



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	October 14, 2021
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-18-21
Title:	Social Services Relief Fund Update
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	

Recommendation

- 1. That Report HDR-CW-18-21 regarding an update to the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) be received for information.**

Executive Summary

The Province has provided four phases of Social Service Relief Fund (SSRF). Phases 1 through 3 were to assist agencies providing services to our most vulnerable populations to navigate through Covid 19 to the end of December 2021. Phase 1 funding was fully expensed by assisting with emergency housing and local social service agency needs. Phase 2 funds are being used to renovate transitional housing and provide emergency housing. Phase 3 funds provided more funding to community agencies, emergency housing, an isolation centre and outbreak expenses as we continue to deal with an increase in need from residents and agencies. The recently received Phase 4 funding is available for capital projects to enhance the homelessness and supportive housing system and must be spent by March 2023. Options for an acquisition and renovation of a building are being explored with a report to the next Affordable Housing Task Force October 26, 2021.

Background

The Province provided four phases of the Social Services Relief funding to be expensed or committed by December 31, 2021. Phases 1 through 3 totaled \$5,310,405. The funds are being used to continue to fund current services and supports that address the negative impacts of Covid 19 on vulnerable households and individuals. The funds

assist with rental arrears due to Covid 19, short term emergency accommodations and aid community agencies to provide extended or additional services and supplies. The funds maintain and improve infection prevention and control measures in congregate care settings and other non-profit settings. The funds are also being used to add much needed supportive units to our housing system.

SSRF Phase 1

SSRF Phase 1 funding in the amount of **\$2,312,900** was exhausted by providing funding to community agencies, emergency housing, outreach housing staff, PPE, cleaning, and other one-off expenses. The funds provided much needed resources to various social service agencies that saw an increase in traffic for services such as United Way, CMHA, Y Housing, Safe n Sound, Beaver Valley Outreach, Good Food Box, Reach, Community Living, Women’s Centre, Salvation Army, Golden Town Outreach, South East Grey Community Health Centre, M’Wikwedong, Flesherton Food Bank, Meaford Food Bank, St Georges Food Bank, and many others. These funds were exhausted

SSRF Funding Allocation Phase 1

Organization/Program	Expensed (\$)
United Way	293,975
Indigenous Housing Initiatives	55,300
Housing With Supports Providers	114,550
Emergency Shelter	457,292
YMCA Community Initiatives	190,000
Canadian Mental Health Association	226,684
Safe N Sound	175,035
Community Connections 211	10,000
Non-profit housing	94,000
Food Programs	252,846
Other Community Funding	269,342
Rent and Utility Arrears Program	18,531
Grey County Cleaning, PPE, Minor Modifications	155,345
Total	\$ 2,312,900

SSRF Phase 2

The County received **\$1,227,247** in SSRF Phase 2 funding. The funding is being used to continue to support the increased need for more emergency housing, longer stays and increased cost in nightly rates. The funding allowed for two housing outreach workers to be hired to assist with the increase in people requiring services and the increase in complex needs.

The remaining funds were used to support the renovation of three projects for transitional/supportive housing units. Eleven new units will be added to our housing and homelessness system in Grey County. People being supported by the by names list will be housed in the supported units. All units are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

SSRF Funding Allocation Phase 2

Organization	Project	Expensed (\$)
Maam Wiim Win	3 Indigenous Transitional Units	120,000
Women's Centre GB	2 transitional units	120,000
Lutheran Social Services	4 transitional units	355,000
Grey County & United Way	Rental Arrears Program	303,280
Community Support	Outreach Staff, Drop In Supports and Meal Programs	208,967
Women's Centre GB	2 transitional units	120,000
Total		\$1,227,247

SSRF Phase 3

The County received **\$1,770,258** in SSRF Phase 3 funding for operational expenses. The funds cannot be used for capital expenses. Funds have been used to continue to support social service agencies and provide much needed additional emergency housing and staffing. The funds were instrumental in providing funds to allow a comprehensive and supportive response to the COVID-19 outbreak and support an isolation centre. The remaining \$1,104,107 will be committed to various agencies to assist with staffing and emergency housing for continued services until the end of 2022. A wind down plan will be developed with each organization that receives continuing funding to ensure there are funds to continue to meet community

SSRF Funding Allocation Phase 3

Organization/Program	Expensed (\$)
211 Vaccine Hotline	23,483
Cleaning and Sanitizing	23,548
Housing with Supports	150,262
M'Wikwedong Indigenous Housing	105,000
YMCA Community Initiatives	77,316
Community Funding	130,063
Outbreak Expenses	95,910
Rent and Utility Arrears Program	17,300
Grey County Housing	43,329
Expensed to Date	\$ 666,211
Remaining Funds	\$ 1,104,047

SSRF Phase 4

Grey County received **\$1,989,200** in funding that can be used for a capital project. Service Managers are encouraged to use funding in ways that create longer-term housing solutions, move towards client service models that are innovative, and support client and organizational readiness for potential future outbreaks or emergencies. Staff are investigating possibilities to use the funding. A report will be presented at the next Affordable Housing Task Force on October 26, 2021 to discuss options for the SSRF funds. The capital project would need to be completed by March 31, 2023.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

All funds from SSRF Phase 1, 2 and 3 must be spent by the Service Manager by December 31, 2021. Capital projects for Phase 4 funding must be complete by March 2023.

Financial and Resource Implications

All funds are Provincial. If an increase in need for emergency housing, supportive housing and staffing remains post pandemic an increase in annual Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding will be needed from the Province. The County has enough funding to support initiatives until December 2022 based on current use of programs.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal:
- External:

Appendices and Attachments