

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed July 4, 2023

City invites groups to apply for funds to prevent youth gun and gang violence

Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grants funded by Public Safety Canada

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is inviting experienced organizations to submit funding applications to support the Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy (NYRS). Organizations working with youth are encouraged to apply between July 10 and Aug. 14, 2023 for funds to create programs that build youth resilience to prevent them from engaging in gun and gang violence.

The strategy was created with Public Safety Canada funds to identify community needs. Data analysis and consultations with community members and other stakeholders identified local factors that put children and youth at risk for gun and gang violence.

To implement the strategy, projects under six areas of focus are needed: Safe Youth Gathering Spaces; Youth Outreach; Connecting Youth to Land and Water through Snawaylth (Teachings); Youth Mentoring Programs; Enhancing Existing Youth Programs; and, Media and Communications.

For more information about the strategy and to apply, visit the project page on the City website at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NYRS.

Strategic Link: This grant funding supports Council's strategic priority to address social, health and public safety challenges by building and expanding programming aimed at preventing youth from engaging in gun and gang violence.

Key Points

- The Nanaimo Youth Resilience Grants are funded by Public Safety Canada under the Building Safer Communities Fund, and will be distributed by the City of Nanaimo in early fall 2023.
- The Nanaimo Youth Resilience Strategy Grants fund has more than \$1 million available to fund programs for youth operated by local organizations.
- Nanaimo is one of 22 BC municipalities selected to receive federal funding.
- Grant applications will be open July 10 to Aug. 14, with programs to launch fall 2023.

Quotes

"Improving public safety needs multiple approaches, including prevention. By supporting children and youth, we can strengthen their resilience and reduce the likelihood that vulnerable young people will be drawn into guns and gang violence. We are very thankful for the federal funding that makes these grants possible."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

Continued... City invites groups to apply for funds to prevent youth gun and gang violence

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