limited to the following costs: identification replacement; basic work tools, clothing or specialized equipment (steel-toed boots, anti-skid shoes); training; damage deposits; power, rental or phone arrears; transportation (bus tickets etc.).

*** Delivery and tools for education programs aimed at building local community capacity (e.g. Mental Health First Aid)

ATTACHMENT 3

**Business Community and Service
Provider Letters of Support**



July 19, 2018

Dear Building Vibrant Communities Selection Committee,

The North End Business Association in partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission are jointly submitting the attached application.

The North End Business Association is a business improvement district that represents over 300 businesses in the historic north end of Halifax. Established in 2011, we work to promote, support and advocate for the local business community. We recognize the success of our business community is closely tied to the success of the community as whole, and embrace this idea in all that we do.

North end Halifax houses a large number of support services for vulnerable individuals from across the region dealing with mental health issues, addiction, and homelessness. While the services meet specific client needs, the concentration of services has resulted in a large and active street-involved population. This poses new and different challenges for the community. The Navigator Program will provide important additional support to the street-involved community, with a focus on individual and community health and safety. This grant and partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission will help us better assist those in need in our community, and build community capacity to responsibly address poverty and health related issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing our application.

Original Signed

Patricia Cuttell Busby
Executive Director, North End Business Association

July 18, 2018

Dear Building Vibrant Communities Selection Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission in partnership with the Northend Halifax Business Association make the attached application.

The Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission is a business improvement district representing over 300 businesses that pay an additional property tax levy to collectively improve the downtown district. We are an integrated community organization that identifies and pursues opportunities and partnerships which cultivate economic growth and social well-being in downtown Dartmouth.

Our organization and our members interact with people on the street every day. Many of us live downtown and see the need for additional services for street involved, homeless and precariously housed people in our community. This grant and partnership with the Halifax Northend would assist us in helping those in need in our community.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Tim Rissesco, executive director
Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission



All together
DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH
15021 450 7887 • 155 PERILASU STALL, DARTMOUTH NS B2Y 1J2
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publicgoodsociety.ca

July 13, 2018

Dear Building Vibrant Communities Selection Committee,

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth would like to extend our support and partnership to the Street Navigator proposal that will support those who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness in the downtown Dartmouth core. The Navigator role will work to address gaps, assist with system and community service navigation, identify needs, build capacity via training and education, and focus on housing support and labour market attachment. This role will complement the work that is currently being done by the Public Good Society and provide greater street presence and outreach to those who are street involved. A key to the success of this program is connecting and building relationships with key service providers, the business community and individuals who find themselves in vulnerable situations. We have always had a strong relationship with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and we see this as an extension of this relationship. We strongly support this work and believe this will support those in our community to alleviate the hardship of poverty through improved services and support. We welcome opportunities to work with the business community to better enable us to achieve our mission to find solutions and make connections to employment, health, housing, transportation and other supports, all leading to increase independence and self-sufficiency of our Dartmouth citizens.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Monique Mullins-Roberts
Vice- Chair,
The Public Good Society of Dartmouth

The Public Good Society of Dartmouth
P.O. Box 262, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 3Y3
476-0785

From: The Nook info@thenookhfx.ca
Subject: Support of Navigator Program
Date: July 18, 2018 at 9:34 PM
To: Patricia Cuttell patty@gonorthhalifax.com



Patricia,

As the owners of business on Gottingen we have worked hard to find ways to support the local community, be inclusive, and embrace social responsibility. Our token program is an example of our commitment to address issues of food insecurity and giving back to those in our community. But the issues in the neighbourhood extend beyond our efforts. We believe a program like the Navigator is essential in helping local businesses be better equipped in mitigating issues related to addictions and mental health that we face on a daily basis. Training, information sharing, and support of a outreach social worker would be a great benefit in helping the local the business community become more engaged in addressing the hardships that so many in our Community face.

Sincerely,

Brian and Nicole Brook
Co-Owners
The Nook Espresso Bar
Gottingen | Bedford
info@thenookhfx.ca
[REDACTED]



2006 Gottingen Street
Halifax, NS
B3K 3B1

Paul Hollingsworth
North End Business Association Board Member
Executive Director, Family SOS
2006 Gottingen Street
Halifax NS, B3K 3B1

July 18, 2018

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as a supporting document for the North End Business Association's application for a grant to fund a Navigator program in partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission.

