

Summary of Covid-19 Updates from Social Services (Homelessness & Shelters)

DATE	DETAILS RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS & SHELTERS
APRIL 7, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL UPDATE</u>	Most Social Services (e.g. Ontario Works Program Delivery, Housing Operations and Registry) have been modified, in many cases because the facility that normally offers the services to the public (and is the traditional “workplace”) is closed to public access.
MAY 5, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL UPDATE</u>	<p><u>Emergency Shelters</u> Services for homeless and vulnerable populations were enhanced with the move of the Off the Street Low Barrier Shelter Program out of 200 Larch Street and into the first floor of a hotel to provide shelter users with access to beds that allow for physical distancing, washrooms, and showers. The shelter users continue to be supported by CMHA staff at this location. A Supportive Isolation Shelter exists at the same location to be able to provide 24-hour care for persons who are homeless and are being tested or are diagnosed with COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Washrooms, Showers, and Computer Access for Homeless and Vulnerable Persons</u> With funding provided by the City of Greater Sudbury and in collaboration with the Samaritan Centre and the YMCA, shower facilities, washrooms, and computer/internet services have been provided downtown</p>
JUNE 9, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL</u>	Some services have been enhanced in response to COVID-19 and additional resources have been allocated to maintain this level of service. For homeless and vulnerable populations, the Sudbury Arena has been opened as a daytime centre and the overnight shelter has been temporarily moved to a motel to allow for physical distancing.
JUNE 15, 2020 – <u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>	<p>Recognizing the immediate need for communities to mobilize in their response to providing services to the homeless population, both the Federal and Provincial government provided the City with additional funding envelopes to support the COVID response. Under the Federal Reaching Home Program, an additional \$320,575 was provided. Under the Provincial Social Services Relief Fund, an additional \$1,007,400 was also provided. Both levels of government have requested additional information regarding further funding needs for this response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blue Door Soup Kitchen and Elgin Street Mission, operating within the Samaritan Centre was provided funding in the amount of \$24,440 per month for take-out containers, staffing, and shower supplies to the end of June 2020. • The Sudbury Community Arena is open daily from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and again from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm to provide a safe area where people can eat their meals, use washrooms and

handwashing stations, and rest out of the elements, all while maintaining physical distancing.

- A water distribution unit has been ordered to be set up in front of the arena to provide access to fresh drinking water daily.
- Partnership with the YMCA at 140 Durham Street to open every day between noon and 5:00 pm., to provide additional access to a sitting area and washrooms, as well as access to phones and computers, so people can access the social and health services they require. Funding in the amount of \$19,600 per month has been provided for staffing.
- The Off the Street (OTS) Low Barrier Emergency Shelter, operated by Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA) extended the shelter hours from 8:00 am to 10:30 am to allow shelter users additional time for showers and washroom use. They are also providing a bagged breakfast.
- The OTS 200 Larch Street location was not able to provide sufficient physical distancing; as well there was a need to provide an option for 24-hour care for a person who was homeless and who was required to meet isolation requirements due to COVID testing or diagnosis. The OTS Program moved temporarily to a hotel location which included a shuttle service to transport users from downtown to the hotel in the evening and back to downtown in the morning.
- As a temporary solution for service to homeless youth aged 16 and 17, additional staff were added to the Community Outreach team within the Homelessness Network to provide outreach, diversion, and navigation support to youth

**JUNE 23, 2020 –
COUNCIL**

The Off the Street shelter, located at 200 Larch Street, has been temporarily moved to Regent Street in the former Cardinal Inn. Enhanced services are provided on the upper floor to serve as an isolation shelter as needed to support COVID testing. Funding received from the Federal and Provincial governments has been provided to service providers to ensure the vulnerable population continues to have access to food security and washrooms in the downtown core. Staff are working to support the Samaritan Centre and other drop-in sites to resume providing basic needs services while meeting Public Health recommendations. Additional funding through Federal and Provincial programs has been requested to sufficiently support the homelessness response to COVID-19. An Update on the Emergency Shelter was provided at Community Services on June 15.

