

Request for Decision

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Program

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Oct 21, 2013
Report Date	Wednesday, Oct 09, 2013
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury receives funding from the Provincial government under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to provide support for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and;

WHEREAS a community partner consultation was held to identify priorities for use of the CHPI funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Greater Sudbury endorse the priorities for CHPI funding as determined through the community partner consultation in accordance with the funding guidelines, and;

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury direct staff to allocate funding received from Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments based on the priorities determined and develop programs that meet the program guidelines and requirements, and;

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury resubmit the resolution #CC2012-394 passed on December 11, 2012 to Provincial Government requesting that the Ontario Provincial Government maintain the 2012 level of funding for homelessness programs and benefits and retain the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit with these changes reflected in the new CHPI funding allocation.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Division Review

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Recommended by the Department

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Recommended by the C.A.O.

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Finance Implications

Funding announcements and confirmations are received from the Provincial and Federal Governments on an annual basis. As a result, any funding changes will be reflected in the operating budget on an annual basis.

Background

Effective January 1, 2012, the Housing Services Act, 2011 and supporting regulations came into effect which supports the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy. This focuses on transforming the way housing and homelessness services are delivered in order to achieve better outcomes for people.

Effective January 1, 2013 the Province has consolidated several existing homelessness funding streams into one new allocation called Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). This allocation has been administered by the municipalities with flexibility provided to address the individual local needs. The scope of the consolidation includes:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Program
- Emergency Energy Fund
- Emergency Hostel Services
- Domiciliary Hostel Program (no program active in the City of Greater Sudbury)
- Provincial Rent Bank

In addition, the Province has removed the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Community Start Up Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) from social assistance and combined this with the other programs mentioned above. The base CHPI allocation that the City of Greater Sudbury has received is significantly less than received in prior years.

On December 27, 2012, the Province through the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) announced:

- A One Time Grant Funding to support the transition to the CHPI.
- The additional funding was intended to support municipalities in transitioning to the new consolidated CHPI.
- The funding is intended to complement CHPI allocation funding
- Municipal Service Managers have been given the flexibility to use the funds for a range of CHPI housing and homelessness related supports based on local priorities
- The City of Greater Sudbury's allocation is \$1,058,261 for January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 (fifteen month period)
- The City of Greater Sudbury will be required to report to the Province on the expenditures of the funding in 2014

The CHPI program is administered throughout the Social Services Division and the two outcome based measures that are required by the Province are:

1. People who are homeless obtain and retain housing
2. People at risk of homelessness remain housed

Community Consultation and CHPI Priorities

In June 2013, a Community Consultation was held to review the new CHPI guidelines and service categories. Following the consultation, a survey was sent out electronically to community partners to identify and rank priorities for administering the CHPI funding responding to local community needs.

CHPI Service Categories

The following chart illustrates the results of the priority ranking based on community input:

Priority Level	Service Category	Priority Services Within the Category
One	Emergency Shelter Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the provision of safe beds through emergency shelters • the provision of necessary basic needs within shelter
Two	Homelessness Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last month's rent deposits • paying rental or utility arrears for someone facing eviction priorities
Three	Other Services and Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crisis prevention and intervention • case management
Four	Housing with Related Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing allowance attached to the person • household setup

Based on the results of the survey, the community respondents felt that it was important to provide funding under all four service categories.

CHPI Guiding Principles

The Province has outlined the following guiding principles for the development and administration of the CHPI program:

- Housing First Approach
- People centered
- Partnership based
- Locally driven
- Inclusive
- Fiscally responsible
- Outcome focused

Core values drive the Housing First Approach:

- Client centeredness
- Prevention
- Belief in recovery
- Flexibility
- Accessibility (ie. making any door the right door)
- Integration
- Cultural appropriateness
- Long-term supports provided when needed

In addition the following guiding principles were identified during the consultation:

- Consistent accessibility to services and decision making
- Focus on sustainable solutions that stop the revolving door
- Provide choice
- Commit to efficiency and speed of response
- Ensure that resources are being used for adequate/safe responses
- Ensure that the Human Rights Code is adhered to and that there is no discrimination

From the community agency survey 96.3% of respondents agreed with using the above as guiding principles for the CHPI program funding.

Moving Forward

The community agency consultation process confirmed that the initial programs identified for the CHPI funding, emergency shelter solutions and homelessness prevention, were the highest ranked priority categories identified. As a result, the Social Services Division will continue to allocate the CHPI and other Provincial and Federal funding available within the funding guidelines and continue to respond to local needs.

Where other funding opportunities become available and within the funding guidelines, the Social Services Division will develop additional programs and/or allocate additional funding to the priorities based on the community ranking and need.

The City of Greater Sudbury receives funding from all levels of government to support homelessness programs. The Social Services Division/Community Development Department ensures that the funding is used in a strategic and coordinated manner in order to maximize the full potential of the funding. Work will continue to monitor the allocation of funding to ensure that the priorities are being met, however if there is a reduction in the funding received by the Province, the corresponding reduction will be administered to the program to ensure allocations within budgetary guidelines.