The North End Business Association and the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission would like to hire a Navigator to help address issues that include assisting individuals affected by mental health, addictions and homelessness. Funding provided by this grant would also support the owners of local businesses and their employees – people who are already collaboratively working their hardest everyday to support the vulnerable individuals in the areas of downtown Dartmouth and Halifax's North End.

Built on the foundation of the work we are currently doing, we see the potential funding provided by this grant as an opportunity to begin another productive chapter to help support the people in our communities. Drug addiction and mental health issues are escalating as are the associated health risks with the proliferation of opioids. Simply put, by establishing and redeveloping service providers in our downtown communities, this application for the Navigator Grant is a chance to achieve a new and heightened level of response when it comes to addressing issues of poverty, addictions and mental health.

Please feel free to connect with me at any time should you wish to further discuss the importance of the Navigator Program to north end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth, and how the North End Business Association's partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission is great example of collaboration and community relationship building.

Sincerely,

Original Signed)

Paul Hollingsworth
[Redacted Signature]

FAMILY SERVICES OF SUPPORT ASSOCIATION
'Helping Kids Thrive by Building Stronger Families'

Telephone: (902) 455-5515 Fax: (902) 455-7190 E-mail info@familysos.ca
website: www.familysos.ca

**THE
COURAGE
TO GIVE BACK
AWARDS**
AWARDED ANNUALLY SINCE 2004
IN OUR COMMUNITY



July 18, 2018

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - NAVIGATOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

Dear Building Vibrant Communities Selection Committee,

23 Portland Street
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1G9
902.425.9272
www.thecanteen.com

My partner and I opened The Canteen on Portland Street 18 months ago, because we believed in the street and want to make a difference in our community.

We support the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission and Northend Business Association's application for funding for a Navigator Outreach Street worker to help those experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, addictions and challenges entering the labour market in our community. The Navigator will also offer training and support for businesses wanting to assist those in need in our community.

Our Motto in Downtown Dartmouth is "All together, Downtown Dartmouth". This project will help the business community engage with the larger community to have a positive social impact.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

DOUG TOWNSEND | CO-OWNER
The Canteen on Portland & Little C Take-Out





2131 Gottingen Street – Suite 500
Halifax, NS, Canada B3K 5Z7
Website: www.moshhalifax.ca

Tel.: (902) 429-5290
Fax: (902) 429-8319

Re: Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application
July 18th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very happy to offer a letter of support. As the Team Leader of Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH), I can speak firsthand to the importance of such a unique project and partnership.

The MOSH Program provides primary health care to people who are homeless, street involved, and whose lives are in chaos due to addiction and mental health issues. We deliver this care where people are, making scheduled stops to all the shelters and drop-ins, and at places where food is served. We accompany already existing services like Navigator Street Outreach and Mainline Needle Exchange, and have a wide-ranging street presence. Our interdisciplinary team is made up of three nurses and one occupational therapist, and we provide twelve hours of physician care per week.

We would like to extend our support and partnership to the Navigator Program application being submitted by the North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission. The Navigator role will be a welcome additional resource to support vulnerable individuals in our community. The program aligns well and will compliment other service providers in the North End and Dartmouth, filling gap in on-the-ground day-to-day street outreach. We are confident in working with NEBA and DDBC that this program will be a benefit to both individuals with mental health, addictions, and homelessness challenges, and the communities who are left to cope with the impacts poverty and homelessness. We welcome opportunities to work with business community by providing in-kind support for the Navigator Program.

Sincerely,

Trish McKay, RN
Acting Team Lead
Mobile Outreach Street Health

ATTACHMENT 4

Building Vibrant
Communities Application



Poverty Reduction
Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application 2018–2019

Please complete in full.

Part A Organizational Details

Organization (official name) North End Business Association

Project Contact Patricia Cuttell Busby

Name of Chair (if applicable) Matt Neville

Mailing address 2099 Gottingen Street

City/Town Halifax Province NS Postal code B3K 3B8

Contact 1896 Work Phone 902 483 Alternate Phone 902 452 2490

Email patty@gonorthhalifax.com

Alternate Email info@gonorthhalifax.com

Is your organization a non-profit society or non-profit cooperative? Yes No

Are you registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks? Yes No Pending

If yes, please provide your Registry of Joint Stocks Registration Number. 3258603

Are you federally registered? Yes No

If yes, please provide your charitable registration number.

