

Background

Home For Good (HFG) is a homelessness focused Program funded by the Ministry of Housing (MHO) and delivered through local Service Managers in support of the Province's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. In 2017, the MHO invited Service Managers from across the Province to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) to define their supportive housing needs, to inform the Minister about the Service Manager's ability to deliver housing assistance and support services, and identify community partners to deliver supportive housing services.

Under HFG, funding is provided to Service Managers to assist recipients who fall within one or more of the provincial priority homelessness areas:

- Chronic homelessness;
- Youth homelessness;
- Indigenous homelessness; and
- Homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems (ie., hospitals and prisons).

Within the EOI, the MHO asked Service Managers to utilize pre-existing knowledge about the needs of the community, and were encouraged to work, where appropriate, with Ministry of Community and Social Services/Ministry of Child and Youth Services, Local Health Integration Networks and local community agencies, that provide supportive housing and homelessness related services when developing and implementing the Program. Under "partnerships and collaborations", applicants were required to describe and detail the partnerships and collaborations that would support their proposal; including providing the names of the key organizations that would partner to deliver the program/service. The EOI noted that robust partnerships, service integration, and wrap around services, are increasingly shown to have a positive impact, especially for individuals with complex needs.

To develop the HFG EOI, the City of Greater Sudbury's Housing and Social Services Divisions met with representatives from the North East Local Health Integration Network, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Health Sciences North, and Centre de Santé Communautaire de Sudbury (CSC). These partners had existing collaborations and funding agreements for the provision of services to persons experiencing chronic homelessness including the Housing First Program, the Off the Street Low Barrier Emergency Shelter Program, and the Managed Alcohol Program (MAP). An EOI was developed to address the identified gaps to this system of support including capital funds to create a residential MAP, supportive housing for persons with high needs transitioning from the MAP, emergency shelters and hospitals, and housing allowances connected to the Housing First program. All requests for capital funds were required to have a request for operational funds.

CSC has an existing funding agreement with the City of Greater Sudbury (City) to operate a Housing First Program. CSC has partnered with five other community agencies to provide this Program and call themselves the Homelessness Network. Included in the HFG EOI was 20 housing allowances that was requested to be attached to the Housing First Program, along with a Housing System Navigator position. The EOI stated that operational funding for tenancy support is requested to hire one full-time Housing System Navigator to assist clients of the Homelessness Network in navigating the housing system, transition to permanent housing, maintaining rental tenancy, including providing information about rights and responsibilities, landlord/tenant relations and orientations, and information about how to be a good neighbour, and crisis intervention/eviction prevention.

The City was successful in its proposal for funding under HFG. A report was brought to Council on October 17, 2017, identifying the steps required by the Ministry of Housing.

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=19&id=1135>

Given that the CSC has an existing funding agreement with the City to provide a Housing First Program, and that a Housing System Navigator position attached to the Housing First Program was requested and approved through the HFG EOI; it is recommended that the General Manager of Community Development be authorized to enter into a sole source agreement with the CSC for Housing System Navigator services as funded through the Provincial Home For Good Program.

Next Steps

Further reports of the outcomes from this Program will be brought to the Community Services Committee as part of the annual report on the Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.