

Request for Decision

Emergency Shelter Operational Top Up Request

Presented To:	City Council
Presented:	Wednesday, Sep 28, 2011
Report Date	Tuesday, Sep 20, 2011
Type:	Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT, the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury considers the one time funding for operational top up for the emergency shelter programs for homelessness in the amount of \$375,000 and directs staff to prepare a budget option during the 2012 budget deliberation.

Finance Implications

If approved, a budget option will be developed for the Finance Committee for the 2012 budget deliberations in the amount of \$375,000.

Budget option – funding request \$ 651,736 Less: Social Assistance Restructuring Funding (SAR) (276,736) Total Budget Consideration for 2012 \$ 375,000

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Coordinator of Shelters and
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Digitally Signed Sep 20, 11

Division Review

Luisa Valle
Director of Social Services
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Recommended by the Department

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Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
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Background

The Social Services Division, Community Development Department of the City of Greater Sudbury is mandated by the Province of Ontario to provide Emergency Shelter in our community. This has been achieved and is successful through partnerships with service providers in our 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 youth, in the community for several years and in June 2011 they added the operation of the male youth emergency shelter program. The Foyer Notre Dame House is a fully bilingual program designed to assist homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 19. 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 has been providing emergency shelter services for the adult Men's Hostel Program for many years and in 2007 expanded to include the Women's and Families Shelter Program. The Salvation Army provides emergency shelter services to assist homeless males and females over the age of 19 as well as homeless families. 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 our community.

Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released the Housing Policy Statement and supporting regulations to the *Housing Services Act, 2011* which will become effective January 1, 2012. The province's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy focuses on transforming the way housing and homelessness services are delivered in order to achieve better outcomes for people. Ontario Housing Policy Statement provides direction to service managers to guide the development of locally relevant housing and homelessness plans.

One of the key changes proposed in phase one of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy is consolidating provincially funded housing and homelessness programs in which the Emergency Hostels/Shelters funding will be affected.

To date, the Service Managers are still awaiting details on the consolidation of phase one programs. The Province has stated that they are committed to consulting key stakeholders prior to making any changes.

Additional Information

In June 2011 an email survey was submitted to other Ontario communities who have emergency shelter programs. Communities were asked how they fund their emergency shelter programs.

Fourteen (14) communities with emergency shelters responded to the survey. Information provided showed that communities utilize a combination of funding sources to meet the needs of their emergency shelters. The following is a summary of the responses:

- None of the communities are able to fund the emergency shelter program with only Provincial Per Diem funding
- 10 communities provide some municipal funding (71%)

- 6 communities use Provincial CHPP funding to provide some prevention supports and outreach services for the shelter (43%)
- 2 communities use Federal HPS funding to provide some prevention supports and outreach services for the shelter (14%)
- 4 communities emergency shelter service providers fundraise to support their program (29%)

In the City of Greater Sudbury, the Provincial CHPP funding is used to provide supports and outreach services through the Homelessness Network. Federal HPS funding is used to meet the priorities identified in the community plan such as the development of transitional housing.

A summary of the Emergency Shelter program costs and funding has been attached to this report.

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 2012 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 between the total operating costs of the program less the Provincial Per Diem funding received from the Province.

Costs for the Emergency Shelter Program have been historically shared by the Province Per Diem funding and Municipal operational top up funding. For the year 2012 the cost sharing formula is 82.8% Provincial and 17.2% Municipal and by the year 2018 will be funded 100% by the Province as the costs are being uploaded.

Provincial Per Diem is an amount set out by the Province and administered by the Social Services Division and is based on actual occupancy within the Emergency Shelter program. Currently, the Province provides \$47.90 per diem per day per person.

The budget option request for 2012 is for a total of \$651,736 with \$426,736 allocated to The Salvation Army and \$225,000 allocated to L'Association des jeunes de la rue - Foyer Notre Dame House.

The Province has allowed an allocation from the Social Assistance Restructuring funding to be applied to the Women and Families and the Female Youth Shelter programs for operational top up.

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

Budget option – funding request	\$ 651,736
Less: Social Assistance Restructuring Funding (SAR)	<u>(276,736)</u>
Total Budget Option for 2012	\$ 375,000

If any additional Provincial or Federal funding is subsequently received and/or available, the City's allocation could be reduced.

Recommendations

The Emergency Shelter programs have been delivered successfully by both The Salvation Army and L'association des jeunes de la rue for many years. Both agencies continue to seek alternate funding sources to maintain and improve their services. 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.

The Social Services Division is recommending that City Council consider a budget option for Operational Top up for the Emergency Shelter Program in the amount of \$375,000.

The Social Services Division is further recommending that the budget option be reflected as a one-time option for the 2012 budget, given that the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the requirements of the Housing Services Act, 2011 (Bill 140) coming into effect on January 1, 2012 will have an effect on the emergency shelter programs and funding of which are unknown to the Municipality.