Has the organization applied to CCH programs before? Yes No

If so, which programs and when?

*Cultural and Youth Activities Program
Diversity and Community Capacity Program*

Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application 2018–2019



Part B Project Details

Project Title Navigator Program

Total Project Costs \$90,000 Funding Request \$50,000

Start Date August 24, 2018 End Date August 23, 2019

Location of Activity North End Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth

Is a public event part of your project? (not required) q Yes No

If so, what is the proposed date and

location? Date Location

Project Theme: *Select all that apply.*

Children

Mental Health and Addictions

Housing

Economic Inclusion (Workforce Attachment)

Project Impact: Please Indicate the impact(s) of the project. *Select all that apply.*

Address the root cause of poverty

Alleviates the impacts of poverty

Prevents or breaks the cycle of poverty

Builds capacity and/or resilience of individuals or families

Builds capacity of local communities to address their own poverty related priorities

A community collaboration

Focuses on innovative approaches that create or increase opportunities to address poverty

Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application 2018–2019



Part C Project Budget

All applicants must complete the budget form below. For Tier 2 project projects, it is recommended that a separate, detailed budget be submitted.

Project Budget - Expenses

Item	Total cost of item	Notes
Administration	9,000	Administration is being provided in-kind by joint applicants and program partners.
Rentals and Purchases	0	
Travel	2,500	Mileage for transport of people as necessary
Resources/Supplies	2000	Cell phone and tablet
Professional Fees	60,000	Salary for Navigator Employee
Honouraria		
Marketing		
Other		
Outreach Support	15,500	Key supports to street-involved individuals (equipment required to obtain work or training, transit fare, misc. fees)
Education and Training Support	10,000	Delivery and tools for education programs aimed at building local community capacity (i.e. Mental Health First Aid, etc.)
Totals	0	

Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application 2018–2019



Project Budget - Revenues

Source	Cash (\$)	In-kind (\$)	Notes	Confirmed? Yes or No
Applicant	15,000	3,000		Y N
Municipal Government	25,000			Y N
Provincial Government				Y N
Federal Government				Y N
Donations				Y N
				Y N
Other				Y N
MOSH (Partner)		5,000		Y N
Dartmouth Housing Help (Partner)		1,000		Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
Amount Requested	50,000			
Totals	0	0		

Poverty Reduction

Building Vibrant Communities Grant Application 2018–2019



Part D Project Details

Complete on a separate sheet and submit.

1. Briefly describe your organization including when established, mandate or primary purpose of the organization, and nature of regular activities.
2. Describe the project briefly but comprehensively and include the name(s) and role(s) of project staff.
3. Clearly explain how the project focuses on one or more of the themes and how the project will be evaluated.
4. Explain who will participate and benefit from the project. Identify if the project will engage or involve traditionally marginalized community members and/or if the project will be available or held in a traditionally marginalized community.
5. How many people do you hope will participate or benefit from your project? Explain how participants will be engaged.
6. Clearly explain how partnerships and/or volunteers will be involved in the project. For Tier 2 (Community Collaborations) projects, the names and letters of commitment for collaborating staff and organizations must be included.
7. Provide a work plan for the project, including a timeline and indicating key dates. Dates may be tentative.

Declaration

As a representative of an organization, consortium or group (including ad-hoc group):

- I have carefully read the application guidelines and eligibility criteria for this program, and confirm that the organization, group (including ad-hoc) or consortium I represent meets the eligibility criteria.
- I am aware that all overdue final reports, where applicable, for previously funded applications must be submitted and approved before any additional requests or applications for funding can be considered.
- I understand that my current application may not be eligible if any of my final reports have not been submitted and approved.
- I will act as the representative of the organization, consortium or group and will keep all participants informed of the application content and any funding decision.
- I agree to implement an evaluation under the support of the Province's Evaluation consultant.

I accept all declaration statements above that are applicable to me as an individual application or as a representative of an organization, consortium or group. I understand that not accepting these statements as true will affect eligibility for this funding application.

Signature

Position

Date

Applicants: North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business

Part D Project Details

Complete on a separate sheet and submit.

1. Briefly describe your organization including when established, mandate or primary purpose of the organization, and nature of regular activities.

The **North End Business Association** was established in 2011 with a vision to create a progressive place to do business. We represent over 300 businesses in historic north end of Halifax. Our *Mission is to*:

- **create** policies, events, awareness and momentum to build upon a successful, resilient business community;
- **advocate** for the best conditions for sustainable business growth; and,
- **support** the development and retention of a diverse, inclusive and vibrant North End.

