



Chair's Budget Overview

Social Services Committee (Housing, Long Term Care, Social Services)

Introductory Remarks

The Social Services Committee is responsible for overseeing the budgets of the Housing, Long Term Care and the Social Services departments.

The overall net budget of operating and capital combined totals \$16,676,199 which requires a net levy increase of \$121,926 or a 0.74% increase over the 2015 budget. This reflects a 0.24% increase to the corporate net levy requirement for 2016. The following is a summary and synopsis of the Housing, Long Term Care and Social Services departmental budgets.

The budgets have been drafted in recognition of the [Grey County Approved Corporate Strategic Plan 2012-2015](#)

Housing Department

The 2016 Housing Department Budget includes the operating and capital budgets for Grey County Housing, Non Profit Housing and the Investment in Affordable Housing Program.

Grey County owns 888 housing units, located in 10 different communities and 32 separate housing sites in Grey County. Housing staff are responsible to manage the operational and capital repair costs to maintain these units.

Non-Profit Housing represents 533 social housing units with 10 different housing providers. Subsidies are provided by the County to assist the providers with their rent geared to income subsidies for tenants, mortgage costs and with operational costs that would allow them to operate on a not for profit basis. Subsidies for the Non-Profit Housing Providers are determined by provincial legislation.

The Investment in Affordable Housing Program is 100% funded from the Province. A total allocation of \$908,000 was received for 2016. The IAH program provides funding for the Rent Supplement, Ontario Renovates, Homeownership and Rental Housing Build programs.

The overall net budget for Housing operating and capital combined totals is \$6,925,576 and requires a net levy increase of \$358,624 or a 5.46% increase over the

2015 budget. This reflects a 0.69% increase to the corporate net levy requirement for 2016.

Grey County Housing Operating Budget

The proposed operating budget for Grey County Housing reflects a net levy increase of \$247,102.

- The 2016 budget lines for wages and benefits reflect a 2% wage increase, The housing department has 10 employees in new positions or new to Grey County that are moving on the grid in 2016.
- Estimated hydro costs are a \$27,360 increase over the 2015 budget and the cost of testing and maintenance of our emergency life safety systems has increased \$9,300 for 2016 as carbon monoxide detectors are now mandatory for all of our buildings and family units as of the fall 2015.
- Computer maintenance and support line has the addition of a one-time investment in an information system for social housing in Ontario. The initial cost to purchase the software is approximately \$27,620. The province is suggesting there will be a 50% to 100% rebate for smaller service managers but no details are available at this time; as a result, if funds are not received from the province the cost has been shown as funded from the One Time Funding Reserve.
- It is anticipated there will be an estimated decrease in tenant revenue again for 2016 of about \$27,700. This is a provincial trend and represents a changing profile of our tenants. The County of Grey will also receive \$170,079 less in federal funding. Federal funding is provided to offset the cost of social housing and non profit housing. Federal funding is expected to continue to decrease as most of the social housing portion of the funding is provided to cover the cost of debenture payments on properties.

Grey County Housing Capital

The proposed capital budget for 2015 has an increase of \$59,695 over the 2015 budget. Capital projects over the next few years will focus on energy efficiencies and savings where possible. There are a number of programs available until 2018 for social housing units through Ecofit and other rebate programs.

Projects include a two year project at 305 14th Street West, Owen Sound for roof repairs and the recladding of the brick on all sides of the building, a regeneration scan of 172 family units included in the budget for consulting fees, window replacements, air make up system replacements and water treatment plant upgrade and pipe replacement to meet legislative requirements.

A reoccurring line for bath and kitchen replacements at our family housing has been moved from general repairs in the operating budget to capital. At move out a number

of our units are in need of rebuilds of the kitchen and bathroom due to the age of the buildings and that some families have lived in the units for more than 20 years.

Non Profit Housing

The 2016 Non Profit Housing budget has a proposed increase of \$51,203. The non profit budget consists of funds provided from the County of Grey to meet the legislative requirements from the Province for the operating and capital needs of these housing providers. The Province determines annual increases for the non profit housing providers in areas such as administration, insurance, utilities and rent subsidies. Non profit providers have also experienced similar decreases in rent revenues which increases the amount of subsidy needed to meet their operating costs.