The City of Greater Sudbury will allocate funding within the four CHPI service categories as follows:

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Emergency shelter solutions were identified as the highest priority for homelessness funding. Emergency shelter solutions include the provision of safe beds and necessary basic needs through emergency shelters.

The City of Greater Sudbury continues to partner with both L'Association des jeunes de la rue and the Salvation Army to provide emergency shelter programs for individuals and families in need in our community. These services are an integral and vital component in assisting the vulnerable citizens in our community.

L'Association des jeunes de la rue has been operating Foyer Notre Dame for several years. This organization provides emergency shelter for female and male youth in the community. Their program goals are to assist each youth in achieving family integration, to undergo functional life skills training, to achieve vocational scholastic reintegration and to reach self sufficiency and personal independence.

The Salvation Army provides emergency shelter services for the Men's and Women and Families Shelter Program. Their program goals are to provide board, lodging and personal needs to homeless persons on a short term basis as well as provide support to these individuals.

The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to partner with these service providers to maintain emergency shelter programs.

Homelessness Prevention

Homelessness prevention was identified as the second highest priority for homelessness funding. This can include the provision of last month's rent deposits, or the paying of rental or utility arrears for someone facing eviction.

The City of Greater Sudbury administers the CHPI program which provides funding for:

- last month's rent deposits for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; or
- rental arrears for persons who are facing eviction; or
- utility arrears for persons who are facing disconnection of utilities; or
- utility deposits for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

The CHPI program is available to persons in receipt of OW or ODSP, or have an income below the Household Income Limits (HILS) determined by the Provincial Government.

In addition, the CHPI fund provides an amount for household items for persons who are in receipt of OW or ODSP benefits and meet one of the following exceptional circumstances:

- the necessity to relocate as a result of a catastrophic event (e.g. flood, fire); or
- the necessity to relocate as a result of domestic violence; or
- leaving a shelter or transitional housing facility; or
- being discharged from an institution such as a hospital, correctional facility or addiction treatment program; or
- the necessity to relocate as a result of a disability (e.g. where the recipient is moving to a home that better meets their disability-related needs).

The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to allocate funds to the CHPI program under the existing criteria.

Other Supports and Services

Other supports and services were identified as the third priority for homelessness funding. This can include crisis prevention and intervention as well as case management supports.

The City of Greater Sudbury provides the following programs for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness under partnership with the Homelessness Network:

- Case management
- Outreach services
- Housing list
- Extreme Cold Weather Alert Program

The City of Greater Sudbury will continue to allocate funding to the Homelessness Network and will explore opportunities to partner with other existing community programs that provide case management, such as those offered through the Addiction Supportive Housing (ASH) program.

Housing with Supports

Housing with supports was identified as the fourth priority for homelessness funding. This can include programs that provide a housing allowance attached to the person, or funds for household set up.

The City of Greater Sudbury currently administers a housing allowance program through housing services. Using CHPI funds, a short term rent supplement program will be initiated until March 2014. Where funding is available, rent supplement and housing allowance programs will continue to be supported.

Summary of the service categories and programs addressing the priorities:

Service Category	Programs
Emergency Shelter Solutions	Salvation Army <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Emergency Shelter Program • Women and Families Emergency Shelter Program L'Association des jeunes de la rue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female Youth Emergency Shelter Program • Male Youth Emergency Shelter Program
Homelessness Prevention	Community Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last month's rent deposits for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; or • rental arrears for persons who are facing eviction; or • utility arrears for persons who are facing disconnection of utilities; or • utility deposits for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness In addition, the CHPI fund provides an amount for household items for persons who are in receipt of OW or ODSP benefits and meet one of the following exceptional circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the necessity to relocate as a result of a catastrophic event (e.g. flood, fire); or • the necessity to relocate as a result of domestic violence; or • leaving a shelter or transitional housing facility; or • being discharged from an institution such as a hospital, correctional facility or addiction treatment program; or • the necessity to relocate as a result of a disability (e.g. where the recipient is moving to a home that better meets their disability-related needs).
Other Supports and Services	Homelessness Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Outreach services • Housing list • Extreme Cold Weather Alert Program
Housing with Supports	Existing programs within Social Services, Housing Services and community agencies. Housing allowance program and a short term rent supplement program.

Summary

It is recommended that the City of Greater Sudbury Council endorses the priorities for CHPI funding as determined through the community partner consultation in accordance with the funding guidelines.

It is also recommended that the City of Greater Sudbury Council direct Social Services Division staff to allocate funding received from Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments based on the priorities determined and develop programs that meet the program guidelines and requirements.

Given that there has been no further announcements of program reinstatements it is recommended that the City of Greater Sudbury Council resubmit the resolution #CC2013-394 passed on December 11, 2012 to Provincial Government requesting that the Ontario Provincial Government maintain the 2012 level of funding for homelessness programs and benefits and retain the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit with these changes reflected in the new CHPI funding allocation.