



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

From: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: February 13, 2014

**Subject: Report CSSSJSSC14-002
Homelessness Programs and Funding Update**

Purpose

A report to provide an update on Homelessness Programs and recommendations on provincial and municipal homelessness funding allocation for 2014.

Recommendations

That Joint Services endorse the recommendations outlined in Report CSSSJSSC14-002 dated February 13, 2014, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the distribution of the provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and municipal homelessness funding as outlined in Chart 1 be received;
- b) That the funding model for the purchase of emergency shelter services be changed to a base operational funding model effective April 1, 2014;
- c) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign Service Agreements with Brock Mission and Youth Emergency Shelter-Peterborough for the provision of emergency shelter services without completing a bid solicitation process as permitted in Section 35(3)(vi) of the City's Purchasing By-law;

Budget and Financial Implications

All of the programs outlined in this report can be provided within the provincial and municipal funding allocations as outlined in the approved 2014 budget.

Background

The 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the City and County of Peterborough was approved by Council in November 2013. The Plan and Action Plan help guide the funding and activities related to services along the housing and homelessness continuum. The following report outlines the homelessness services provided through a combination of Provincial and Municipal funding and specifically identifies the allocation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in Chart 1.

Chart 1: 2014 Expenditure Plan

Program	CHPI Funding	One Time Grant *	Municipal Funding	Total
a) Emergency Shelter Services	\$884,632		\$330,723	\$1,215,355
b) Cameron House – Semi-Independent Living Program	\$58,101			\$58,101
c) Domiciliary Care	\$3,952			\$3,952
d) FourCAST – Homelessness Coordinate Response Team – Clinical outreach and Trustee Program	\$103,899			\$103,899
e) Rent Supplement Program	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$200,000
f) Housing Stability Fund – Low Income Households	\$103,385	\$100,000		\$203,385
Housing Stability Fund – OW/ODSP	\$566,254	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$916,254
g) Lighthouse Community Drop in Centre			\$185,000	\$185,000
h) Warming Room			\$25,000	\$25,000
Other**			\$113,763	\$113,763
Total	\$1,820,223	\$300,000	\$904,486	\$3,024,709

* One time grant funding expires March 31, 2014

** Other includes homelessness reinvestment programs including trustee program with Salvation Army, housing retention supports and client support services.

a) Emergency Shelter Services

The Housing and Homelessness Plan outlined the continued need for Emergency Shelter Services along the homeless to housing continuum. One of the focus areas for both the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the CHPI funding, is a move away from emergency response services to longer term solutions to homelessness, but also to ensure access to emergency shelter service when needed is available. With the implementation of CHPI the province discontinued the provision of funds for emergency shelters on a per diem basis through the Ontario Works program. The CHPI program provides a fixed amount of annual funding with Emergency Shelter Solutions as one of the allowable program components. Decisions as to how to approach funding of programs is left to be determined locally.

As a result of this change, in 2013 the Social Services Division entered into discussions with Emergency Shelter organizations regarding the cost of operations. A financial review of emergency shelter operations was completed by staff in consultation with the Boards of both organizations. Most shelter expenditures are fixed (utilities, wages, insurance, equipment etc.) and occur regardless of how many clients stay at the shelter.

As a result of the financial review staff is recommending a move to a full base operational funding model rather than a combination of both base and per diem. The benefits of a base operational funding model are:

- Sufficient funding to maintain the level of service required during lower occupancy periods
- Base amounts make for more efficient administrative processes and a simpler budgeting process for the shelters and the municipality

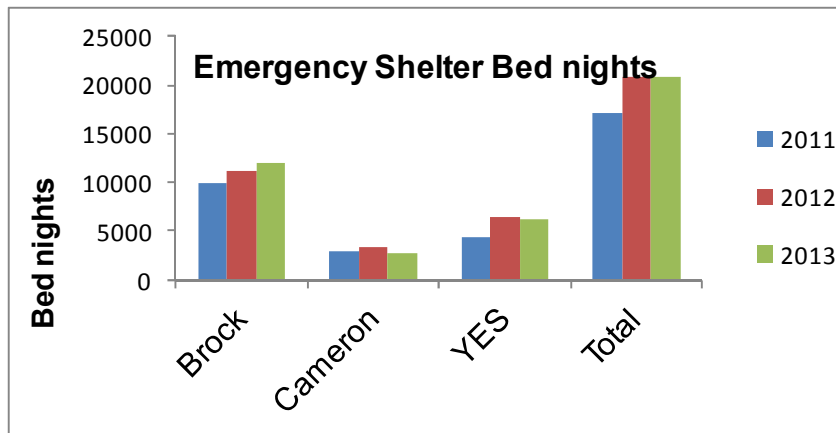
The proposed operational funding amount for emergency shelter services for a year beginning April 1, 2014 is outlined below as well as the amount of funding issued for the previous two years:

