BC Poverty Reduction Planning and Action grants: Resources, Tools and Supports

With SPARC BC, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and Tamarack Institute Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:00 – 11:00 am PST







Technical Considerations

Visuals: You must be connected through the URL to see today's visuals

Audio Options: Please select the appropriate audio setting via your Zoom control panel:

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Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of the BC Poverty Planning and Action Grant program
- Goals of the Call
- Presentations
 - Alison Homer, Tamarack Institute
 - Viveca Ellis, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
 - Lorraine Copas, SPARC BC
- Questions and Discussion
- Closing Announcements







Overview of the BC Poverty Planning and Action Grant program & Goals of the Call









Vibrant Communities – Cities Reducing Poverty

- Vibrant Communities Cities Reducing Poverty is a national movement and learning network comprised of 80 members representing 300+ communities across Canada
- We support members under 4 areas of impact:
 - 1. Moving through the stages of development
 - 2. Developing a common agenda/community plan
 - 3. Tracking and reporting on outcomes
 - 4. Achieving financial and leadership sustainability

CITIES REDUCING POVERTY CITIES DEEPENING COMMUNITY Vibrant Communities









BC Grant: Stream 1

- Tamarack's goal is to support as many communities as possible to access funding via BC Poverty Reduction Planning and Action grants
- Stream 1 supports communities to develop and/or update existing poverty reduction plans
- We can provide resources and tools that support communities to:
 - Plan for high-impact projects (e.g. to collaboratively develop a community-wide common agenda and poverty reduction plan)
 - Submitting an application by the Feb 28 grant deadline (e.g. obtaining a Council resolution, drafting milestones, activities, timeline & budget)
 - Provide ongoing support over the grant's 12-month term and beyond (e.g. MoC support, Expert Coaching, CRP learning community, BC CoP)







Developing a Common Agenda & Community Plan

- Tamarack applies a proven approach to developing a community-wide common agenda as a foundation for a poverty reduction plan
- This approach engages the community across 4 key sectors
- It builds on existing community assets and talents and creates collaborative solutions
- By the time the plan is launched, it is already being implemented by a diverse range of partners that has already bought in

REDUCING POVERTY || STEPS NINE COMMUNITY Vibrant Communities

6

GUIDE DEVELOPING A COMMON AGENDA FOR A POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN

ALISON HOMER

This guide will help groups to collaboratively establish the foundations for a poverty reduction plan by developing a community-wide common agenda. It presents a proven, appreciative inquiry approach that Vibrant Communities – Cities Reducing poverty has developed through coaching engagements with a diverse range of cities and communities across Canada and beyond.

USING THIS TOOL WILL HELP YOU:

- Differentiate between a strategic plan and a common agenda
- Understand the purposes and benefits of an appreciative inquiry approach
- Visualize a 12-month roadmap to developing a common agenda
- Recognize how Cities Reducing Poverty can support your efforts

OVERVIEW

While municipalities and community organizations traditionally create strategic plans, this guide proposes a collaborative approach to developing a common agenda. This <u>appreciative inquiry</u> approach engages the whole community in identifying key issues and root causes, and brings people together to propose collaborative solutions. The strength of this approach stems from its process, which builds on existing community assets and talents, and where listening and dialogue build excitement, engagement for a shared future, and commitment to change. It sets a community us of that by the time their plan is launched, it is already being implemented by a diverse group of partners.

CITIES REDUCING POVERTY (CRP) MEMBERSHI

CRP membership includes access to Tamarack's Expert Coaching Centre through which members can obtain intensive support towards developing a common agenda and poverty reduction plan.

For more information:

- Review the 2020 CRP membership package
- Learn more about <u>Expert Coaching</u>
- Read a <u>success story</u> from Central lowa
 - Contact Alison Homer at alison@tamarackcommunity.ca

This guide was written for municipalities and communities that plan to apply to the Government of BC's <u>Powerty Reduction Planning & Action Program</u> to develop or renew a poverty reduction plan. For additional information, tools and resources to support these applications, see Appendices I, II and III.