Promoting ourselves as “Not An Ordinary Business Association”, we work closely with our community to advance social and economic inclusion initiatives. We recently organized and hosted a workshop on diversity in the North End Business Community, and use events such as the North by Night Markets for local business incubation. We recognize the success of our business community is tied to the success of the community as whole, and embrace this idea in all that we do.

The **Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission** was established in 1980 to promote the rejuvenation of Downtown Dartmouth. Our purpose of the Commission is to encourage the redevelopment and sustainability of its business base while working towards a shared vision for the community at large. We are an integrated community organization that identifies and pursues opportunities and partnerships which cultivate economic growth and social wellbeing in downtown Dartmouth. The Commission has five focus areas: Advocacy; Marketing and Business Promotions; Membership Services and Communication; Events and Community Celebrations, and; District Beautification and Safety

2. Describe the project briefly but comprehensively and include the name(s) and role(s) of project staff.

Patricia Cuttall Busby, Executive Director, North End Business Association
Project Co-Director

- Joint applicant for grant.
- Will oversee day-to-day administration and delivery of the project, and be a primary point-person for project partners, collaborators, and the Navigator employee.

Applicants: North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business

- Will be responsible for reporting, evaluation, and financial management.

Tim Risessco, Executive Director, Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission
Project Co-Director

- Joint applicant for grant.
- Will oversee day-to-day administration and delivery of the project, and be a primary point-person for project partners, collaborators, and the Navigator employee.
- Will be responsible for reporting, evaluation, and financial management.

EJ Davis, Housing First Lead, Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) Navigator
Advisor and Support

- Will provide advice and support to the Navigator Employee.
- Will provide space for Navigator program activities.
- Will assist in connecting and networking the Navigator employee to other service providers.

Darcy Gillis, Housing Support Worker, Dartmouth Housing Help

- Will provide advice and support to the Navigator Employee.
- Will provide space for Navigator program activities.
- Will assist in connecting and networking the Navigator employee to other service providers.

Christine Stokes, Office Manager, Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission
Project Administration and Tracy Jackson, Office Manager, North End Business Association

- Will provide administration support (Payroll, expenses, financial management)

The Navigator Employee

- Will provide navigation and outreach services to support vulnerable populations and ensure they get the care that need.
- Will foster connections, networking, and advocacy between service agencies, businesses, community, and service providers to mitigate issues that impact both community and street-involved individuals, and build social inclusion and cohesion.
- Will provide education outreach in relation to Environmental Safety Harm Reduction and Mental Health First Aid to provide information and training to people in the community on how to support and assist people with addictions and mental health issues.

3. Clearly explain how the project focuses on one or more of the themes and how the project will be evaluated.

Downtowns across the country are transforming at a tremendous rate with new businesses and residential developments as the demand for urban living is on the rise. At the same time, drug addiction and mental health issues are escalating, as are the associated health risks of street drugs with the proliferation of opioids such as fentanyl. Gentrifying neighbourhoods like North

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End Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth house service providers that support individuals who struggle with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness (Appendix A). As urban redevelopment and the established service providers merge in our downtown communities, a new response to the complexities of addressing poverty, addictions, mental health, and homelessness is required. The Navigator Program aims to deal with issues where they occur, on the street.

The Navigator Program aims to proactively address issues that affect both the safety and well-being of individuals who struggle with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness, and those who support street-involved people — the employees and owners of local businesses. The project is focused on:

1. Assisting individuals affected by mental health and addictions, and homelessness;
2. Supporting the local business communities in the geographic areas of Downtown Dartmouth and North End Halifax to be able to appropriately respond to and support the vulnerable and street-involved individuals in their communities; and,
3. Build collaboration between businesses, local service providers, and the street-involved community.

To these ends, the Navigator Program will hire an outreach worker who will work on the street, as opposed to within the shelter system. The Outreach worker's street-involved and homeless clientele have multiple addictions and/or physical or mental health concerns, putting them at higher risk of cyclical homelessness and unemployment. Often behaviours associated with mental health and/or addictions create barriers that are difficult to overcome without assistance. Low income levels and/or income instability exacerbates these problems for homeless and street-involved individuals. The Navigator outreach worker will work extensively with these clients to help them: a) navigate social service systems to ensure they are getting the financial, medical, and social supports they require; and, b) find adequate long-term housing.

