



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: March 28, 2013

**SUBJECT: Report CSSSJSSC13-004
Provincial One Time Grant Funding**

PURPOSE

A report to provide the Joint Services Steering Committee with recommendations regarding use of the provincial one time grant and an update on the Provincial CHPI funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendations outlined in Report CSSSJSSC13-004 dated March 28, 2013, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the one time grant funding, in the amount of \$1,513,219, from the Ministry of Community and Social Services be allocated in 2013 and 2014 as shown in Appendix A - Column H; and
- b) That the update on the first three months of the housing stability benefit be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The one time grant funding is funded 100% by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The funding will be allocated to the provision of homelessness prevention programs and services according to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) guidelines.

A portion of the current approved 2013 municipal budget for homelessness programs can be funded with some of this one time grant allowing \$350,000 municipal dollars to be reallocated to deal with the pressures of the Discretionary Benefits policy. Please see report C555J55C13-003 for recommendations related to Discretionary Benefits. There is no net increase to the municipal budget as a result of the recommendations in this report.

BACKGROUND

1. One Time Grant – Transition to CHPI

On December 27, 2012, the City received notification from the Ministry of Social Services that the City would receive a one-time grant. This notice was followed up with a letter in January confirming further details on the one time grant (attached as Appendix C). The grant is to assist the municipality in the transition to CHPI and is for the time period January 2013 to March 31, 2014 as one-time transition funding.

The grant is to be used in accordance with the CHPI Program guidelines and includes the following program components:

- Emergency Shelter Solutions
- Housing with Related Supports (examples include housing allowance, assistance with obtaining housing, household set-up assistance)
- Other Supports and Services (examples include outreach, case management, discharge planning, information and referrals)
- Homelessness Prevention (examples include eviction prevention, financial assistance for emergency needs, rental or utilities arrears)
- Program Administration (examples include planning activities, research, consultations, professional services).

Below is a chart that outlines provincial funding for 2012 and 2013, and an estimate of the 2014 allocation. (Decisions about the specific use of CHPI funds in 2014 have not yet been made.)

Provincial Funding 2012-2014			
Purpose	2012	2013	2014
5 Consolidated Homelessness and Homelessness Prevention Programs	\$981,513		
Community Start Up and Maintenance (OW and ODSP)	\$2.4M *		
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) (consolidation of all above programs)		\$1,718,422	\$1,746,647
One-Time Grant - Transition to CHPI		\$1,213,219	\$300,000 (Jan-Mar 2014)
Total	\$3,381,513	\$2,931,641	\$2,046,647

*2011/12 Expenditures as reported by MCSS

As the chart shows, the one-time grant will help the City to navigate through the transition period to March 31, 2014, but once it is gone, pressures to support housing issues amongst OW, ODSP and low-income residents in the City and County will once again increase.

1.1 Reallocation to Discretionary Benefits

In addition to the \$2,931,641 provincial funding, there is \$739,555 of municipal investment in homelessness approved in the 2013 budget. Since a portion of the one-time grant can be used for these homelessness programs, it is recommended that \$350,000 of the municipal portion be reallocated to relieve the pressure on Discretionary Benefits. This recommendation is specifically addressed in report C555J55C13-003.

1.2 Future Housing Stability Funding Needs

For 2014 and 2015, while the ten-year Housing and Homelessness Plan will help determine the expenditures for those years, it is expected that the current CHPI budget will not be sufficient to properly support our community. In 2014, the City will have a remaining \$300,000 of the one time grant for the first quarter. For 2015, as noted in report C555J55C13-003 – Discretionary Benefits, recommendation c), staff are requesting that 50% of the projected value of the upload be allocated to social service priorities, of which approximately \$150,000 would be allocated to housing stability.

1.3 Community Engagement and Support

The introduction of the one-time grant required the Social Services Division to re-evaluate the current HSB policy framework, review the CHPI Investment Plan and make some determinations on the use of this one time funding. Social Services staff consulted with the Homelessness Support Services Coordinating Committee, the Affordable

Housing Action Committee and the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network Planning Table on some spending suggestions and to receive feedback.

Initially suggestions for spending also included funding for research and/or pilot projects specific to homelessness services including rent bank research and exploration of a community homeless service data base. Community input suggested other sources of funding should be sought for these types of ideas and this funding should go to direct forms of assistance for OW, ODSP and low income residents. A follow up email communication received from Income Security group of the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Planning Table is attached as Appendix D.

1.4 Recommended Allocation of One Time Grant

Recommendations for the allocation of the One Time Grant were developed to be consistent with the original plans related to CHPI; namely, to maintain service system stability to the greatest extent possible and to provide as much direct client service and financial support as possible.

This is one time funding and effective April 1, 2014, the City will be back to the CHPI funding alone. The spending allocation for 2013 for both the MMAH CHPI funding and the MCSS one time grant funding is outlined in the chart attached as Appendix A for endorsement.

2. Housing Stability Benefit Update

On December 3, 2012, Report C555J55C12-010 came forward to the Joint Services Steering Committee. This report provided an outline of expenditures for the provincially consolidated homelessness program – Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The report recommended status quo for five homelessness programs, with the balance of the funding designated to a new “Housing Stability Benefit” (HSB) fund that would provide emergency housing stability supports to Ontario Works, ODSP and low income households in the City and County of Peterborough. The report also recommended that \$350,000 from reserves (\$290,000 City and \$60,000 County) be added to the HSB.

Joint Services requested staff return in March of 2013 with an update on how the HSB program was going, including an update on expenditures and usage. The following is a summary of HSB activity for January and February 2013:

Housing Stability Benefit Usage				
Month	# of issuances of HSB	# of denials of HSB	Summary of denial reasons	Total amount issued
January	153	65	Accommodations not sustainable, criteria not met, benefit requested no longer available	\$77,032.71*
February	161	34	Not sustainable, criteria not met, not a move of necessity or unsafe address, benefit item not covered	\$78,799.36

Originally the Monthly Budget is \$68,792 based on funds available versus anticipated need.

After one month of HSB administration and upon review of denial reasons, effective February 2013, the amount able to be provided to clients for HSB were increased. The current HSB guidelines are attached as Appendix B for reference. This recognizes the amounts set initially were not high enough to deal with the housing situations many people required help with, resulting in limited access to assistance for people. Effective April 1, 2013, the HSB will also be available for low income residents through the Housing Resource Centre at the increased rates. The policy framework for the HSB benefit was developed based on the available budget situation as known early December.

SUMMARY

The one time provincial grant will help Peterborough transition from the 5 Consolidated Homelessness/ Homelessness Prevention Programs and Community Start Up and Maintenance Program to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative over the next twelve months. It also allows \$350,000 of municipal funding to be reallocated to deal with Discretionary Benefit pressures in 2013.

The recommended allocations are consistent with the original intent of the new program and also reflect community engagement and support.

An update on the Housing Stability Benefit has been provided as directed.

Submitted by,

Ken Doherty
Director of Community Services

Linda Mitchelson
Social Services Division Manager

Contact Name:

Dorothy Olver, Program Manager,
Homelessness and Addiction Services

Phone: 705-748-8830 Ext. 3635

Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755

Fax: 705-876-4620

E-Mail: dolver@peterborough.ca

Attachments:

Appendix A: Funding Allocation Chart

Appendix B: Housing Stability Benefit Policy Framework

Appendix C: January 30, 2013 memo from MCSS

Appendix D: E-mail communication