

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	June 24, 2021
Subject / Report No:	FR-CW-18-21
Title:	COVID Relief Funding Update
Prepared by:	Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	none
Status:	Adopted as presented by Committee of the Whole through Resolution CW106-21; Endorsed by County Council CC53-21

Recommendation

1. That Report FR-CW-18-21 regarding COVID-19 Relief Funding Update be received for information.

Executive Summary

The Federal and Provincial Government has provided various funding programs to provide assistance to municipalities in order to respond to COVID-19 costs and pressures. This report discusses the funding utilized in 2020 as well as announced for 2021. Departmental staff, Finance and Human Resources continue to work through the various funding announcements to maximize use of funding and complete reporting requirements. When ministry reconciliations are completed, unspent funds will be recovered.

Background and Discussion

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our residents, staff, operations and community over the past 15 months and the Federal and Provincial governments have responded with funding streams to assist with offsetting costs. This report discusses the funding streams that have been provided.

COVID-19 Temporary Pandemic Pay

On April 25, 2020, the Province announced the COVID-19: Temporary Pandemic Pay initiative, aimed at helping frontline staff who are experiencing severe challenges and are at a heightened risk during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Temporary Pandemic Pay provided an additional \$4 per hour for eligible front-line workers, effective for 16 weeks from April 24, 2020 to August 13, 2020. Eligible workers who worked at least 100 hours in a designated 4-week period received an additional lump sum payment of \$250 per 4-week period, for a possible total of \$1,000 over

the 16-week period.

The following table details the temporary pandemic pay announced allocations and the amount of funding that had been utilized.

2020 Temporary Pandemic Pay – Funding and Expenditures

Department	Temporary Pandemic Pay	
	Funding Allocation	Funding Expensed
Grey Gables	\$310,991	\$235,731
Lee Manor	\$601,759	\$533,565
Rockwood Terrace	\$406,486	\$341,441
Paramedic Services	\$575,400	\$308,325
Housing	\$51,019	\$51,019
Social Services - Homemakers	\$158	\$158
Total	\$1,945,813	\$1,470,239

Personal Support Worker Temporary Wage Enhancement

On November 30, 2020, the Province announced that Ministry of Long-Term Care would provide funding for a temporary wage enhancement for personal support workers providing publicly funded personal support services in Long-Term Care Home, in support of Ontario's Fall Preparedness Plan.

This funding was intended to encourage stabilization and retention of the current complement of personal support workers as they continue to work during COVID-19 and the influenza season. It also supports ongoing efforts to attract and recruit new employees to maintain safe staffing levels and operations in long-term care homes. The Temporary Personal Support Services Wage Enhancement Pay is to be applied to hours worked by eligible workers delivering eligible services on or after October 1, 2020, was set to expire on June 30 and has recently been extended to August 23, 2021.

Personal Support Worker – Funding and Expenditures

Department	Personal Support Worker Funding		
	2020 Funding Allocation	2020 Funding Expensed	2021 Funding Allocation*
Grey Gables	\$88,332	\$51,631	\$29,444
Lee Manor	\$196,149	\$107,683	\$65,383
Rockwood Terrace	\$132,498	\$66,307	\$44,166
Total	\$416,979	\$225,621	\$138,993

*2021 Funding Allocation as of March 31, 2021 (On June 11, 2021 it was announced that the program has been extended to August 23, 2021; staff is awaiting funding details).

Social Services Relief Funding – Phase 1, 2, and 3

The County of Grey received Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to assist community agencies that support people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness with COVID-19 related expenses. The funds are to provide supports through the pandemic and into the recovery phase. For Phase 1 funding, Grey County received a total allocation of \$2,312,900 for 2020-21 out of the \$148 million allocated to service managers. Phase 1 funds were expended by March 31, 2021. A staff report was presented to Committee of the Whole on May 14, 2020 [HDR-CW-04-20 Social Services Relief Fund and COVID Related Housing Initiatives](#) .