The Navigator outreach worker will also work with local businesses and their employees. Local businesses often end up providing access to washrooms, a place to stay warm, or somewhere to get a glass of water. Many businesses in the North End have reported people using their washrooms to administer drugs. This poses health risks not only for the users, but also for the staff that needs to clean up the sites and deal with the persons under the influence of drugs or undergoing a mental health episode. The Navigator outreach worker will: a) provide businesses with information and training to enable them to mitigate potential issues they may have with street-involved individuals; b) assist in proactively resolving issues between service providers, street-involved individuals, and businesses; and, c) establish an agile community network that can respond to collective issues. The Navigator will help businesses and street-involved individuals to act as good neighbours in a safe, welcoming community.

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To evaluate the program, a survey of stakeholders (businesses, service providers, police) and street-involved individuals will be developed and administered. The following will also be counted:

- individuals the Navigator employee interacts with and assists in overcoming barriers to employment, finding housing, and connecting with appropriate service providers;
- information packages distributed and number of training sessions organized, including attendance at training sessions;
- consultations with business and service providers that the outreach worker performs.

This information will be synthesized in an evaluation report to CCH.

4. Explain who will participate and benefit from the project. Identify if the project will engage or involve traditionally marginalized community members and/or if the project will be available or held in a traditionally marginalized community.

North End Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth are both recognized as having high levels of poverty. North End Halifax has the third highest child poverty rate in HRM at 35% (2017 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Nova Scotia.) These two districts are also home to many social agencies, mental health supports and affordable housing options. This clustering of services and supports attracts individuals from around the region that have employment, housing and mental health addictions-related challenges. While there are many support agencies, coordination between agencies has been limited. The Navigator will:

- Be an on-street presence in these communities, directly supporting street-involved and vulnerable persons' access to appropriate provincially-funded support programs. This project offers to take the assistance to them as opposed to waiting until they seek the services, and will help connect the dots between agencies and services.
- Engage the various stakeholders in the North End and Downtown Dartmouth to build the community's capacity to proactively and reactively address mental health, poverty, addictions, and homelessness issues through a person-centred lens.
- Provide training, education, and tool kits (like Naloxone) to businesses and their staff on Mental Health First Aid and Harm Reduction. Education and training will benefit persons with mental health and addiction issues, and equip businesses' staff members with the expertise and tools to manage high-risk situations.¹

5. How many people do you hope will participate or benefit from your project? Explain how participants will be engaged.

Street-involved individuals: We estimate that an outreach worker working in Downtown Dartmouth and the North End of Halifax could assist roughly 150 street-involved individuals. The

¹ Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid (e.g. fentanyl) overdose. Provincial and municipal governments, like Ontario and the City of Vancouver, are providing free naloxone kits to organizations and individuals able to help someone [at risk](#) of an opioid overdose. Business Improvement Districts, like those in Winnipeg, are also playing a role by training business owners and staff on how to administer naloxone in an emergency. See Appendix 2.

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participants will be engaged on the street by the Navigator Program Outreach Worker. The Navigator will need to develop relationships and trust with street-involved individuals. Familiarity with the street community and with individuals will help the Navigator identify issues and proactively respond to the needs of individuals.

Community: Downtown Dartmouth and North End Halifax business associations collectively represent over 600 small, locally owned businesses. These neighbourhoods also have a mix of market and subsidized housing. The Navigator will work with street-involved individuals, businesses, staff, not-for profit service providers, residents and local stakeholders to identify positive, local solutions to address long-standing issues of inequity, mental health, drug addiction and homelessness. This program will be an important community resource, filling a gap between services providers and police with a program based on best outcomes for individuals and their specific needs.

6. Clearly explain how partnerships and/or volunteers will be involved in the project. For Tier 2 (Community Collaborations) projects, the names and letters of commitment for collaborating staff and organizations must be included.

The project will be community-based. The North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission will bring together stakeholders including local non-profits, businesses, residents, and support providers to serve on an Advisory Board. The Board will help to ensure the north end Halifax and downtown Dartmouth communities' perspectives are reflected in the work of the Navigator. The Advisory Board will meet quarterly with the Navigator to share updates and information. The Navigator will also meet bi-annually with the business district boards to discuss issues and share updates. The Navigator will report on day-to-day operations to the Executive Directors of the business associations weekly, monthly or as needed. The Navigator will work closely with organizations like the Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) Team and Dartmouth Housing Helps. MOSH and Dartmouth Housing Helps will provide work space and ensure coordination with partners. Letter of support from The Public Good Society and MOSH are provided.

