

Purpose

This report outlines the Community Housing Renewal Strategy funding allocation received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The report also provides an update as to how this year's funding has been allocated and a request to approve the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Sustainability Plan (Appendix A – COCHI Sustainability Plan) as part of MMAH's reporting requirements.

Executive Summary

On April 17, 2019, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the launch of the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, a multi-year plan to sustain and grow the community housing system. Greater Sudbury was provided with a three (3) year proposed allocation to support the strategy, leveraging federal investments under the bilateral agreement between MMAH and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

This report provides an update as to how this year's funding has been allocated and requests approval to forward the COCHI Sustainability Plan to MMAH for their review and approval.

The Investment Plan approved by Council in June 2019, utilized the Capital Expenditures Stream of both the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to address the shortfalls in capital needs for the existing Urban Native Housing Program as well as the balance of the City of Greater Sudbury's social housing portfolio through the Repair Stream. The Homeownership Down Payment Assistance program was a success as Housing Services received approximately double the amount of applications vs. the funding allocated to the program.

Community Housing Renewal Strategy

On June 3, 2019 Community Services Committee approved a report entitled "Community Housing Renewal Strategy" that outlined the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing new strategy and funding program, and the request to participate in the Homeownership Program and the Social Housing Capital Repair Stream.

Funding Allocations

The proposed allocation for Greater Sudbury is as follows:

Program	2019-2020 Confirmed Allocation	2020-2021 Planning Allocation	2021-2022 Planning Allocation
Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (2014 extension)	\$838,300	N/A	N/A
Home For Good – Operating	To Be Confirmed	To Be Confirmed	To Be Confirmed
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)	\$607,628	\$1,457,726	\$2,486,554
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)	\$1,381,900	\$715,900	\$1,114,600

All proposed allocations must be utilized within the program year. Funding cannot be transferred from one year to the next if underspending occurs.

Update

With the work that has been completed through the Social Housing Revitalization Plan and the data mined from Amaresco Asset Planner regarding social housing building envelopes, Housing Services recommended utilizing the Capital Expenditures Stream of both COCHI and OPHI to address the shortfalls in capital needs for the existing Urban Native Housing Program as well as the balance of the City of Greater Sudbury's social housing portfolio through the Repair Stream.

Under the Ontario Renovates Social Housing Stream, OPHI funding was provided to five (5) social housing providers to complete major capital repairs. COCHI funding was allocated to the Urban Native Housing Provider for capital repairs to both preserve Urban Native Housing units and to protect tenants in a project with an expiring operating agreement. COCHI funding was provided to another social housing provider for a capital retrofit to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The Homeownership Down Payment Assistance program was initiated to assist low income households who were currently residing in rental units, and were interested in becoming homeowners. Housing Services approved thirty (30) households and provided them with 10% of their down payment towards the purchase of a home. Double the number of applications were received for this program.

On October 11, 2019 Housing Services received approval of the Investment Plan submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing. Housing Services is currently entering into the necessary program funding agreements with social housing providers/proponents/recipients. Payments will be advanced based on agreed upon payment schedules. Housing Services will be monitoring projects to ensure timely completion of all projects. Housing Services will also be adhering to Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing reporting schedule.

Conclusion

In order to ensure all reports are being submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing within their deadlines, the Manager of Housing Services is requesting authorization to forward the City's COCHI Sustainability Plan to them for approval, as well as all other relevant documentation pertaining to the COCHI and OPHI investment plans.

Resources Cited

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Community Housing Renewal Strategy,
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-housing-renewal-strategy>

Community Housing Renewal Strategy Report, Community Services Committee meeting, June 3, 2019,
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1354&itemid=16871&lang=en>