



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Joint Services Steering Committee

From: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: October 9, 2014

**Subject: Report CSSSJSSC14-007
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Funding**

Purpose

A report to provide information about the additional allocation of 100% Provincial funding under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and to make recommendations for the use of the additional funds.

Recommendations

That Joint Services Steering Committee endorse the recommendations outlined in Report CSSSJSSC14-007 dated October 9, 2014 of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That the CAO or Senior Director of Corporate Services in accordance with Purchasing Bylaw Sec.10(3), be authorized to accept and expend 100% provincial funding, approve expenditures of additional CHPI funds from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH);
- b) Once additional funding is received, that the draw from the City's Social Services reserve of \$408,000 for 2014 be returned to that reserve, that the additional \$42,000 received from the County be returned to the County and the \$30,000 received from the DOOR reserve be returned to the Housing Division.
- c) That the allocation of CHPI funding be directed as outlined in Schedule A – Current and Proposed CHPI Allocation by Component.

- d) That the Director of Community Services be delegated the authority to approve CHPI Investment Plans that are submitted annually to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and
- e) That the Social Services Division Manager be delegated the authority to enter into service contracts with providers related to the program areas outlined in Schedule A, and to approve the CHPI Investment Plan expenditure and program update reports submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, currently three times a year.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no additional financial requirements as a result of this report. With the confirmation of additional CHPI funding to be received for 2014-15, the draw on the Social Services reserve of \$408,000 for 2014 (as approved during budget deliberations and in Report CSSS14-006 June 23, 2014) will be returned to the reserve. As well, the County contribution of \$42,000 approved in the same report will be returned to the County and the draw from the DOOR reserve of \$30,000 will also be returned to the Housing Division. The need for any further municipal contribution towards homelessness will be considered during the 2015 budget process.

Background

CHPI funding began January 1, 2013 as a result of the consolidation of five previous homelessness prevention related programs, including the cost for emergency shelters.

The current provincial guidelines allow for expenditures in four program areas:

- Emergency Shelter Solution
- Housing Related Supports
- Services and Supports
- Homelessness Prevention

When CHPI was implemented, the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided a one-time grant to Service Managers to assist with the transition as a result of the consolidation of programs and the loss of funding previously available through mandatory Social Assistance benefits. The one-time grant funding of \$1.5 million could only be used during the period from January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

CHPI Confirmation

The most recent provincial budget committed to reinvesting the full one-time grant funding back into the CHPI overall funding. On July 28, 2014, MMAH issued a letter to the City of Peterborough confirming the 2014-15 CHPI allocation at \$1.8M (see Appendix A). In the second paragraph of the letter, MMAH advises that:

“ . . . the 2014 budget increases the province-wide contribution with CHPI with an additional \$42 million annually starting in 2014-15”.

The letter goes on to advise that further details regarding the allocation of additional funding will be provided in the near future. The Service Manager has received confirmation of a total CHPI allocation of \$3,314,563 annually. CHPI is the provincial revenue source for homelessness services. Additional municipal funding supports a wide range of homelessness prevention programs and services. With the confirmation of this additional provincial funding, the Social Services Division would like to proceed with decisions related to spending the additional provincial funding for 2014. Allocation of this revenue beyond April 1, 2015 will be addressed during the 2015 budget process.

Homelessness Prevention

The largest budget pressure related to homelessness funding is the Housing Stability Fund. Report C55514-006, dated June 23, 2014, identified that Housing Stability funding was running out for both Social Services and the Housing Resource Centre. Through this report additional funding was requested and a draw from City reserves of \$258,000 and additional contribution of \$42,000 from the County was approved for 2014. For the City, this was over and above the \$150,000 draw from reserve approved during the 2014 budget deliberations. These draws from reserve were contributing to the depletion of the City Social Services reserve to the point where the reserve balance projection for 2016 was below \$500,000 which is felt to be insufficient.

Staff from the Social Services and Housing Divisions invited members of the Affordable Housing Action Committee, the Homelessness Support Services Coordinating Committee, the Supportive Housing Network and Township Clerks to discuss priorities for new Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) 2014 extension funding and upcoming years of CHPI funding. The group identified potential priority populations, including men who are chronically homeless, seniors and people who are employed but still living in poverty. There was widespread support for solutions that are focused on preventing homelessness and for supports to keep vulnerable people in their homes. Staff was encouraged to continue to advocate with other ministries and the Central East Local Health Integration Network for additional funding to enable supports to be provided with housing.

The Divisions have made progress in conversations with the Central East LHIN and dialogue continues regarding a collaborative approach to decision-making regarding funding. The Ontario budget and the Poverty Reduction Strategy released in 2014 have committed funding for mental health, addictions and disabilities. Ongoing dialogue with the CE-LHIN will be aimed at ensuring that the community is able to make full use of any new Health funding and to avoid using CHPI funding for services or programs that are normally the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The focus on longer term solutions recommended by community stakeholders is very much in line with the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan and the provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy which emphasize a shift from emergency, reactive responses to homelessness to longer term, proactive responses. The additional homelessness prevention funding provides the opportunity to shift some response from emergency to longer term solutions including adding rent supplements, some of which will be targeted to vulnerable people in the community using a Housing First approach. Shifting some CHPI funding from emergency type responses (Housing Stability, Emergency Shelters) to longer term responses (Housing First, Rent Supplements) supports that shift. Over time, it is intended that programs like the Rent Supplement will provide housing stability that will result in fewer people needing to access the Housing Stability Fund.

The additional funding will be \$1.5 million annually. Staff is recommending that the additional funds be distributed as outlined in the chart below. The amounts indicated in each component are best estimates based on current information about funding from other sources. As the funding context changes, funding may be required to shift from one component to another.

Schedule A - Current and Proposed Allocation 100% Provincial Revenue by Program Component

CHPI funding components	Programs	2014-15 \$1.8 \$million	2014-15 additional \$1.5 million*	Total \$3.3 million
1. Emergency Shelter Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelters: Brock Mission, Cameron House, YES (service agreements until March 2018) 	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
2. Housing with Related Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cameron House Semi Independent Living (agreement until March 31, 2016) Rent Supplement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Choice, Housing Choice for Youth (YES) Increase the number of rent supplements* 	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$330,000
3. Services and Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness Coordinated Response Team (HCRT) clinical outreach and trustee services (agreement until March 31, 2015) Housing First approach* 	\$104,000 \$0	\$0 \$130,000	\$234,000
4. Homelessness Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Stability Fund* 	\$636,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,836,000 **
Total		\$1,800,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,300,000

*Bolded items are new programs or existing programs to receive additional CHPI funding and percentages are approximate.

** Housing stability Fund Includes a \$400,000 allocation to Housing Resource Centre for Low Income

SUMMARY

The Social Services and Housing Divisions will continue to work collaboratively with community partners toward the implementation of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Community engagement continues to be a priority and recently the Divisions met with community partners for input on ideas related to spending for both the CHPI funds and the Investment in Affordable Housing funds. Stakeholders observed that housing insecurity and homelessness are pervasive and complex problems.

Recommendations for the allocation of additional provincial funding across three program components are made with attempts to balance emergency response with longer term solutions. A report will be taken to City Council in December. Final approval of the 2015 homelessness budget including use of provincial and municipal funds will occur through the 2015 budget process.

Submitted by,

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Attachment :

Appendix A – CHPI letter from MMAH – July 2014