

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) receives funding through the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to address local priorities and better meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in their local communities.

The Province has recently communicated that CGS will receive an increased allocation of funds for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020.

Funding allocations from April 1st, 2013 to March 31st, 2020 are as follows:

- 2013/2014 allocation- \$2,622,528
- 2014/2015 allocation- \$2,671,375
- 2015/2016 allocation- \$2,671,400
- 2016/2017 allocation- \$2,671,400
- 2017/2018 allocation- \$2,800,703 (\$129,303 increase over 2016/2017 allocation)
- 2018/2019 allocation- \$2,930,117 (\$129,414 increase over 2017/2018 allocation)
- 2019/2020 allocation- \$3,059,602 (\$129,485 increase over 2018/2019 allocation)

History

In 2013, the Province consolidated five separate housing and homelessness funding programs into one program called the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). The consolidation of these programs allowed communities greater flexibility to address local priorities and better meet local needs. At the same time the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) was removed from the social assistance program.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) has four broad service categories

1. Emergency Shelter Solutions
2. Housing with related supports
3. Other services and supports
4. Homelessness Prevention

The vision of CHPI as set out by the Province is a coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centered outcome focused, and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce and address homelessness in communities across Ontario. This vision reflects the transition to a system that will shift the focus of services over time from reactive responses to homelessness to services that focus on more proactive and permanent solutions.

Communities have the opportunity to create solutions to address homelessness that are locally driven and partnership based.

Local CHPI Program

CGS utilizes this funding in coordination with Federal and Municipal funding to maintain existing service levels and address local priorities for meeting the needs of individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Examples of programs funded within our community include emergency shelter programs, the Extreme Cold Weather Alert Program, and the local CHPI fund which provides low income households with rental and utility arrears, last month rent deposits and utility deposits. Local priorities are identified within the CGS Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&attachment=11106.pdf>

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Under the Emergency Shelter Solutions category, the following programs are funded:

- 22 emergency shelter beds for men aged 20 and over through the Salvation Army, located at the New Life Centre, 146 Larch Street Sudbury.
- 26 emergency shelter beds for single women over the age of 19, and families with children through the Salvation Army, located at Cedar Place, 261 Cedar Street Sudbury.
- 16 emergency shelter beds for youth aged 16 to 19 years through L'association des jeunes de la rue, located at Foyer Notre Dame, 307 Cedar Street, Sudbury.
- 30 additional cots through the Off The Street Emergency Shelter Program, operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association and located at 200 Larch Street Sudbury.

Homelessness Prevention

The local CHPI homelessness prevention program provides assistance for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with:

- ▶ Payment of rental arrears to prevent eviction
- ▶ Payment of last month's rent deposit to become housed
- ▶ Payment of utility arrears and/or connection fees for persons facing utility disconnection
- ▶ Funding for household items under exceptional circumstances

Funding amounts and the application process are consistent with the previous CSUMB Program. The Program is accessed through the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program office for people in receipt of social assistance, and through the Canadian Red Cross for people with low income.

Financial Planning for Increased Funding Allocation

As part of the Province's efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2025 and the long-term goal to end homelessness, the government is introducing a requirement to conduct local enumeration (counts) of people experiencing homelessness, which will be occurring in early 2018. Homeless enumeration will help Service Managers and the Province better understand the scale and nature of homelessness across Ontario, as well as informs current and future policy development and program design. At the time of writing an RFP had closed and required internal evaluation to conduct the Homeless enumeration.

It is recommended that the \$129,303 be used to fund the Homeless Enumeration Point in Time Count in 2018, which is mandated by the Province. The balance of the CHPI funding will be reviewed to provide flexibility that better meet individual's needs to maintain permanent housing. Social Services will also be conducting a review of budget allocations for shelter programs to assess current funding levels which have not changed in several years.

Next Steps

Since the inception of the CHPI program in 2013, funds have been used to maintain existing service levels within emergency shelter programs and a homelessness prevention program modelled after the previous Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB). The review of CHPI funding will be brought back to the Community Services Committee in the first quarter of 2018 with findings and recommendations for the CHPI increases for future years.