

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| To: | Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council |
| Committee Date: | May 23, 2019 |
| Subject / Report No: | HDR-CW-06-19 |
| Title: | 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan – 2018 Annual Report |
| Prepared by: | Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing Josh Gibson, Housing Programs Manager |
| Reviewed by: | Kim Wingrove, CAO |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | |
| Status: | Recommendation adopted as presented by Committee of the Whole as per Resolution <i>CW122-19</i> ; Endorsed by County Council on June 13, 2019 as per Resolution <i>CC43-19</i> . |

Recommendation

1. That report **HDR-CW-06-19 Grey County Housing and Homelessness Plan – 2018 Annual Report** be received.

Executive Summary

Each year an annual report on the activities undertaken in support of Grey County's 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan is provided to the province, council and the public. The report outlining 2018 achievements and goals for 2019 is attached to this report.

Background and Discussion

The Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan outlines the vision and direction that forms a strategy to improve the housing and homelessness system in Grey County. The funding for the plan is through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative programs through the province and Grey County. This plan coordinates Grey County and community agencies to provide services to Grey County's most vulnerable residents. Services are used by families, single parent families, seniors, youth, singles, people with disabilities and working families. The complete plan can be found on the County website at <https://www.grey.ca/affordable-housing>.

Highlights for 2018

- Owen Sound Housing Company has 36 units of affordable housing being completed in 2018 and 2019. The units are a mix of 28 affordable units and 8 market rent units. The units are open

concept, accessible and have access to green space. Funding provided through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program.

- Community Living Owen Sound and District built six units of affordable housing with funds from Grey County's Investment in Affordable Housing Program Rental Build program. All six units are affordable self-contained units with access to a common area and supports on site.
- The Homeownership Program provides a 5% down payment program towards homeownership. In 2018 the program assisted 11 households purchase a home with a total of \$120,058 in funding.
- The Ontario Renovates program allows residents to stay in their homes by providing a forgivable loan for repairs and renovations. In 2018, \$130,430 in funding was used for items such as roofs, windows and doors and heating systems.
- Grey County's pilot project with the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide outreach services to tenants of Grey County Housing to maintain and enhance their housing continues.
- Grey County supported Safe n Sound by providing funding for an Outreach Worker to assist tenants living in their transitional housing units and provide community referrals.
- Grey County provides rent subsidies to the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide options for clients that have progressed through their housing programs and move toward private landlord agreements.
- YMCA Community Services Emergency Housing Program provides services and supports to residents of Grey County in immediate need or at risk of losing their housing. YMCA Community services funding was increased for a much-needed additional position to assist with growing demand for services and work with clients that require extra assistance.
- Hours for emergency housing services were extended overnight for the winter months and a partnership with the YMCA, Grey County, a local landlord and Owen Sound Police formed for emergency housing options.
- Sustainable Housing Benefit provides funding to residents of Grey County to assist in maintaining or finding affordable housing. In 2018, \$499,221 was provided to residents of Grey County on items such as last month's rent, utility arrears and rental arrears.
- Community Enhancement Fund provides small grants to community programs to provide resources for people at risk of homelessness. In 2018 funds were provided to community partners to provide meals, transportation and other items and supports. One example of a community program is a youth program run out of the Deck in Hanover to identify youth struggling with housing issues and connect them to services and supports.
- Grey County provided funding to the Giiwe project through M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre. The project aims to increase awareness in community and with service delivery agencies to improve service design and delivery and foster collaborative work with the leadership of Indigenous-led organizations around housing and poverty related issues.

- Grey County supports on average 70 residents a month with transitional housing through the Housing with Related Supports Program. Grey County assisted with financial subsidy for over 25,000 nights worth of accommodations totaling \$604,576. These supportive housing facilities provide laundry, medication distribution, meals and assistance for residents who need some help with managing day to day needs.
- Operate and maintain 997 units of community housing throughout Grey County, continue to provide supports to tenants, build community and maintain our buildings.

Next Steps

- Update to 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.
- Community support system for people experiencing homelessness, focusing on those experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Continue to promote the development of affordable housing and supports.
- Continue to provide equal or better level of services to residents of Grey County.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Annual public report required by Municipal Affairs and Housing

Financial and Resource Implications

Program funding from the Community Homelessness Prevention Program (\$1,816,494) and the Investment in Affordable Housing Program (\$1,325,300).

Relevant Consultation

Internal:

External:

Appendices and Attachments

[2018 Housing and Homelessness Report](#)