Service Managers determine the local need and distribute the funding to ensure agencies and people are receiving the support they need. The funds could be used for initiatives such as:

- Emergency Housing
- Use of Motels and Hotels
- Transportation Costs
- Isolation Centres
- Food and Supplies
- Enhanced Cleaning Services
- Non-Medical Staffing
- Protective Equipment

SSRF Funding Allocation - Phase 1

SSRF Phase 1 Summary	
Organization/Program	Expensed
United Way	\$228,725
Indigenous Housing Initiatives	\$39,300
Housing with Supports	\$114,550
Emergency Shelter	\$532,293
YMCA Community Initiatives	\$330,000
Canadian Mental Health Association	\$155,313
Safe N Sound	\$155,720
Community Connections 211	\$25,000
Non-Profit Housing	\$162,000
OSHaRE	\$142,676
Meaford & Thornbury Community Meal(s)	\$76,500
Community Living	\$56,000
Flesherton Food Bank and SEGCH Meal Program	\$34,820

SSRF Phase 1 Summary	
Organization/Program	Expensed
Small Organization Funding	\$132,477
Rent and Utility Arrears Program	\$18,531
Grey County Cleaning, PPE, Minor Modifications	\$108,995
Total	\$2,312,900

The County of Grey received an allocation of \$793,347 in Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 funding, a capital component, which was added to provide much needed transitional housing options. These funds were used to assist with three renovation proposals. Grey County also received an additional allocation of \$433,900 in SSRF Phase 2 funding, plus an additional \$120,000 one-time mental health and addictions investment for a total of \$1,347,247.

[HDR-CW-08-20 Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2](#)

[HDR-CW-03-21 Funding Agreements for Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2](#)

[HDR-CW-06-21 Additional Funds Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2](#)

SSRF Funding Allocation – Phase 2

SSRF Phase 2 Funding Summary	
Organization	Expensed/Committed
Women’s Centre Grey Bruce	\$360,000
Maam-Wiim-Win	\$120,000
Lutheran Social Services Owen Sound	\$355,000
Rent and Utility Arrears Program	\$174,547
Emergency Housing	\$100,000
Housing Outreach Support	\$200,883
Housing with Related Supports	\$36,817
Total – Phase 2 Funding	\$1,347,247

SSRF Funding Allocation – Phase 3

The Province extended the Social Service Relief Fund and added Phase 3 of funding to assist agencies providing services to the County’s most vulnerable populations to navigate through COVID-19 to the end of December 2021. These funds will assist with rental arrears due to COVID-19, short-term emergency accommodations, and provide assistance to community agencies to provide extended or additional services and supplies. The funds will maintain and improve on infection prevention and control measures in congregate care settings and other non-profit settings. The County has received \$1,770,258 in SSRF Phase 3 funding. A report was provided to Council on April 8, 2021 [HDR-CW-07-21 Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3](#).

Federal-Provincial Safe Restart Agreement – Municipal Operating Funding

On July 27, 2020, as part of the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement, the Ontario government announced that it had secured up to \$4 billion in emergency assistance to provide Ontario's 444 municipalities with the support they need to respond to COVID-19.

Under the Municipal Operating Funding Phase 1, the County of Grey received funding in the amount of \$3,088,500 to support COVID-19 operating costs and pressures; after funding eligible expenditures in 2020, \$2,687,390 was transferred to reserve for use in 2021.

On December 16, 2020, the County received notice that the government was investing an additional \$695 million under the Safe Restart Agreement's municipal operating stream to help municipal partners manage the financial impacts of COVID-19 and start 2021 in a more secure financial position. The County of Grey's allocation is an additional \$619,000 to help with COVID-related operating pressures.

2021 COVID-19 Recovery Funding for Municipalities Program

On March 4, 2021, the Government of Ontario committed financial support to the County of Grey through the 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Funding for Municipalities program to support COVID-19 operating costs and pressures. All municipalities in Ontario are eligible for this program and the level of funding is based on the proportion of COVID-19 cases in the Public Health Unit for the respective municipality during the period of January 1, 2021 to February 18, 2021.

Grey County received \$619,680 under this funding program for the purpose of addressing the County's priority COVID-19 operating costs and pressures. If the amount of funding received by the County exceeds its 2021 COVID-19 operating costs and pressures, the province's expectation is that the municipality will place the excess funding into a reserve. Staff is reviewing eligibility criteria and will maximize use of the Safe Restart and Recovery Funding streams that unlike other programs, are not tied to specific departmental operations.

Federal Safe Restart Funding – Child Care

On August 14, 2020, the Ministry of Education notified Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) with details regarding the distribution of Federal Safe Restart Funding to ensure a safe, sufficient and adequate supply of child care to support the gradual return to work of parents as the economy reopened in September.

In addition to the procurement and delivery of face coverings directly to child care operators, funding was provided through CMSMs to child care operators for additional PPE, enhanced cleaning, additional staffing to meet health and safety requirements, and support for short term vacancies as operators transitioned to return to full capacity. Minor capital required by public health and/or the Ministry of Education was also an eligible expenditure under this funding.

The allocation for Grey County was \$954,328. Children's Services staff developed a local plan and has distributed the funds in accordance with the funding guidelines.