Non Profit Increases for 2016

Operating Cost	% Increase for 2016
Administration	1.0%
Insurance	14.7%
Electricity	7.2%
Water	6.6%
Gas	-16.8%
Capital Reserve	1.0%

Investment in Affordable Housing Program

The Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) Program is 100% funded by the Province. A total allocation of \$908,000 was received for 2016. The IAH program provides funding for the Rent Supplement, Homeownership, Ontario Renovates and Affordable Housing Build Program and five percent of the allocation for administration.

The following table identifies key initiatives that link to the Corporate Strategic Plan and the overall operating and capital budget

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives related to actions within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
Goal 1 - Expanding the Prosperity Base	To develop a long term strategy to sustain and support existing Grey County Housing through capital and operating planning. Implementing recommendations of Building Condition Assessments, the 39 recommendations from the service review, establish a formal preventative maintenance program and the replacement of original kitchens and bathrooms. Improve lighting, security systems and provide free internet for Alpha Street homes.	\$59,695 increase in capital funding over 2015 budget \$100,000 for a reoccurring line for bath and kitchen replacements at family housing units No Levy Impact (\$908,000 in IAH)
Goal 2 -		

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives related to actions within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
Enabling Healthy and Resilient Communities	<p>To support the implementation of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan to develop a coordinated system of services in our communities to obtain, maintain and sustain safe, appropriate and affordable housing.</p> <p>Implement Homeownership, Ontario Renovates and Rent Supplement Programs for the IAH Extension.</p> <p>Issue Expression of Interest in Spring 2016 for new affordable housing funding offered by MMAH.</p>	funding, 100% Provincial Funding)
Goal 6 - Achieving Excellence in Governance and Customer Service	One-time investment in an information system for social housing in Ontario.	\$27,620 from One Time Funding reserve (potential 50% provincial funding)

Long Term Care Department

The overall net Long Term Care budget, of operating and capital combined, totals \$5,772,828 and requires a net levy decrease of \$3,826.

Funding

The Long Term Care budget consists of four funding envelopes that make up the base funding level:

- Other Accommodation,
- Raw Food,
- Nursing and Personal Care,
- Program and Support Services.

Annual base funding increases have historically been received each year. In previous years, the base funding level at the time of budget preparation was used and any unbudgeted increases were used to offset unexpected financial pressures that occurred during the year. New in the 2016 proposed budget is a 2% increase in anticipation of an increase in base Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funding.

In addition to base funding, homes receive an annual acuity funding adjustment for the Nursing and Personal Care envelope. The 2016 notification of acuity funding, for the period of Apr 1/16 - March 31/17, is anticipated prior to the end of the first quarter of 2016.

Expenditures

Staffing

Wages and benefits are approximately 83% of total expenditures and therefore have the biggest impact on the budget. The upcoming year is a leap year which accounts for an additional \$45,000 in wages and benefits across the three homes. This expense is offset by base funding for the added day. Another increase in the wage and benefit lines is for modified duties which have been increased over previous budget years to be more reflective of actual costs experienced by the homes.

Collectively, the homes employ more than 450 full and part-time staff and four different collective agreements represent the unionized staff in the homes. The collective agreement with the Ontario Nurses Association, representing the Registered Nurses, expires in March 2016.

Raw Food

The Ministry provides \$8.03 per resident day (PRD) for raw food and an additional \$0.12 for high cost supplies such as enteral feeds. Grey County has traditionally supplemented the raw food budget by providing an additional \$0.08 PRD. Rising food costs in conjunction with increasing resident acuity and care needs continue to add pressure to this budget line. The 2016 proposed budget includes an additional \$0.10 PRD resulting in an increase of \$11,566 in the Raw Food budget for the three homes.

Other Expenditures

Supply lines have generally been set using the 2015 year to date actuals and projected expenditures. Capital projects have been budgeted based on life cycle replacement and the building condition assessment.

