

Request for Decision

Emergency Shelter Funding

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Sep 16, 2013
Report Date	Thursday, Sep 05, 2013
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approve the transfer of \$194,000 for 2013 emergency shelter top up to the Ontario Works Reserve Fund committed to Emergency Shelter Programs, and;

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury authorize the Provincial and/or Federal funding available to the Social Services Division be utilized for the emergency shelter program for 2014 and potential future years given it is within the funding guidelines.

Finance Implications

If approved, the \$194,000 municipal contribution for 2013 Emergency Shelter Top Up will be transferred to the Ontario Works Reserve Fund and committed for Emergency Shelters in future years. Available Federal and/or Provincial funding will be included in the 2014 base budget and utilized for Emergency Shelters with no budget option required.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Gail Spencer
Coordinator of Shelters and Homelessness
Digitally Signed Sep 5, 13

Division Review

Luisa Valle
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Sep 5, 13

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Sep 5, 13

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Sep 9, 13

Background

The Social Services Division, Community Development Department of the City of Greater Sudbury is mandated by the Province of Ontario to provide Emergency Shelters. This has been achieved and is successful through partnerships with service providers in the community that provide emergency homelessness shelter programs.

The City of Greater Sudbury receives funding from Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government to support homelessness programs. The funding is used in a coordinated and strategic way to maximize the benefits to the citizens of Greater Sudbury. The financial support of the emergency shelter programs is a key component to the safety net provided to the community.

Emergency Shelter Programs

L'Association des jeunes de la rue has been operating Foyer Notre Dame for several years. This organization has provided an 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 people on a short term basis as well as provide support services to these individuals.

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

Provincial Housing and Homelessness 2013/2014 Funding

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 and ODSP Community Start Up and 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 Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)
- The additional funding was intended to support municipalities in transitioning to the new consolidated Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (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 through 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

Budget Option Request

Both L'Association des jeunes de la rue and The Salvation Army have put forward a request during the Public Input Session for operational top up funding for the Emergency Shelter Programs for the 2014 budget year.

Municipal operational top up funding has historically been provided to both The Salvation Army and L'Association des jeunes de la rue on an annual one-time basis through budget options. The operational top up is required to fill the gap for the emergency shelter program.

The budget option request for 2014 is for a total of \$610,000 with \$385,000 allocated to The Salvation Army and \$225,000 allocated to L'Association de jeunes de la rue - Foyer Notre Dame House.

The Province through MCSS has allowed an allocation from the Social Assistance Restructuring funding (SAR) to be applied to the Women and Families and the Female Youth Emergency Shelter programs.

Budget option - funding request	\$ 610,000
Less: Social Assistance Restructuring Fund (SAR)	<u>(310,000)</u>
Total Budget Option for 2014	<u>\$ 300,000</u>

2013 Budget Impact

During the 2013 budget deliberations the emergency shelter budget option was presented and approved by Council in the amount of \$194,000. With the late announcement of the Provincial one-time funding it was anticipated that this municipal contribution would still be needed for the 2013 year as there were many unknowns with the Provincial restructuring of homelessness programs and funding. In a review of these programs to date, it has been determined that the \$194,000 funding needed for emergency shelter programs can be funded through the one-time Provincial funding received rather than draw on the municipal contribution.

This will continue to support the emergency shelter program for the community and meets the objectives of the funding from MCSS.

As a result, it is recommended that \$194,000 allocated in 2013 for emergency shelter top up be transferred to the Ontario Works reserve committed to the emergency shelter program for future years.

2014 Budget Impact

Given that the one-time allocation received from the Province is intended to support the municipalities and the CHPI program from January 2013 to March 2014 the remaining funding available could be utilized to continue to support the emergency shelter program/budget option for 2014 as there is an expected surplus available in which would qualify for use for the Emergency Shelter program.

As a result the budget option request is amended as follows:

Budget option - funding request	\$ 610,000
Less: Social Assistance Restructuring Fund (SAR)	(310,000)
Less: Combination of Provincial, Federal One Time Funding	<u>(300,000)</u>
Total Budget Option for 2014	<u>\$ 00</u>

The Emergency Shelter Program have been delivered successfully by both The Salvation Army and L'Associations des jeunes de la rue for many years. The Social Services Division works closely with all the agencies in the community and has completed due diligence in ensuring that the mandated programs are available and delivered with excellence by the service providers through these partnerships.