
FOR THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**
TO BE HELD ON **MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021 AT 4:30 P.M.**
IN THE **COUNCIL CHAMBER OR VIA ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION,**
TOM DAVIES SQUARE

ADDENDUM (RESOLUTION PREPARED)

(Two-thirds Majority Required to Deal with the Addendum)

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

MANAGERS REPORT

- ADD-1 Report dated January 18, 2021 from the General Manager of Community Development regarding the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 Funding Proposal. 2 - 6
(RESOLUTION PREPARED)

(This report provides a recommendation regarding Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 Funding Proposal.)



Request for Decision Community Services

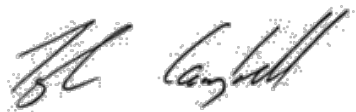
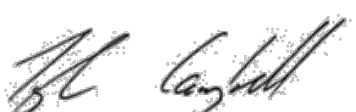


Type of Decision							
Meeting Date	January 18, 2021				Report Date	January 18, 2021	
Decision Requested	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	X	Open
							Closed

Report Title
Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 Funding Proposal

Budget Impact/Policy Implication		Resolution
X	This report has been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.	<p>THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the allocation of funds from the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as described in the report entitled "Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 Funding Proposal" from the General Manager of Community Development dated January 18, 2021.</p>
<p>The Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 is funded through the Province.</p>		
X	Background Attached	Resolution Continued

Recommended by the Department	Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Steve Jacques General Manager, Community Development	 Ed Archer Chief Administrative Officer

Report Prepared By	Division Review
 Tyler Campbell Director of Children and Social Services	 Tyler Campbell Director of Children and Social Services

Executive Summary

At the end of August 2020, the Province announced the availability of funds as part of a second phase of funding under the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). These funds are to provide additional assistance needed to meet ongoing needs as part of the continued COVID-19 response, including funding for those struggling to pay rent. Long-term housing solutions were also an identified priority and investments would be supported in this area to allow for greater resiliency for future pandemic waves and emergencies under this Phase 2 funding.

A business case proposal was submitted in September to the Ministry for consideration for this funding stream. The City of Greater Sudbury's (City) proposal was approved in the total amount of nearly \$2.1 million in two different funding letters received at the end of October and December 2020. Staff have been working with community partners over the past two months to finalize the approved projects which will need further approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Staff continue to work with the Ministry to look at extensions to the funding given the tight timelines of the funding agreements.

This funding will help to mitigate ongoing risks for vulnerable people, encourage long-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post-COVID-19, and enhance rent assistance provided to households in rent arrears due to COVID-19. This funding will be used in accordance with long-term housing and homelessness goals to ensure both temporary emergency shelter and transitional housing are available for youth in our community, with connection to supports and opportunities.

Background

The SSRF Phase 2 Program builds on the support delivered as part of the COVID-19 Action Plan to protect Vulnerable Ontarians.

A business case was required by the Province to assess Service Managers' proposed uses of SSRF Phase 2 funding in terms of eligibility under Program Guidelines and alignment with local needs in their respective communities. The business case process had less than 30 days for final submission, meaning that capital components were submitted based on best estimates by staff and community partners.

The SSRF Phase 2 Program Guidelines outlined three distinct objectives for the business case:

- 1) Mitigate the ongoing risk for vulnerable people, especially in congregate care settings,
- 2) Encourage longer-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post-COVID-19,
- 3) Enhance rent assistance provided to households in rent arrears due to COVID-19.

The Program has tight deadlines with all operating funds to be spent and capital funds committed by March 31, 2021.

Greater Sudbury Business Case Submission

The business case below was submitted in response to the letter received by the City in late October 2020, related to \$1.4 million in SSRF Phase 2 proposed funding. The four projects submitted are as follows:

1) Capital Funds - Youth Transitional Housing	To purchase and renovate an existing multi-residential building to create apartments for up to six youth to serve as transitional housing. Cost is based on a market review of the costs of local multi-residential properties. The estimate for this portion is approximately \$650,000
2) Capital Funds - Emergency Youth Shelter	To renovate space in the community for use as a permanent emergency shelter for youth aged 16 to 24 years. This allocation is intended to upgrade the units in a building in order to provide up to four emergency shelter beds for youth. The estimate for this portion is approximately \$250,000
3) Emergency Shelter - Minor Capital Renovations	To complete minor capital repairs to the community's two existing shelter facilities to support costs associated with infection prevention measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding agreements are in place with both the CMHA and Salvation Army and all renovations are anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2021. The estimate for this portion is approximately \$250,000
4) Rental Arrears	To fund rental and hydro arrears for individuals at risk of homelessness. Although lower utilization has been observed so far this year due to the closure of the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB), staff anticipate a wave of applications as eviction moratoriums are lifted. The estimate for this portion is approximately \$250,000

The original business plan contemplated two separate locations for the Youth Transitional Housing and Emergency Youth Shelter Programs; however, this option is no longer viable based on further review with community partners. Ongoing operating costs associated with capital projects funded through SSRF Phase 2 will be the responsibility of services managers. To create efficiency with operating costs, the intention is now to seek a location that can house both the transitional and emergency housing component, which is subject to Ministerial approval. The purchase is planned for the first quarter of 2021 with renovations to be completed by fall 2021. The funding for operating costs for emergency youth shelter beds is secured through the Provincial homelessness funding allocation.

It is proposed that the City will partner with the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY) to purchase, renovate, and operate this building. This organization was the only local agency to submit a proposal through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the operation of a youth emergency shelter issued in the fall of 2019. At that time, a lack of a facility prevented the program from moving forward.

Once the purchase of a suitable building is completed, the City will negotiate an operating agreement with SACY for a three year term with two option year renewals. The value of this agreement will be approximately \$700,000 per year. This agreement would be considered a Sole Source, since the result of the EOI process in 2019 confirmed SACY was the only interested organization that could meet the requirements of the project. In addition, SACY is a not-for-profit organization and applicable trade agreements would not apply to this purchased service.

Capital investment in transitional housing and shelters for youth aligns with recommendations of the Emergency Shelter Review, which was approved by Council. Proposed projects (1) and (2) fill a gap left with the closure of the Foyer Notre Dame Youth Shelter. Shelter staff will provide support to youth and connect them to permanent housing options; providing this vulnerable population better protection in the event of future pandemic waves. In addition, shelter staff will connect youth with other support services such as: social assistance, mental health and addictions, education, and employment.

Additional SSRF Funding

On December 15, 2020, the Province advised Sudbury's SSRF Phase 2 allocation was approved for additional amount of \$703,000. An investment plan has been submitted to allocate these funds to the increasing costs associated with continuing to provide for the basic needs of person(s) experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown measures, such as emergency shelters, overnight, and daytime warming centres.

Recommendation and Next Steps

To fulfill the funding requirements, staff are requesting Council's approval of the proposed allocation of the awarded funds, as described above, from the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 Funding provided through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Upon approval, staff will continue to work with the Ministry on approvals and flexibility of timelines and continue the work with community partners to implement the initiatives described above. Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the proposed initiatives in supporting our vulnerable population and provide updates to Council in a future report.

References

Emergency Shelter Review and Recommendation Report dated March 5, 2019, presented to Community Services Committee on March 1, 2019;
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=2&id=1351>

Emergency Shelter Review Update Information Report dated June 3, 2020, presented to Community Services Committee on June 15, 2020;
<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=3&id=1499>

COVID-19 – Action Plan: Protecting Vulnerable Ontarians
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-action-plan-protecting-vulnerable-ontarians>