Federal Safe Restart Child Care Funding		
Program	Funding Allocation	Total Funding
Administration	5.0%	\$47,763
EarlyON	0.7%	\$6,421
Licensed Child Care	94.3%	\$900,089
Total		\$954,273

Provincial Emergency Childcare Funding

To support the parents of school-aged children who were not able to support their child’s learning or care at home, the Ministry of Education implemented the Emergency Child Care (ECC) program for school-age children of front-line workers, at no cost to eligible parents, during the period when schools operated remotely. ECC funding was provided to CMSMs to fund costs associated with managing and operating ECC sites. The County received \$43,383 in ECC funding to offset operating costs reported by Licensed Home Child Care Providers and Child Care Operators during the school closure in January 2021.

Provincial Re-Investment Funding – Child Care

On February 2, 2021, the Ministry of Education announced that \$66,000,000 in unused funding, that had been recovered from CMSMs during the Child Care closure and reopening periods, was available for redistribution. The County of Grey’s re-investment allocation was \$358,375 and the use of the funds was consistent with the parameters taken for the Federal Safe Restart Funding. Eligible expenditures included PPE, enhanced cleaning, additional staffing, support for child absenteeism and short-term vacancies, as well as minor capital in accordance with the Ministry’s reopening operational guidance or local public health requirements.

Museums Assistance Program, COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund Component

In a letter dated September 21, 2020, Grey Roots Museum and Archives received \$100,000 in financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage with funding allocated over the government’s fiscal year 2020-2021. This fund is used to maintain jobs and promote the continuity of the activities of Grey Roots whose viability has been affected by COVID-19. This funding was allocated to the 2021 budget to offset the financial pressures that COVID-19 is having on Grey Roots. Grey Roots has utilized the full funding entitlement to offset staff salaries in the first quarter of 2021.

COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding

The Ministry announced on May 7, 2020, that the Ministry of Long-Term Care would be providing additional one-time emergency funding to the long-term care home sector to support the efforts in preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19.

Every LTC home would receive a base allocation of \$12,000 and \$200 per bed to support the

necessary incremental expenditures of long-term care homes to prevent and contain COVID-19. Small and medium homes with B, C and/or D beds would receive additional funding of \$15,000 (for small homes – with 96 beds or fewer) or \$10,000 (for medium homes – with between 97 and 160 bed, inclusive) per home respectively. This is intended to provide further support to homes that are facing greater prevention and containment challenges due to the older physical structure and living spaces within the homes.

Homes with COVID-19 infection are expected to incur more costs as more efforts are needed for further prevention and containment, and in recognition of this, these homes will receive an additional allocation of \$10,000 per home and \$200 per bed. This adjustment applies to all homes with infections reported or resolved as of April 30th, 2020. The additional per bed allocation applies to all beds in operation. Funding will be reconciled through the Ministry of Long-Term Care Annual Reconciliation Report at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year and any unspent funds will be recovered.

COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding

COVID-19 Prevention and Containment Funding			
Long-Term Care Home	2020 Funding Allocation	2020 Funding Expensed	2021 Funding Allocation*
Grey Gables	\$529,000	\$521,598	\$109,500
Lee Manor	\$1,043,100	\$899,436	\$365,100
Rockwood Terrace	\$679,700	\$633,803	\$127,200
Total	\$2,251,800	\$2,054,837	\$601,800

*2021 Funding Allocation as of March 31, 2021

Infection Prevention and Containment (IPAC) Minor Capital Funding

On October 9, 2020, the Province announced new funding for long-term care homes to support minor capital improvements directly linked to improved infection prevention and control (IPAC) practices.

This funding is part of the ministry’s response to provide timely and effective support to the long-term care sector to help stabilize homes amidst the evolving challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is intended to help long-term care homes make rapid priority physical infrastructure upgrades that will improve IPAC conditions and practices. Eligible measures will include (but are not limited to) minor renovations to support physical distancing, plumbing or water supply cleaning and repair, HVAC systems upgrades or repairs and/or replacement of furniture and equipment that cannot be fully cleaned.

Homes will receive a base allocation, with funding being weighted towards homes with older facilities where IPAC-minor capital needs are likely to be higher than those built to newer standards. Homes will receive a base allocation of \$50,000 plus a per-bed allotment that will be determined by bed classifications. Homes with B through D-upgraded classifications will

receive \$600 per bed, while newer homes with New or A classifications will receive \$254 per bed.