Emergency Shelter Operator	2012	2013	2014
Brock Mission (Kingan House and Cameron House – 50 beds)	\$858,272	\$821,584	\$873,793
Youth Emergency Shelter (Youth and Families – 30 beds)	\$376,366	\$338,468	\$341,562
Total	\$1,234,638	\$1,160,052	\$1,215,355

The 2014 amounts are slightly higher than 2013 and remain within the 2014 approved budget amount.

The new Service Agreements with Brock Mission and the Youth Emergency Shelter will include a schedule outlining Shelter Service Standards. The schedule covers standards related to personal supports, community collaboration, service restrictions, client service, rights and responsibilities, complaint processes, confidentiality, financial accountability and reporting requirements. The agreements will go from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2018.

The overall number of bed days decreased slightly in 2013 from 2012. A decrease was experienced at Cameron House and Youth Emergency Shelter, while Brock Mission continues to experience an increase, as illustrated below.



The fixed funding approach proposed means that whether there is an increase or decrease in the number of bed days, the amount of funding will remain the same.

b) Cameron House Semi-Independent Living Program

Cameron House has eight semi-independent bachelor units connected to the Emergency Shelter. Through the CHPI funding, Cameron House will continue to receive \$58,101 for staffing to support the Semi-Independent Living program units. The staffing supports women transitioning from emergency shelter beds into the semi-independent units and eventually to permanent housing.

An initial meeting of the Brock Mission Facility development team which includes city staff, PHC staff and the Executive Director of Brock Mission is scheduled in early February. Brock has been approved for \$10,000 in SEED funding from CMHC. As part of the initial development team meeting, a work plan will be finalized which will outline activities and time lines for completion of the feasibility study as well as confirm the required membership of the ongoing development team.

c) Domiciliary Care

The Domiciliary Care program continues to support one bed at Rubidge Retirement Residence. The program is phasing out and once this resident leaves Rubidge Retirement Residence, the program will end.

d) Homelessness Coordinated Response Team

Community partnership, collaboration, individualized case planning and case conferencing are highlighted in the Housing and Homelessness Plan as key areas for development and improvement. The Homelessness Coordinated Response Team is a group of front line staff from Brock Mission, Cameron House, Four Counties Addiction Services, CMHA-HKPR, Social Services and the Housing Resource Centre. This team meets every two weeks to develop individualized and coordinated case planning for some of the most complex situations. This program is designated to receive \$103,899 from CHPI to support the clinical outreach to shelters and trustee services for individuals involved with this response team.

From June 2012 to October 31, 2013, demographic and outcome information related to this program include:

- Case conferences occurred for 60 individuals
- Average age is 50 years
- Age range is from 21 years to 82 years
- A 50/50 split on gender
- 45% on ODSP, 28% on OW, 18% on OAS/CPP, 8% other
- 43% with Concurrent Disorder (both mental health and addictions)
- Placement for 33 individuals include 8 in rooming houses, 6 in Long term care, 3 in the Cameron House Semi-Independent Living Program and others in apartments or other programs (Kawartha Participation Projects, Addiction Supportive Housing, Homes for Special Care).

