

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury has been receiving funding as a designated community through the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy since 2011. The Federal Government has announced that the Reaching Home Program will replace the Homelessness Partnering Strategy on April 1, 2019. The City of Greater Sudbury, as the Community Entity, has been invited to submit an application for a new five-year funding agreement under the new Reaching Home Program.

As with the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, a Community Advisory Board (CAB) will continue to maintain their important advisory function under the Reaching Home Program by approving community plans at the local level, assessing and recommending projects for funding, and supporting community entities in the governing, planning and implementation of Reaching Home. The CAB is made up of members who are representative of the community including representatives from shelter providers, mental health and addictions, health, police, landlords, francophone and indigenous members.

The new funding allocation under the Reaching Home Program will include a \$44,895 increase over the present annual allocation for the first two years of the agreement, and another \$63,195 annually for the final three years. The allocation over the next five years from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2024 is as follows:

- 2019 - 2020 - \$384,179
- 2020 - 2021 - \$384,179
- 2021 - 2022 - \$447,374
- 2022 - 2023 - \$447,374
- 2023 - 2024 - \$447,374

The City of Greater Sudbury works with community stakeholders and service providers to provide programs that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness using priorities identified in the City of Greater Sudbury Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Reaching Home will require a Community Plan that will be aligned with the Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

City of Greater Sudbury Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan November 2013
<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=11106.pdf>

Coordinated Access System

It will be a requirement of the Reaching Home Program agreement that all designated communities have a coordinated access system in place by March 31, 2022. A coordinated access system is the process by which individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, are directed to community level access points where trained workers use a common assessment tool to evaluate

individual or family's depth of need, prioritize them for housing supports services, and then help to match them to available housing focused interventions.

With the support of the 20K Homes, administered by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and under the guidance of the Housing First Steering Committee, the City of Greater Sudbury and community service providers have already started the development of a local by name list and coordinated access system.

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=2&id=1261>

Data Collection and Outcomes

Under Reaching Home, communities will be required to shift to an outcomes based approach whereby communities will work towards, and report on, community wide outcomes, not just the results of federally funded projects. To measure progress towards community level outcomes, data will need to be coordinated across homelessness services providers. One of the key objectives for the coordinated access system is to improve data collection and quality. The community-level data will be used to assess outcomes and evaluate homelessness system performance, and over time will provide a better understanding of what is working well and where adjustments need to be made.

Designated communities will be required to use the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) or another Homelessness Management Information System for data collection. The City of Greater Sudbury has used HIFIS for emergency shelter data collection since 2008 and plans to move to the latest web-based version for improved service coordination and data management across the homelessness service system. In order to support communities in developing coordinated access, the Federal government will provide an additional amount of funding within the Reaching Home agreement for Community Capacity and Innovation Stream (CCI). The amount of funding is not yet known. CCI funds will be used to increase part time staffing hours to develop community wide data collection and outcome measures.

Transitional Measures

To ensure continuity of services as communities prepare for the changes introduced with Reaching Home, a one year transition period has been approved. Existing sub-projects can be renewed for up to one year using Reaching Home funds based on CAB recommendations.

The City of Greater Sudbury currently funds two sub-projects under the federal homelessness funding. At the CAB meeting on January 21, 2019, the CAB recommended that the City renew the funding agreements and/or continue to fund the two existing sub-projects from April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020.

1) Low Barrier Emergency Shelter program with Canadian Mental Health Association-Sudbury/Manitoulin (CMHA)

The low barrier emergency shelter program was awarded to the CMHA following a request for proposal process in October 2016. In August 2017, City Council approved a sole source five year agreement to the CMHA to operate the low barrier emergency shelter program. This program is funded with both Federal and Provincial homelessness funding.

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=5&id=1153>

2) Housing First Intensive Case Manager Program with Centre de Sante communautaire de Sudbury (CSC)

The Housing First Intensive Case Management Program was awarded to CSC following a request for proposal process in February 2017. The program is aligned with the Housing First program provided by the Homelessness Network under the lead agency CSC. A presentation and report to Council in January 2018 outlined the success of the Housing First program in the community.

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=2&id=1258>

Next Steps

On approval of the recommendations, the City will:

- Complete the funding agreement with the federal government
- Enter into a sub-project funding agreement with Centre de Sante communautaire de Sudbury for April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020
- Complete and submit the community plan
- Work with the CAB and community service providers to meet the requirements of the Reaching Home funding agreement.