



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 – 30th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 5E6
Telephone: (250) 545-1361 Fax: (250) 545-4048

website: www.vernon.ca

Corporate Policy

Section:	Community Infrastructure and Development	
Sub-Section:	Current Planning	
Title:	Rental Housing Incentive Grant Policy and Application Form	

RELATED POLICIES

Number	Title
	Affordable / Attainable Housing Policy
	Subsidized Housing Grants

APPROVALS

POLICY APPROVAL:	AMENDMENT APPROVAL	SECTION AMENDED
Approved by: <i>"Akbul Mund,"</i> Mayor Date: May 25, 2015		ORIGINAL POLICY
	Amendment Approved by: <i>"Akbal Mund"</i> Mayor Date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rental project to meet SAFERhome society standards - update division name and Director title amend review

	January 11, 2016	process to require staff report to Council
	Amendment Approved by: "Akbal Mund" Mayor Date: April 9, 2018	- clarified grant up to City's DCC charge and no greater than \$4,000

POLICY

In response to the shortage of private sector purpose built rental housing, the City has formed a grant program to encourage the construction and operation of such housing. Subject to annual budget approval, the program provides a grant up to the City's development cost charge levy but not greater than \$4,000 per rental unit. The grant would be awarded after the Occupancy Permit had been issued for the rental unit, the housing agreement bylaw had been adopted and the associated covenant had been registered on the property title. Multiple family developments with four or more dwelling units would be eligible for the grant program. The project could have any number of rental units. The project would be subject to development permit approval which governs form and character, site development and the provision of security to ensure the project is completed in accordance with the permit drawings.

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURES

1. Applications for funding under this policy are to be submitted to the Community Infrastructure and Development Services Division and can be submitted at any time of the year.
2. The application is to be reviewed by Community Infrastructure and Development and Finance staff. Community Infrastructure and Development staff would prepare and submit a report to City Council. Council is the approving authority for all grant applications.
3. Awarded grants would form part of the year end statistics report prepared by the Community Infrastructure and Development Services Division.

CRITERIA

1. Rental housing grants awarded under this policy are for new private sector rental units that have been issued an Occupancy Permit. The grant is for new rental units that have not been previously occupied for a total of 90 days.
2. The grant applies to multiple family residential projects with four or more units. There can be one or more rental units. The project is to be on one fee simple property or one strata plan with at least four strata lots.
3. Each self-contained dwelling unit which is the subject of a grant application is to have a habitable floor area greater than 29 sq.m.
4. The grant amount would be up to \$4,000 per rental unit or the City development cost charge levied per unit. This would not include the Regional District of North Okanagan development cost charge levy amount. The actual amount of the grant is to be determined by Council, with due consideration of the available budget and the number of eligible projects in any given year.
5. The grant would not be awarded until the Occupancy Permit for the subject rental unit has been issued.
6. The grant would be awarded to the owner of the rental unit.
7. There is to be a housing agreement bylaw adopted and an associated covenant registered on the property title which governs the rental units. The housing agreement is to be for a term not less than 20 years. The agreement is to be structured so as to require the unit to be available and utilized as a rental unit. The rental unit is not to be occupied by the property owner and is therefore, not eligible for Provincial Home Owner Grant approval while the covenant is in effect.
8. The rental rate is subject to market place conditions and is not governed in the housing agreement and associated covenant. Residency conditions are not subject to a maximum household income threshold.
9. Any request to discharge the housing agreement covenant would be subject to City Council approval, repayment of the rental housing grant plus accrued interest and other conditions that Council may require.
10. The rental housing project for which the rental housing incentive grant is to apply must be registered with and must be designed and constructed to meet the SAFERhome society standards.