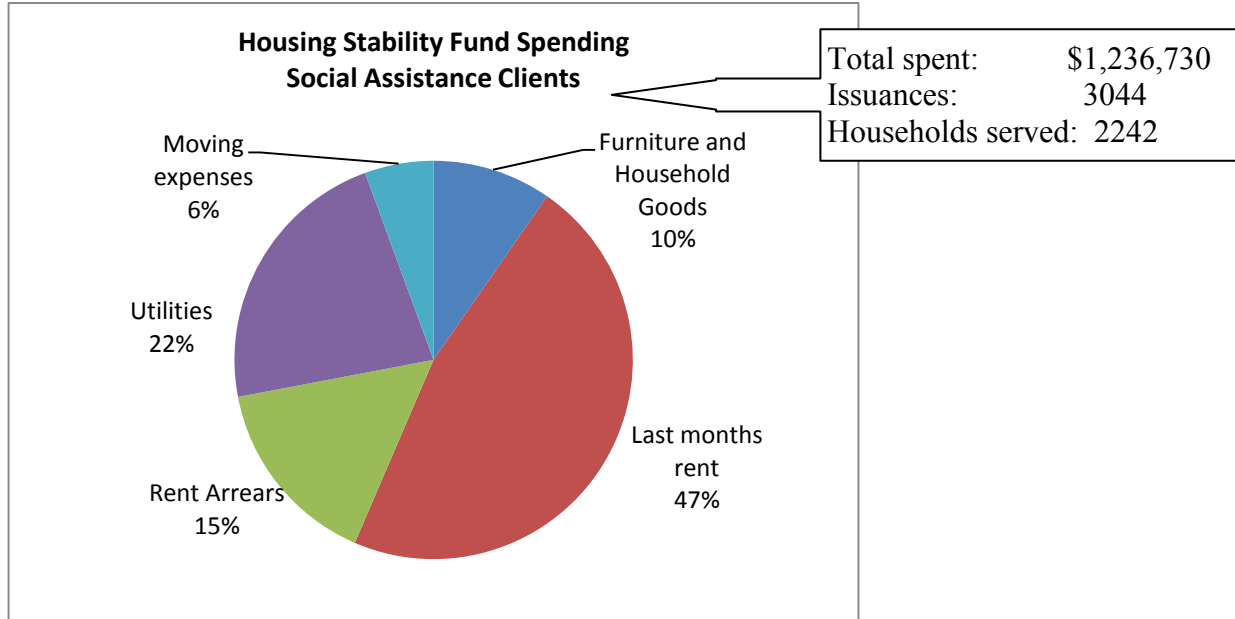
e) Rent supplement

Through the 2014 budget process, a new municipal rent supplement program was approved for \$200,000, \$100,000 of which comes from CHPI funding. The impact on the City budget is \$46,300 while \$54,700 is conditional on approval through the County budget process. A portion of the rent supplement program will be designated for use with the Youth Emergency Shelters transitional housing program at Abbott House. Please see report PLHDJ55C14-001 for more detail on this program.

f) Housing Stability Fund

The Housing and Homelessness Plan identifies the importance of housing stability and preventing homelessness for residents of the City and County of Peterborough whenever possible.

The Housing Stability Fund relies on a combination of CHPI and municipal contributions for revenue. The chart below provides a breakdown of the issuances of the Housing Stability Fund for both low income and OW/ODSP households in 2013.



The Housing Stability Fund will continue in 2014 at \$916,254 for OW/ODSP clients and \$203,385 for Low Income households. The Social Services and Housing Divisions will monitor the Housing Stability Fund monthly and bring a status update report to Council in the summer 2014.

The increase in energy costs is a growing concern for low income households as the number of hydro service disconnects continue to rise and the size of arrears owing grows. There are varying reports of what the rate increases might actually be – anywhere from 2.8% over 20 years (<http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/ltep/>) to 42% over five years (<http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-electricity-rates-to-keep-rising-as-long-term-energy-plan-released-1.1569774>). Energy conservation and efficiencies are encouraged but can only go so far. When low income households are faced with disconnection, residents of the City and County of Peterborough through the Social Services Division for OW and ODSP clients or through the Housing Resource Centre for low income households may be able to access financial assistance of the Housing Stability Fund.

g) Lighthouse Community Drop in Centre

The Lighthouse Community Drop in Centre had a total of 15,737 visits in 2013 and 31,210 meal servings. Programs offered at the centre continue to expand with the newest being a literacy program that has nine people involved. Trent Valley Literacy Association is also working with people that wish to complete their grade twelve equivalency. The Lighthouse Food Skills training program has seen nine out of thirteen of the trainees obtain employment after completing the program.

h) Winter Warming Room

The Warming Room operates an overnight program from November to March 31, 2014. The program offers ten mats for people that are unable to access emergency shelters and have no where else to go. This program is the result of multiple partners working together and over 100 volunteers that share scheduling and come each night to watch over the visitors. From November 20, 2013 to January 19, 2014, anywhere from 3-17 individuals per night accessed the overnight warming room. Nearly 60 unique individuals have accessed the program.

Summary

The homelessness programs and services outlined in the report align with action items of the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, as well as the components of the CHPI program guidelines. With an overall decrease in funding, it is imperative that community partnerships and collaboration occur for the well being of people in our community. Progress has been made in this regard and will continue. It requires all partners to work together to truly make a difference for some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Submitted by,

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