Highlights

Grey Gables- The Grey Gables operating and capital budget has a net levy increase of \$51,361 including:

- Increase of \$10,000 for legal fees
- Increase in medical supplies of \$2,000
- Increase of \$2,500 for equipment and furniture (office, dietary, maintenance)
- Increase of \$1,000 to add additional major equipment to the generator.

Lee Manor

The Lee Manor operating and capital budget has a net levy decrease of \$93,561. To better meet the spiritual needs of residents, the home is proposing an increase in Chaplaincy Services. The introduction of a consistent Chaplain will support the residents and staff when dealing with dynamic issues such as loss, grief and spiritual struggles. The Chaplain will complement current religious services, the social work program and provide support to residents' spiritual and emotional being. The proposed Program and Support Services budget includes a reduction in several current expense lines with a net proposed increase of \$4,500 to support the addition of a Chaplain.

Rockwood Terrace

The Rockwood Terrace operating and capital budget has a net levy increase of \$38,374.

On two visits, during 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care cited Rockwood Terrace for environment deficiencies involving general maintenance programs. The home is requesting an additional 8 hours per week (416 hours annually) to supplement current staffing levels to support general and preventative maintenance activities, at a cost of approximately \$14,000 including benefits. These hours are necessary to meet the environmental requirements set out in the legislation governing the homes.

The following table identifies key initiatives that link to the Corporate Strategic Plan and the overall operating and capital budget.

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives Related to Actions Within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
Goal 1 – Expanding the Prosperity Base Goal 2 - Enabling Healthy and Resilient Communities	<u>Rockwood Terrace- Redevelopment</u> The renovation of Lee Manor was financed through the issue of two debentures; the first totaled \$746,690 and ended in 2014. These funds have been shown as a transfer to reserve in the Rockwood Terrace budget (Capital: Building/Renovations). The intent of the transfer to reserve is to establish funding to pay the County portion of the redevelopment and minimize any impact to the levy requirement.	\$746,690 shown as a transfer to reserve
Goal 5 – Listening and Working Together	Lee Manor- Chaplain Resident Quality of Life Surveys indicate religious and spiritual services as one of the favourite activities and something that residents would enjoy more frequently.	\$4,500
Goal 6 - Achieving Excellence in Governance and	Rockwood Terrace- Increase in Maintenance Hours Grey Gables- Increase in some operating lines to sustain operational needs, replace aging equipment	\$14,000 \$51,000

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives Related to Actions Within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
Service	and support an increase in resident acuity	

Social Services Department

The Social Services department encompasses Social Assistance, Community Homelessness Prevention Program, Ontario Works Administration and Employment Assistance and Child Care Budgets. The overall net budget for 2016, including operating and capital combined totals \$3,977,795 and requires a net levy decrease of \$232,872 or a 5.53% decrease from the 2015 budget. This reflects a 0.45% decrease to the corporate net levy requirement for 2016. As in past years, the 2016 Social Services budget contains a transfer from the Caseload Reserve to assist with the increasing costs of Social Assistance. The amount of the transfer from reserve is reduced from \$200,000 in 2015 to \$133,000 in the 2016 budget and will be phased out by 2018 when the cost of Social Assistance is fully uploaded by the province.

In 2016, the provincial funding for Social Assistance, Employment Support and the Van Program will increase from 91.4% to 94.2%. This funding increase has resulted in estimated savings in the 2016 budget of \$384,110.

The Social Assistance portion of the budget provides a variety of supports to enable recipients to become self-sufficient through employment. This budget shows a net levy decrease of \$308,195 for 2016 and contains an estimated \$349,832 in upload savings as a result of the increased provincial funding. The caseload is expected to continue to increase in 2016, however there is no caseload increase incorporated into the 2016 budget. If an increasing caseload results in a deficit in 2016; the shortfall will be funded from the Caseload Reserve. An average cost per case increase of 4.8% for Basic Needs and 1% for Shelter has been included in the 2016 budget and is mandated by the province.

A 1.7% rate increase for funeral services has been added which is based on the average increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Ontario for the period of August 2014 to July 2015.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) addresses housing and homelessness related needs and is a 100% provincially funded program. The Domiciliary Hostel expense includes a 1% Personal Needs Allowance rate increase which is mandated by the province. It also includes a 1.7% per diem rate increase based on the average CPI increase.

