

Executive Summary

During the September 14, 2020, Community Services Committee meeting, the Children's Aid Society (CAS) presented information regarding the linkages between children in foster care and homelessness. The presentation outlined the need for CAS to work in partnership with all members of the community in order to access and provide clients with important essential services, such as transportation.

Following the presentation, Staff was given direction to prepare a report regarding a proposed business case to provide CAS with a subsidy for GOVA Transit bus passes for potential inclusion in the 2021 budget. This report outlines two subsidy options for discussion, which could be included in a business case and presented to Council in the 2021 budget deliberations.

Background

The Children's Aid Society is responsible for assisting in providing essential services to vulnerable members of the Community including infants, children, and youth who may be at risk of or currently are experiencing physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse, neglect and abandonment. The majority of children and families involved with CAS receive services that protect and support children while they remain with the families in the Community.

In 2019, to reduce financial barriers and meet transportation needs of clients, the Children's Aid Society of the District of Sudbury and Manitoulin purchased a variety of bus passes from the City of Greater Sudbury, for a total of \$54,243.50.

Table 1 - 2019 GOVA Transit Bus Pass Purchases:

Fare Media Purchased	# Units Purchased	Rate	Actual Cost
Cash	2060	\$ 3.50	\$ 7,210.00
6 Ride Cards	2075	\$ 17.50	\$ 36,312.50
31 Day Pass Adult	17	\$ 88.00	\$ 1,496.00
31 Day Pass Students	123	\$ 75.00	\$ 9,225.00
			\$ 54,243.50

Business Case Options

Staff are recommending two options for the Community Services Committee's consideration and direction:

Option 1: Concession Fare Rate: Based on the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law, CAS purchase 6-Ride Cards and 31-Day Passes at Adult or Student rates. Staff recommends a subsidy in the form of Concession Rates as per Table 2 – Concession Rate Financial Impact. This would represent an overall subsidy of approximately 15%, resulting in loss revenue of approximately \$8,000 for the City of Greater Sudbury.

Table 2 – Concession Rate Financial Impact:

Fare Media	# Units Purchased	Subsidy Rate	Cost	Subsidy
1 Ride Card	2060	\$ 3.50	\$ 7,210.00	\$ -
6 Ride Cards	2075	\$ 15.00	\$ 31,125.00	\$ (5,187.50)
31 Day Pass Adult	17	\$ 56.00	\$ 952.00	\$ (544.00)
31 Day Pass Students	123	\$ 56.00	\$ 6,888.00	\$ (2,337.00)
			\$ 46,175.00	\$ (8,068.50)

Option 2 – Grant: Alternatively, a lump sum in the form of a grant could be available to the Children’s Aid Society. This would provide the CAS with the ability to purchase any fare media up to and including the amount approved under the Grant.

Next Steps

Staff is looking for direction to prepare a Business Case, which would be included for consideration in the 2021 Budget Deliberations.