7. Provide a work plan for the project, including a timeline and indicating key dates. Dates may be tentative.

August 2018 Establish Advisory Group led by the North End Business Association and the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission with representation from supporting community organizations like Family SOS, Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH), Margaret's House, and the Public Good Society, as well as local businesses and community members.

Advertise for an Outreach Navigator Worker for the North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission.

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- Sept 2018 Hire an Outreach Navigator Worker for the North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission.
- Sept 2018 to August 2019 Outreach Navigator Worker connects and collaborates agencies and local businesses and stakeholders.
- Sept 2018 to August 2019 Outreach Navigator Worker provides street outreach to street-involved, homeless and precariously-housed individuals, connecting them with appropriate housing and employment service programs so that they can be engaged, healthy and contributing members of the community.

Navigator worker, with the support of the Advisory Group and NEBA & DDBC Board, identifies and coordinates training and educational opportunities to assist the business communities and stakeholders find solutions and methods for dealing with issues that may arise between vulnerable populations and the business community.

Applicants: North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business

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|-------------|---|
| Dec 2018 | First Quarter: Outreach Navigator Worker and Advisory Group meet to report and review metrics related to: individuals that have been connected with, referred to appropriate service programs and assisted in overcoming challenges; training and educational opportunities and programs; and, collaborative community work with local stakeholders. Broader discussion will also be facilitated. |
| March 2019 | Second Quarter: Outreach Navigator Worker and Advisory Group meet to report and review metrics and discuss project issues and opportunities. |
| June 2019 | Third Quarter: Outreach Navigator Worker and Advisory Group meet to report and review metrics and discuss project issues and opportunities. |
| August 2019 | Outreach Navigator Worker and Advisory Group meets to report and evaluate the project's success in meeting stated goals and objectives. |
| August 2019 | The Advisory Group, North End Business Association and the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission produce project evaluation report for program funders. |

Applicants: North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business

APPENDIX A

Agencies and Organizations that Support People with Mental Health, Addictions, Homelessness and Poverty

The work of agencies and organizations that address and respond to issues of mental health, poverty, addictions, and homelessness is critical in our society. Many of these agencies concentrate in particular areas because of access to complimentary services, and also affordability. But an unintended consequence is the stress put on communities and neighbourhoods who must cope with vulnerable populations and individuals with complex needs. More policing is not the solution. Recognizing and addressing the unique challenges in districts that house support services is critical if these urban neighbourhoods are to become more economically socially sustainable.

North End Halifax

- Salvation Army
- Metro Turning Point
- Shelter Nova Scotia
- Welcome Housing (formally Metro Non-Profit Housing)
- Mainline Needle Exchange
- Direction 180: Assisting opioid dependent populations
- Transition House
- Hope Cottage
- St. Georges Church Soup Kitchen
- Grace Mission
- Souls Harbour Rescue Mission
- The Arc
- Carleton Centre Annex (recently moved)
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Schizophrenia Society
- Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank
- Brunswick Street Mission
- North End Community Health Centre
- MOSH (Mobile Outreach Street Health)

Applicants: North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business

APPENDIX B

Gerszak, R., Rendell, M. "How Canada's opioid crisis is turning business owners into advocates." Globe and Mail. December 1, 2017. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/small-business/sb-managing/how-canadas-oid-crisis-is-turning-business-owners-into-advocates/article37166193/>

How Canada's opioid crisis is turning business owners into advocates

[Open this photo in gallery:](#)

A man walks past Pidgin Restaurant in Vancouver, British Columbia, Monday, April 29, 2013. With the spread of the ultra-potent opioid fentanyl, the rate and severity of overdoses in the streets and alleys near the business has increased significantly.

RAFAL GERSZAK/THE GLOBE AND MAIL
MARK RENDELL
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL
PUBLISHED DECEMBER 1,
2017UPDATED DECEMBER 1, 2017

Over the past year, Vancouver restaurant owner Brandon Grossutti has kept the anti-overdose drug Naloxone close at hand. Having run the chic Asian/French Pidgin

Restaurant in the city's Downtown Eastside since 2012, Mr. Grossutti is accustomed to ongoing and open drug use in the neighbourhood. But with the spread of the ultra-potent opioid fentanyl, the rate and severity of overdoses in the streets and alleys near his business has gone up significantly.

