

## **Sole Source- Off the Street Emergency Shelter Program**

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Meeting Date:	June 20, 2022
Type:	Managers' Reports
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

## **Report Summary**

This report provides a recommendation to approve a sole source, five-year agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association - Sudbury/Manitoulin for the continued operation of the Off the Street low barrier emergency shelter program.

## **Resolution**

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury enters into a sole source agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association- Sudbury/Manitoulin to operate the Off the Street low barrier emergency shelter program starting October 31, 2022, for a five-year period as outlined in the report entitled "Sole Source – Off the Street Emergency Shelter Program" from the General Manager of Community Development, presented at the Community Services Committee meeting on June 20, 2022.

## **Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

The report supports Council's Strategic Plan around Quality of Life and Place as it aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous Youth, Mental Health, Housing and Healthy Streets by providing options for services individuals that are homeless in the community. This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

## **Financial Implications**

Annual budget will be negotiated in line with existing service levels. Funding will come from Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program and Federal Reaching Home funding.

## **Background**

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) is a service manager pursuant to the Housing Services Act, 2011, and as such is responsible, in accordance with its Housing and Homelessness Plan, to carry out measures to meet the objectives and targets relating to housing needs within the community. The City administers and funds housing and homelessness programs and services, and partners with community service providers, to provide emergency shelter programs and other programs intended to meet the needs of persons who are

experiencing homelessness.

### Off the Street Emergency Shelter Program

The Off the Street (OTS) low barrier emergency shelter program has been operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association- Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) since 2016 under funding contracts with the City. The current funding agreement was approved as a sole source purchase with a term of November 1, 2017, to October 30, 2022.

The program provides 35 cots for adults of any gender aged 18 and older, with operating hours overnight from 10:00 pm to 8:00 am. The program originally operated over the winter months from November 1 to April 30 each year; however, effective November 1, 2019, the program expanded to 365 days per year. Between 2017 and 2021 CMHA has provided service to an average of 573 individuals per year and operated at an 89% capacity rate in 2021.

The OTS shelter program has been developed to meet the recommendations of the emergency shelter system as approved through the Emergency Shelter Review and Recommendation report dated March 18, 2019. Operating from a low barrier approach means there are very few requirements for persons to access the program, such as income, sobriety, or having ID. While individuals may access the shelter while under the influence, drugs and weapons are prohibited inside the building, and staff work closely with individuals to manage behavior and maintain a safe environment. CMHA staff work from a housing focused approach and provide a supportive environment for persons experiencing homelessness to connect with required housing resources such as the By Name List. CMHA works collaboratively within the homelessness service sector and participates in the Coordinated Access System, HIFIS 4, the Housing First Steering Committee and the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board.

### 200 Larch Street

In May 2018 Council approved the transfer of the building at 200 Larch Street Sudbury, to CMHA to use for the low barrier emergency shelter program and the Managed Alcohol Program. Subsequently, \$2.25 million for capital renovations was approved through the Provincial Home for Good Program to provide capital upgrades for this facility. Finally, the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinic co-located into this building, providing primary health care to this underserved population. The co-location of the OTS shelter program, the Healing with Hope Managed Alcohol Program, and the Sudbury Nurse Practitioner Clinic, provides an integrated system of support for persons with health and housing needs.

There are many synergies that exist with the current operating configuration. CMHA has a purpose-built building and has acquired additional services through the Nurse Practitioner Clinic to support the population and provide needed services. CMHA has a proven track record in the sector to deliver quality services. In addition, staff attempted multiple times over the past couple of years to secure vendors to provide additional shelter and warming centre services with little interest taken by providers. As such, staff recommend that the City of Greater Sudbury enter into a sole source agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association- Sudbury/Manitoulin to operate the Off the Street low barrier emergency shelter program starting October 31, 2022, for a five-year period. A sole source purchase is recommended as there are no other service providers with the experience and the building required to operate this program.

## **Next Steps**

Upon approval by City Council, staff will engage with Canadian Mental Health Association- Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) to negotiate a new five-year operating agreement in line with Provincial and Federal funding sources.

## **Resources Cited**

Request for Decision - Off the Street Emergency Shelter Program August 21, 2017  
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=8041>

Emergency Shelter Review and Recommendation March 18, 2019  
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=3833>

Harm Reduction Program/Managed Alcohol Program -200 Larch Street  
<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?documentid=8658>