On March 19, 2021, the Ministry announced a second allocation of IPAC Minor Capital as a continuation of the first allocation announced initially on October 9, 2020. The Ministry also provided an extension to spend the first allocation of IPAC Minor Capital to March 31, 2022. Both allocations of IPAC Minor Capital Funds must be used by March 31, 2022 and any unspent funds will be recovered. The following staff reports concerning IPAC Minor Capital were brought forward to the LTC Committee of Management.

[LTCR-CM-32-20 IPAC Minor Capital Funding](#)

[LTCR-CM-10-21 IPAC Minor Capital, Minor Capital and New Cooling Requirements](#)

IPAC Minor Capital

Long-Term Care Home	IPAC Minor Capital 2020 Funding Allocation	IPAC Minor Capital 2020 Funding Expensed	IPAC Minor Capital 2021 Funding Allocation
Grey Gables	\$67,272	\$7,987	\$67,272
Lee Manor	\$88,354	\$0	\$88,354
Rockwood Terrace	\$111,200	\$11,379	\$111,200
Total	\$266,826	\$19,366	\$266,826

Infection Prevention and Containment – Personnel and Training

In November 2020, the South West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) advised that each of the LTC homes would receive one-time funding in 2020-21 to support the hiring of infection prevention and control (IPAC) personnel across the long-term care sector and one-time funding in 2020-21 for training to support staff in enhancing their understanding of, and skills related to IPAC practices and protocols. These funds must be used by March 31, 2021 and any unspent funds will be recovered.

IPAC Personnel and Training

Long-Term Care Home	IPAC Personnel and Training Funding 2020 Funding Allocation	IPAC Personnel and Training Funding 2020 Funding Expensed
Grey Gables	\$25,035	\$20,381
Lee Manor	\$56,897	\$45,125

Long-Term Care Home	IPAC Personnel and Training Funding 2020 Funding Allocation	IPAC Personnel and Training Funding 2020 Funding Expensed
Rockwood Terrace	\$37,931	\$25,261
Total	\$119,863	\$90,767

Testing Adherence Funding

On January 18, 2021, as part of the government's ongoing efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, the province announced funding in the 2020-21 funding year to ensure adherence to critical testing and screening requirements in long-term care homes across the province's long-term care sector. These funds must be used by March 31, 2021 and any unspent funds will be clawed back by the Ministry of Long Term Care.

This funding allows long-term care homes to hire screeners, such as security guards, to ensure that people entering long-term care homes are adhering to applicable screening requirements.

Testing Adherence Funding

Long-Term Care Home	Testing Adherence Program 2021 Funding Allocation	Testing Adherence Program 2021 Funding Expensed
Grey Gables	\$54,000	\$15,962
Lee Manor	\$54,000	\$14,996
Rockwood Terrace	\$54,000	\$19,058
Total	\$162,000	\$50,016

HVAC Air Conditioning and Ventilation Upgrade

On April 30, 2021 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care advised that an application submitted under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to upgrade HVAC Air Conditioning and Ventilation at Lee Manor has been approved. The federal government is contributing \$520,000 and Ontario \$130,000 for a total funding allocation of \$650,000 with the project to be completed by December 31, 2023.

COVID-19 Paramedic Services Funding

The Ministry of Health announced on January 20, 2021 that County of Grey would receive up to \$686,472 in one-time funding for the 2020 calendar year to support paramedic services and dispatch centres as part of the COVID-19 response in the emergency health services sector. This one-time funding is to cover the County's COVID-19 related expenses from March 1, 2020

to December 31, 2020.

COVID-19 Paramedic Services Funding

2020 Funding Allocation	2020 Funding Expensed	2021 Funding Allocation
\$686,472	\$656,898	\$158,797*

*funding announced to March 31, 2021

The province recently requested a forecast on vaccine distribution related costs for the period April 1 to December 31, 2021 to help determine the magnitude of the financial requirement. Staff has responded with an estimate of \$251,850 and awaits information on funding.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Each funding announcement is subject to the terms, conditions and reporting requirements set out in the Ministry documents.

Financial and Resource Implications

The various funding announcements provide financial assistance in dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. Accompanying the funding is the requirement to track spending separately from regular program operating costs and meet ministry reporting timelines. As much of the funding is related to staffing, this has resulted in added administrative work for receiving departments, finance and human resources in creating accounts in scheduling and financial software as well as reallocating costs and completing ministry claim forms.

In addition, human resources staff has worked with departments to review and interpret eligibility criteria, ensured eligible hours have been paid and captured correctly, processed separate pandemic pays, tracked leaves of absence, calculated pension buy backs and issued records of employment.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal Senior Management Team and Finance staff.
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

none