The Administration portion of the budget encompasses the costs associated with delivering the Ontario Works Income Support Program and includes the salaries and benefits for staff delivering the income support function as well as office costs such as rent, office supplies, insurance etc. This program is cost shared 50% with the

province and shows a net levy increase of \$29,700. The 2016 budget includes a 2% salary increase for staff as well as \$66,797 in gross costs for one FTE Contract Caseworker and \$31,826 for a .5 FTE Contract Financial position to assist with the additional workload created by problems with the Social Assistance Management System software (SAMS). There has been no further 100% SAMS related funding to assist with these challenges and the salary costs for the contract positions will be funded 50% by the province through the regular administration funding with the remaining costs being funded from the Caseload Reserve.

The Ontario Works Employment Support budget includes costs associated with the delivery of employment services. The 2016 provincial cost share funding in this budget is increasing from 91.4% to 94.2%.

The increased provincial funding will result in an estimated \$29,762 savings in the Employment Support budget and this budget contains a net levy decrease of \$32,677, including a 2% salary increase for staff. \$1,224,204 of the budgeted expenses in the combined Employment Support and Van Program budgets are provincially cost shared at 94.2% with the remaining expenses being funded at 50%. Employment support programs facilitate participants' efforts to become job-ready and to obtain and maintain long term sustainable employment.

Professional and Consulting fees for Ontario Works Assessment costs are increased by \$10,000 in the 2016 budget. These assessments help to determine clients' employability and the need for these assessments continues to increase.

The total 2016 Child Care Operating budget has a net levy increase of \$10,447. These budgets contain funding from the Ministry of Youth and Children Services and the Ministry of Education and the increase occurs in the Early Child Development Planning and Ontario Early Years and Literacy budgets which contain 100% municipal contributions. The remaining child care budgets contain only the required municipal cost share contribution totaling \$978,433.

The County receives provincial funding from the Ministry of Education in the form of cost shared 80/20 funding, 50/50 funding and 100% provincial funding with the freedom to flex the 80/20 and 100% funding among child care programs as needed. In 2016, the General Operating Grant will be funded with 100% provincial funding. This change will require the shifting of 100% and 80% funding within Private Home Day Care, Purchase of Service and Special Needs Resourcing in order to maintain consistency with the type of funding and cost sharing within each of the budgets. The shifting of funding is contributing towards a \$67,559 net levy decrease in the Private Home Day Care budget and net levy increases of \$21,873 in Purchase of Service and \$45,686 in Specialized Child Care. The combined effect on the net levy due to the changes within these three budgets is zero.

The total funding allocation received from the Ministry of Education increased by \$203,000 in 100% provincial funding in 2015. Confirmation of the 2016 funding allocation will not be received until later this year but it's expected that the 2015 level of funding will be maintained in 2016. As a result of the increased funding, the amount of mitigation funding contained in the 2016 operating budget has decreased from \$204,380 in the 2015 budget to \$149,737 in the 2016 budget.

The 2016 Private Home Day Care budget is showing a net levy decrease of \$67,559. The gross expenditures in this budget have decreased by \$33,522 due to lower fee subsidy costs under Purchased Service and Special Needs Children. In addition to these decreased expenses, the General Operating Grant portion of this budget is now being funded with 100% provincial subsidy rather than the 80% subsidy used in 2015 which is decreasing the County's cost share in this specific budget and is contributing to the decreased net levy. This decrease caused by the shifting of funding is offset by the net levy increase in the Purchase of Service and Specialized Child Care budgets.

The Child Care Administration budget contains a 2% salary increase for staff and this budget is funded with 50/50 cost shared funding along with 100% provincial funding. The administration budget also contains \$149,737 in mitigation funding which will fund the \$75,000 cost of the OneHSN web program, \$20,000 Children Services Review, \$5,000 Child Care Service Plan update as well as \$49,737 of unfunded expenses. The use of mitigation funding is intended to eliminate any 100% municipal contributions resulting from the change in the child care formula that occurred in 2013.