"I've Narcaned six people in the last year," said Mr. Grossutti, referring to Narcan, the trade name for Naloxone, which is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. "Luckily, in every case it looked like they survived."

B.C.'s Lower Mainland remains the epicentre of the Canadian opioid crisis, with nearly 700 people dying of drug overdoses in the region in the first nine months of 2017, according to the B.C. Coroners Service. But the crisis is spreading across the country, creating a new reality for street-front businesses in many cities.

Employees, owners and customers are dealing with an increase in overdoses happening on business premises or nearby, as well as increased health hazards such as discarded needles.

"Businesses need to educate themselves on the opioid crisis. It's not just about selling your products. You need to be aware of the other things that could impact your day," said Mark Garner, executive director of Toronto's Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area.

It's difficult to quantify the economic impact that the ongoing crisis is having on specific businesses or neighbourhoods, said Mr. Garner.

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But a number of neighbourhood business organizations across the country have noted a significant increase in discarded needles, homelessness and petty crime over several years. The fentanyl crisis, in turn, has added a sense of urgency to the need to tackle addictions and mental-health problems, and made the cost of inaction much more tangible.

In Toronto alone, paramedics responded to 69 suspected overdose fatalities and nearly 1,000 non-fatal overdoses between August and the end of October, most concentrated in the downtown area. An average of three people were dying of suspected overdoses every day in British Columbia in September, and fentanyl was detected in 83 per cent of fatal overdose victims in British Columbia in the first nine months of 2017, up from 68 per cent in 2016.

This has accelerated a change in attitudes among neighbourhood business organizations, which are feeling compelled to speak out, partner with other agencies and educate their membership on harm reduction. "Traditionally, BIAs have approached street-based issues with a focus on enforcement and limited interaction with social agencies," says the Downtown Yonge BIA in a newly released street safety strategy. This is becoming less tenable.

Leading the country in innovation is the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone, which employs an eight-member community homelessness assistance team that walks the streets connecting people with social services, as well as a 25-

member community watch team that keeps an eye out for people who are potentially in trouble. In Toronto, the Downtown Yonge BIA has developed and distributed guides which provide information on and directions to shelters and resource centres. In Vancouver, the Hastings Crossing BIA offers its member businesses de-escalation training.

"If someone comes into your store and is being erratic or demanding something they shouldn't be getting, causing customers to feel uncomfortable, instead of saying, 'I'll call the police,' you can learn their name, help them calm down, give them a few more options than just scaring them out," said Landon Hoyt, the BIA's executive director.

BIAs are also beginning to find their voices as advocates. In August, for instance, 22 Vancouver BIAs wrote a joint letter to the new provincial government imploring more investment in hydromorphone treatment programs.

"Sleeping in doorways, needles left in doorways, crime, these are all directly linked to the treatment options that people don't have access to," said Mr. Hoyt, whose BIA led the lobbying effort. "If we can get more people into the hydromorphone clinics and treatment programs, it's proven they cost taxpayers 50 per cent less in terms of policing, court costs, break-ins."

Because downtown small businesses are on the front line of the issue, they

can be particularly effective advocates for the kind of systematic investment in housing and mental health needed to curb problematic drug use, said Mr. Hoyt. They also can also speak to politicians in the language of money. As the Downtown Yonge BIA puts it in its street strategy document, "this is not just a social issue. We believe social stability is central to economic growth, and reduces both the direct and indirect costs of street involvement to the district economy."

In the meantime, there are small steps individual businesses in areas struggling with drug use and homelessness can take, said Pauline Larsen, senior economic development manager with the Downtown Yonge BIA.

One of the biggest things is for street-front businesses to report incidents. That doesn't mean calling 911 every time someone is acting erratically, said Ms. Larsen, pointing out that

there are a number of other numbers to call or ways to report online. But if issues go unreported, it becomes difficult to make a case for resources to be directed to a community.

"Police resources are incredibly stretched and if we have no data showing our challenges, it's hard to get more funding. If we don't report, we're disadvantaging ourselves as a business community," said Ms. Larsen.

Then there's just basic awareness and empathy. Not all employees will be comfortable using Narcan kits, but training in de-escalation as well learning about the causes of addiction can go a long way. And as Mr. Grossutti, the Vancouver restaurant owner, puts it, "be involved in the community and keep an eye out on your alleys."