Developing a Common Agenda & Community Plan

REDUCTION

A 12-MONTH ROADMAP TO DEVELOPING A COMMON AGENDA

Tool includes:

- Tips on applying this approach to a BC Grant application
- A draft budget
- A resource compendium covering:
 - Making the Case and Engaging Local Government
 - Multi-sector Collaboration
 - Evaluation



Key Milestones by Month											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Convening a Core Team and Taking Stock	Planning Your Top 100 Event		Hosting Your Top 100 Event	Revising Your Governance Structure and Engaging the Whole Community			Yo	ting our an	The Big Event: Launching Your Plan		

Key Resources for the Common Agenda Approach to Developing a Community Plan	CRP Expert Coaching Resources (contact <u>Alison</u> to access)				
 Publication How to Develop a Common Agenda for a Collective Impact Case Study Central Iowa's OpportUNITY Plan Guide Foundation for Building a Common Agenda 	 Developing a Community Plan Community of Practice (CoP) 3- Part Series: Webinar Recordings, Powerpoints and Resources Event Templates – Top 100 & The 				
 Tool <u>Top 100 Partners Exercise</u> Tool <u>Developing Poverty Reduction Timelines</u> Event Report - <u>Vibrant Revelstoke's Top 100</u> Publication <u>Compendium of Poverty Reduction</u> <u>Strategies and Frameworks</u> 	 Big Event: Agendas, Letters of Invitation, and Presentations Compendium of CRP members' poverty reduction plans Book Community Conversations 				

Cities Reducing Poverty Learning Supports

- 1. Coaching (Peer, Expert)
- 2. CoP's (PiP, Presentation)
- 3. Online (website, webinars, blogs, newsletter, SM)
- 4. Events (2020 national poverty reduction summit)
- 5. Publications (case studies, tools, guides, articles)
- 6. Policy & Systems Change

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR A POVERTY FREE BC

bcpovertyreduction.ca









Adopt a Stream Framework

- Careful consideration must be taken in connecting initiatives to meaningful outcomes that will help meet poverty reduction targets.
- Using a Stream Framework involves defining and being intentional about how much of your activities will be focused
 <u>upstream</u> in tackling the *root causes* and how much will be <u>downstream</u> dealing with the *immediate symptoms*showing up in your community.
- Without this, there is the danger that much good work will be downstream without realizing that this work will not ultimately make the long-term difference you hope to see. You need both approaches within your community and you need to be clear about which activities are aiming at which outcomes.
- Food security is a great example in relation to these concepts. As the Provincial Health Services states:

"Community gardens and other local efforts can support important goals like social connectedness and a more sustainable food system, but research shows that household food insecurity can't be fixed through food-based initiatives or charitable efforts. Household food insecurity is an income-based problem and needs income-based solutions. Policies to improve household income are the most effective way to lower food insecurity."

http://www.bccdc.ca/pop-public-health/Documents/food-security-infographic-2017.pdf









Tackle Transit Equity and Universal Access

Transit is a significant cost for low-income residents and inaccessible transit systems may mean that they cannot access employment, school, health care or their social needs leading to increased social isolation.

The funding guide mentions that eligible activities can include: "pilot projects to evaluate the impact of providing supports such as reduced-fare transit, recreation passes, or other service opportunities for low-income residents." This initiative would ensure transit equity for the most marginalized in your community, including homeless people, people with disabilities, youth who have aged out of care, single parents, low-wage workers, and improve the health and well-being of all in your community.

Local climate solutions and climate-friendly communities are key to our progress towards a low-carbon society.

We have experience in working on transit equity through our #AllOnBoard campaign for free transit for children and youth under age 18 and a low-income sliding scale pass for adults. We strongly suggest pilot projects regarding free transit for youth and affordable transit for all as extremely effective upstream poverty reduction projects in your community. We suggest potentially linking them to your low-income leisure access recreational pass. For more information please email <u>Viveca@bcpovertyreduction.ca</u>

https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Funding~Programs/LGPS/PovRed/poverty-reduction-planning-action-programguide.pdf









Tackle Stigma with a 'Stigma Audit'

Many of the bylaws and local law enforcement practices that municipalities have in place or may plan to put in place violate the human rights of people living in poverty. They have the potential to criminalize people who live in public space, increase stigma and restrict the delivery of harm reduction programs, emergency shelter, and other services for marginalized people. Local governments should listen to people living in poverty and address the ways that their bylaws infringe on their human rights and increase stigma and discrimination.

Local governments could address issues around access to health services including harm reduction programs and addiction treatment options in their communities.

Municipal governments could use this funding to run a stigma audit (as proposed by Pivot Legal Society) to stop criminalizing poverty by revoking laws that penalize or discriminate against people for engaging in behavior necessary for survival because of homelessness and poverty, such as sleeping and erecting shelter in public spaces.

This stigma-auditing process could also be applied to municipal budgets and the priorities that are expressed through differing levels of investment.

http://www.pivotlegal.org/project_inclusion_full









Tackle Low Wages

Despite public perception, poverty in BC is primarily working poverty. The majority of poor children in BC live in families with parents in the paid labour force, many of them working full-time and often multiple jobs. Local governments have a responsibility to avoid contributing to the problem of low-wage poverty.

We recommend that local governments become living wage employers to embed the responsibility to pay all their employees a living wage and only contract for services with companies that pay a living wage.