The 2016 Health and Safety budget includes a total of \$47,417 in 100% provincial funding which is allocated to Child Care Operators to assist with necessary repairs and maintenance. Also included is \$12,815 for Small Waterworks which is used for rural child care centre water quality monitoring.

The Early Child Development Planning budget contains expenses to fund the cost of meetings and policy implementation in relation to Early Learning and Child Development and also to work with Aboriginal partners to deliver integrated services for Aboriginal children and families. The province provides 100% provincial funding with no required municipal contribution; however, the provincial funding is not adequate to cover all of the expenditures. A transfer from the Best Start Reserve of \$7,500 is included to fund a portion of the \$10,400 costs associated with the Let's Grow and Quality Assurance committees but a net levy of \$13,287 remains for this budget which is an increase of \$3,319 over the 2015 net levy.

The Ontario Early Years and Literacy budget supports services and programs for children aged six and under and contains 100% municipal contribution due to insufficient provincial funding. As in previous years, a transfer from the Early Years Reserve is included in this budget to assist with payments to organizations for Ontario Early Years programs. This transfer has been reduced from \$12,000 in 2015 to

\$10,366 in 2016 which will deplete this reserve balance to zero. A 2016 net levy of \$138,161 remains after funding, which is a \$7,128 increase over the 2015 net levy.

The Purchase of Service budget is provincially funded at 80% and contains Child Care Fee Subsidy expenses for Non Profit and For Profit Child Care Operators and Ontario Works Formal and Informal Child Care. The net levy increase of \$21,873 is a result of increased fee subsidy costs and the addition of ten subsidized spaces for 2016.

The Capacity Building and Transformation budgets are funded using 100% provincial funding with no municipal contribution or net levy impact. Capacity Building funding assists Child Care Operators to provide training for their staff which will result in increased license capacity. Transformation funding provides support for Non Profit Operators as they transition to care for younger age groups as a result of the Early Learning Program with the 3.8 and 4 year olds entering kindergarten. There is no change in the net levy for the Play Based Materials budget as expenses are maintained at the 2015 level for materials and equipment required to promote children's exploration and learning.

The General Operating Grant budget is 100% provincially funded and contains no net levy. The former Wage Subsidy and Wage Improvement expenses and funding contained in this budget are being replaced by the General Operating Grant in 2016. The purpose of this grant is to assist Child Care Operators with operating costs such as wages, occupancy costs, utilities, supplies and maintenance. This budget also contains pay equity funding associated with the memorandum of settlement which is mandated by the province and 100% provincially funded.

The Specialized Child Care budget contains 80% provincial funding for staffing, equipment and supplies for children with special needs. The 2015 gross expenditure level is being maintained for the 2016 budget, however, with the shifting of 100% provincial funding from this budget to the Private Home Day Care budget for General Operating expenses, a net levy increase of \$45,686 has resulted in Specialized Child Care. This increase is fully offset by the net levy decrease in the Private Home Day Care budget.

The new Wage Enhancement budget contains \$537,064 in 100% provincial funding intended to increase child care wages in an effort to close the current wage gap between Early Childhood Educators employed in kindergarten programs within the schools and the Child Care Professionals employed in licensed Child Care Centres and Private Home Day Care settings. This budget also contains \$31,826 of 100% provincial Wage Enhancement Administration funding to fund a .5 FTE Contract Financial position to assist with the additional workload of the Wage Enhancement application and funding process. A total of \$53,706 of one time administration funding was received in 2015 for this purpose and may be retained by the County and used as needed in order to ensure a smooth implementation of this program.

The County Social Initiatives budget contains items that are not funded by provincial subsidy and have been approved in the past using 100% municipal dollars. 2015 expenses are maintained in this budget along with an additional \$3,000 cost to assist 211 with the upgrade of their Resource Website. This website provides an integrated resource containing Grey/Bruce service information and is accessed by the public as well as professionals assisting their clients in need.

Funding from the Best Start Reserve has been included in this budget in the past and this funding was decreased by \$10,000 in the 2015 budget. With the declining balance in this reserve, an annual decrease in this funding is intended to lessen the impact on the net levy in the year that the Best Start Reserve is no longer available. The 2016 budget contains a further decrease of \$3,000 from \$30,000 in 2015 to \$27,000 in 2016.

