



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden Milne and Members of Committee of the Whole
<b>Committee Date:</b>	January 12, 2023
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	CSR-CW-04-23
<b>Title:</b>	Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Funding Agreement
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove, CAO
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW16-23; Endorsed by County Council January 26, 2023, per Resolution CC11-23.

## Recommendation

1. That staff report CSR-CW-04-23 pertaining to contribution funds through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative for 14<sup>th</sup> Street Supportive Housing project be received; and
2. That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement with the Province for \$505,495 in Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative funding; and
3. That action be taken prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

## Executive Summary

Grey County acquired 396 14<sup>th</sup> Street W Owen Sound in January 2022 to convert into much needed supportive housing units. Grey County received \$505,495 from the Province through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Fund for 2022-23. These funds can be used for developing new affordable housing units.

Grey County is directing these funds towards the construction financing of 396 14<sup>th</sup> Street Owen Sound Supportive Housing project. Grey County must enter into a contribution agreement fund to allocate the funds towards this build.

There is a tight turnaround time for the finalization of the contribution agreement therefore staff is requesting the agreement be signed prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

## Background and Discussion

Grey County acquired 396 14<sup>th</sup> Street W Owen Sound in January 2022 to convert into much needed supportive housing units. The property will provide housing and on-site supports to 12 individuals on the Grey County By Name List that are experiencing homelessness.

The County receives an allocation from the Province for the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) funding. This funding is part of Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy, a multi-year plan to stabilize and grow Ontario's community housing sector by:

- Increasing supply and appropriate mix of affordable and adequate housing
- Provide accesses to affordable housing and supports that meet their needs to achieve housing stability
- Improve efficiency of community housing system to ensure value for money and long-term sustainability.

OPHI is modeled after the recent affordable housing program funding to allow Service Managers opportunity to address challenges in affordable housing.

Grey County's 2022-23 allocation for OPHI funding is \$532,100. \$26,605 for administration funds and \$505,495 for affordable housing development. These funds will be allotted towards the construction financing of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Supportive Housing project.

The renovation is progressing well and on time. It is expected to be completed in April 2023 with an occupancy date of June 2023.

To be eligible for OPHI funding the project applicant must be a community housing provider, provide affordable rents for a minimum of 20 years and enter into a contribution agreement. There is a tight turnaround time for the agreement therefore staff is requesting the agreement be signed prior to council approval as per Section 26.6 b of Procedural By-law 5134-22.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

None.

## Financial and Resource Implications

\$505,495 in Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative Funding for Construction financing of 14<sup>th</sup> Street Supportive Housing project.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal (list) Finance Department
- External (list) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

# Appendices and Attachments

[HDR-CW-15-22 396 14th Street Supportive Housing Project RFP Results](#)

[Conditional Letter of Commitment](#)