**JULY 7, 2020 –
COUNCIL**

The Off the Street shelter located at 200 Larch Street, has been temporarily moved to Regent Street in the former Cardinal Inn. Enhanced services are provided on the upper floor to serve as an isolation shelter as needed to support COVID testing. Funding received from the Federal and Provincial governments has been provided to service providers to ensure the vulnerable population continues to have access to food security and washrooms in the downtown core. Staff are

	<p>working to support the Samaritan Centre and other drop-in sites to resume providing basic needs services while meeting Public Health recommendations. Additional funding through Federal and Provincial programs has been requested to sufficiently support the homelessness response to COVID-19.</p>
<p>JULY 7, 2020 – <u>FINANCE AND</u> <u>ADMINISTRATION</u></p>	<p>Expenditures for Social Services relating to Homelessness will total \$845,000. Of this, \$445,000 is incremental. These expenses are offset by additional provincial funds for this initiative. The Ontario Works Program is also being impacted by COVID-19. Due to the introduction of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), Social Services is experiencing less of an uptake in the Ontario Works Program. The CERB program has been extended to October, 2020, which may result in additional savings for Social Services. These savings are not incorporated into the year-end deficit as staff are still analyzing the financial impact.</p>
<p>AUGUST 12, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL</u></p>	<p>Off the Street shelter continues to operate at full capacity from the motel at 1500 Regent Street, Cedar Place Women and Families Shelter starting to see increased occupancy. Samaritan Centre agencies offering take-out meals, showers, clothing, and laundry. The Supportive Isolation Shelter closed on July 31, with alternatives in place for assistance. Sudbury Arena open daily for access to washrooms, drinking water, clothing, and dining. YMCA open daily for access to washrooms, phones, and computers.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL</u></p>	<p>Off the Street shelter continues to operate at full capacity from the motel at 1500 Regent Street. Cedar Place Women and Families Shelter starting to see increased occupancy. Samaritan Centre agencies offering take-out meals, showers, clothing, and laundry. The Supportive Isolation Shelter closed on July 31 with alternatives in place for assistance. Sudbury Arena open daily for access to washrooms, drinking water, clothing and dining.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 – <u>COUNCIL</u></p>	<p>Off the Street shelter continues to operate at full capacity from the motel at 1500 Regent Street. Cedar Place Women and Families Shelter starting to see increased occupancy. Samaritan Centre agencies offering take-out meals, showers, clothing, and laundry. The Supportive Isolation Shelter closed on July 31 with alternatives in place for assistance. Sudbury Arena open daily for access to washrooms, drinking water, clothing, and dining.</p>

**OCTOBER 6, 2020
– [COUNCIL](#)
(CARRIED OVER
TO OCTOBER 20
MEETING)**

Off the Street shelter has relocated to its permanent location at 200 Larch Street effective September 30, 2020. Dividers and pods have been installed for infection prevention. Sudbury Arena drop in closed September 30, and the new Homelessness Network Day Centre opened daily for access to warm shelter, washrooms, drinking water, Wi-Fi, and client navigator services. Increased outreach services added to address increase in people living unsheltered in the community.

**NOVEMBER 24,
2020 – [COUNCIL](#)
(CARRIED OVER
TO DECEMBER
15 MEETING)**

Off the Street shelter is operating at full capacity at the permanent location of 200 Larch Street with physical distancing barriers in place. Cedar Place Women and Families Shelter continue to provide emergency shelter for women and families. Samaritan Centre agencies offering take-out meals, showers, clothing, laundry, and resource centre. Homelessness Network Day drop in Centre opened on October 1 to provide access to daytime warming centre and supports. The Community outreach team continues to provide in-person supports to persons experiencing homelessness outdoors. The YMCA Warming Centre opened on November 16 with access to snacks, coffee, and shower services. Sudbury Action Centre for Youth preparing to open an overnight warming centre for youth aged 16 to 24 years with an additional four emergency shelter beds for youth.