The net levy increase of \$6,000 in the County Social Initiatives budget is a result of the reduced funding from Best Start Reserve and the \$3,000 one-time assistance with the 211 Resource Website upgrade.

Van transportation is provided to clients to address the transportation issues within our rural community. The vans transport participants to their Community Placements or other educational and training workshops, as well as to job interviews etc. This budget is funded with a portion of the 94.2% Employment Support subsidy because it falls within the guidelines for Ontario Works funding. However, this is a program that the County of Grey has made the decision to operate and is not mandated by the province. With the increased provincial funding along with decreased expenses in the Vehicle Operations and Interfunctional Vehicle Lease expenses, this budget has a net levy decrease of \$5,147 for 2016.

The Rural and Community Transportation budget contains expenses relating to the coordinated transportation project. The Grey County Rural Transportation Collaborative program was initiated in 2015 and is being funded from the Caseload Reserve. This project includes \$50,000 in expenses for the Phase 2 Formalization of the implementation plan as recommended in the Transportation Study completed by Lough Barnes Consulting Group. Expenses include costs associated with formalizing the participation of the service providers and defining standard operating procedures.

The County is receiving funding under the Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program for expenses associated with the planning and implementation of the coordinated community transportation project. Total funding is \$99,790 and eligible costs include expenses such as legal, technology, training, equipment and consulting fees associated with the development and implementation of the coordinated transportation program.

The Social Services Administration Capital budget includes costs for computer related hardware replacement and is funded from the Computer Replacement Reserve.

The Child Care Capital budget contains \$41,272 of 100% provincial funding to assist Child Care Operators with the transition to Full Day Learning Program.

Also contained in this capital budget is \$34,470 in expenditures funded from the Ontario Early Years Capital Reserve for the replacement of the retaining walls and asphalt play area at the rear of the building.

As in the 2015 budget, a transfer to reserve of \$25,000 as a contribution towards future accessibility related renovation costs for the Ontario Early Years Centre is included. In addition, the annual transfer of \$18,600 to the OEYC Capital Reserve will assist with future capital projects at the centre. In total, there is no net levy increase from the 2015 Capital budget.

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives related to actions within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
Goal 2 - Enabling healthy and Resilient Communities	<p>Grey Bruce Crystal Meth Task Force-the budget allocation to this entity meets this goal by continuing to invest in long term strategies that seek to reduce substance and alcohol abuse, and that promote healthy living and physical activity amongst County residents.</p> <p>Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force-the budget allocation meets this goal by investing in long term collaborative strategies to mitigate poverty in Grey County</p> <p>Social Services, Planning and Transportation Services working collaboratively for a coordinated transportation service leads to improved access to health care services for residents with limited or no transportation options. Continuing with 2014 Consultant Report's recommendations and Approved Pilot Project through Min of Transportation to coordinate service.</p>	<p>No Levy Impact compared to the 2015 budget</p> <p>No Levy Impact compared to the 2015 budget</p> <p>No Levy Impact (costs allocated from \$99,790 Grant from Ministry of Transportation and \$50,000 from the Caseload Reserve)</p>
Goal 5 - Listening and Working Together	Social Services Satellites, OEYC, Hubs and Itinerant Service Locations—by collaborating with the public, stakeholders and other governments to improve County services, this goal is achieved. Services that were difficult to access have been brought to	Decreased Levy Impact due to increased provincial funding (Levy requirement

Strategic Goal	Key Initiatives related to actions within the Corporate Strategic Plan	Key Budget Implications
	communities by both Ontario Works and Children's Services through the help of key partnerships. 2016 implementation of OneHSN program to connect childcare resources and access for families.	compared to 2015 Budget)
Goal 6 - Achieving Excellence in Governance and Service	Social Initiative program costs such as Getting Ahead Workshops, baby bags, and special testing meets this goal by ensuring that County services and programs are inclusive, accessible and reflective of the diversity of the population.	No Levy Impact compared to the 2015 budget

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Burley
Chair, Social Services Committee