For more information: <u>http://www.livingwageforfamilies.ca/what_is_living_wage</u>









Tackle Universal, Publicly Funded Childcare

Local governments are responsible for many local regulations, such as development zoning, and can require that child care spaces be included in new public buildings. School Boards can ensure stability for the many child care programs that operate on school sites.

Given that senior levels of government have far more responsibility and potential to invest, local governments can also endorse the \$10aDay Child Care Plan calling on the provincial government to begin building a better child care system.

The \$10aDay Child Care Plan is the community's solution to BC's child care crisis. 32 local BC governments support the Plan but they do not have the resources or mandate to implement it alone. The provincial government has made significant investments in child care and needs to keep moving towards universal child care.









Ensure advocacy to senior levels of government is a part of your project or plan

Successful municipal poverty reduction strategies include advocacy to senior levels of government to further invest in poverty reduction.

Income assistance: We are a crucial time in the development of BC's poverty reduction strategy. Since local governments do not have jurisdiction over income and disability assistance we recommend including advocacy to raise the assistance rates to the MBM poverty line is included in your project or plan.

A public, universal child care system: Local governments who have already endorsed the \$10aDay Plan can support the next steps the campaign is calling for at the provincial level, including phasing out the current program of one-off capital grants and proactively ensuring that all public capital funding creates publicly-owned facilities, adding publicly-funded modular buildings to public property, and moving the child care capital program to the Ministry of Education (from the Ministry of Children and Family Development).

Wages and working conditions: The provincial government is responsible for legislating the minimum wage and exemptions to that wage (for example, piece rate farmworkers who harvest fruit and vegetables), and local governments should advocate to them to increase the incomes of low wage workers. The provincial government is also responsible for employment standards, which desperately need to be enhanced and adequately enforced; for example, BC is the only province without the provision











- Considerations around adopting a targeted strategy or evidencebased approach in looking at reducing poverty
- SPARC BC has a long history of working with people and communities on social policy research including poverty reduction
- Local governments and community-based agencies working to address poverty are free to reach out and request information and assistance from SPARC BC in finding information about the families and individuals living in poverty in your community







Possible Information/Data Available



- Information on different measures LIM, LICO (before and after tax) and the proposed Federal MBM
- Information across key social, demographic groups including low income families, seniors, children and people with disabilities
- Information on specific social/demographic groups which are at increased risk of poverty and low income such as single parent family households, seniors, Indigenous people and communities
- Consideration of other factors that can help to break the dynamics of poverty and low income such as access to employment, education and housing







Upcoming Learning Opportunities









Save the Date! The End of Poverty Gathering

October 14-16 | Calgary, AB

Over our two and a half days together, you will learn from inspiring keynotes and peer leaders, take part in interactive workshops, and engage in an energizing cultural celebration.

Keep informed and get first access to registration: http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/the-end-of-povertysave-the-date







Leveraging Local Assets and Social Procurement

Date: January 28, 1-2 pm ET

Speakers: Hanifa Kassam and Nate Stephens

Join Hanifa Kassam with City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy Office and AnchorTO along with Nate Stephens of The Democracy Collaborative to learn about how place-based collaboratives across the US and Canada are applying a community wealth building framework to community development work. Learn more and register here: <u>http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/anchor-</u> collaboratives-leveraging-local-assets-and-social-





procurement





Building Social Capital Through Community Development

Date: January 29, 12-1 pm ET

Speaker: Jennifer DeCoste

What do you do once you have mapped out the assets in your community? How can you engage residents to share their gifts and talents? Join us as for an hour discussion as we discover LifeSchoolHouse as a new model of community development through stories of how it has been done, and how can you bring it to your neighbourhood.

Learn more and register here: <u>http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/building-social-</u> <u>capital-through-community-development</u>

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Asking our Communities: A Journey to Understand Participation and Involvement

February 25 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET Speakers: Lidia Kemeny and Paul Born

Join a discussion with Vancouver Foundation's Lidia Kemeny and Tamarack's Paul Born as they explore how we can engage community to get input on a particular issue. Together they will discuss findings on questions about how citizens feel about participating and about feeling involved in community life.

Register here:

http://events.tamarackcommunity.ca/asking-ourcommunities-a-journey-to-understand-participationand-involvement









CALLING CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Communities in Transition - A Photo Contest for Engaged Youth We are putting together a photo show to help us explain what engaged youth are thinking and seeing in their communities.

We want you to show us your fears and hopes, but, we also want you to tell us what your community is going to look like in 2030.

Learn more about the contest here: <u>http://www.tamarackcommunity</u> .ca/photo-contest



Notes and resources from this call will be sent out in a follow-up email.

Next BC CoP call: March 17 at 11am PT







