

For Information Only

City of Greater Sudbury CHPI - Update

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Jul 08, 2013

Report Date: Friday, Jun 28, 2013

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

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Finance Implications

For 2013 and 2014, there is no financial impact as this CHPI program can be funded within existing budgets.

Background

This report is to provide an update on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). The year 2013 is considered to be a transitional year for program and policy development for the CHPI program.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a consolidation of five provincially funded homelessness programs:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Program
- Provincial rent bank
- Emergency Energy fund
- Emergency Hostel services
- Domically hostel

The consolidation of the five programs into one funding envelope took effect January 1st, 2013. As well, effective December 31st 2012, the Province eliminated the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) from social assistance benefits, which resulted in a significant funding gap for providing support to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness within our community. A one time investment from the Ministry of Community and Social Services for January 2013 to March 2014 has been provided to support communities as they transition to the CHPI program.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) has four broad service categories:

1. Emergency shelter solutions
2. Housing with related supports

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Division Review

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Recommended by the Department

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3. Other services and Supports
4. Homelessness Prevention

The vision of CHPI as set out by the Province is a better coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centered, outcome focused and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent reduce and address homelessness in communities across Ontario. This vision reflects the transition to a system that will shift the focus of services over time from reactive responses to homelessness to services that focus on more proactive and permanent solutions.

Communities have the opportunity to create solutions to address homelessness that are locally driven and partnership based.

Local Program

Upon release of the new CHPI guidelines from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, details were reviewed to determine the intent and the parameters of the program. The Province has established two key program outcomes for CHPI, which will measure performance and ensure accountability:

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

Utilizing the information available, staff analyzed how the five consolidated homelessness programs and Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) had been utilized in our community, as well as consulted with other municipalities to determine what the new program would focus on based on community needs. Planning took into account that the available funding was lower than previous amounts and that the client base expanded to include not only social assistance recipients both on Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) but also low income households.

As a result of the review, two key program areas were identified for the inception of this program:

1. Continuing to fund existing Emergency shelter programs
2. Support for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness that would incorporate elements of the previous CSUMB, Provincial rent bank, and Emergency Energy Fund, were identified as priorities for funding within the initial local CHPI program

Attached to this report are the current CHPI Guidelines, effective June 2013.

Community Agency Consultation

On June 17th, 2013 a community agency consultation was held to receive feedback and input from community partners on the guiding principles for allocation of CHPI funding. Members of the Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty (S-Cap) made a presentation at the consultation. Following the consultation a survey was sent electronically to community agency partners so that they could provide input into the community priorities and also provide feedback with regards to the eligible service categories. The information will be compiled and be reported back to Council in the fall and will also assist in the development of the CHPI policy.

Moving Forward

The year 2013 is a transitional year for developing guidelines and policy for the local CHPI program.

The CHPI program will continue to use the existing guidelines, including the exceptional circumstances provision until December 31, 2013, the end of the transition year. The financial forecast for 2013 indicates that there will be sufficient funding to continue with the assistance of the one time transitional

funding received from the Province .

Community development staff will review the input provided through the community agency consultation and subsequent survey, and will use this information to develop priorities for developing long term CHPI guidelines effective January 1, 2014.

Staff will return to Council in the fall with CHPI policy and guidelines effective January 1, 2014.

How to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through Social Services caseworkers for people in receipt of Ontario Works ✓ Through ODSP caseworkers for people in receipt of ODSP ✓ Through the Canadian Red Cross for persons with an income below the Household Income Limits (HILS) determined by the Provincial Government who are not in receipt of OW or ODSP benefits 												
Frequency	Once every 24 months												
Funding Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Last month's rent deposit 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 deposit for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family Size</th><th>Maximum Amount</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Singles/Couples (with no children or with dependent adults)</td><td>Up to \$800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Families with children under the age of 18</td><td>Up to \$1,500</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Providing 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 meet's their disability-related needs). <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Family Size</th><th>Maximum Amount</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Singles/Couples (with no children or with dependent adults)</td><td>Up to \$800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Families with children under the age of 18</td><td>Up to \$1,500</td></tr> </tbody> </table> 	Family Size	Maximum Amount	Singles/Couples (with no children or with dependent adults)	Up to \$800	Families with children under the age of 18	Up to \$1,500	Family Size	Maximum Amount	Singles/Couples (with no children or with dependent adults)	Up to \$800	Families with children under the age of 18	Up to \$1,500
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Documentation	Supporting documentation/verification is required												