

To:	Chair McQueen and Members of Affordable Housing Task Force
Committee Date:	July 19, 2021
Subject / Report No:	HDR-AH-13-21
Title:	Rent Supplement Program Additional Funds
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	

Recommendation

1. That staff report HDR-CW-13-21 pertaining to additional funds for the rent supplement program be received for information.

Executive Summary

The County is using funds from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to provide new rent supplements through a variety of housing situations to provide up to 40 residents with stable housing. this report summarizes how the county is using funds

Background and Discussion

Through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OHPI) the County allotted \$100,000 towards rent supplements. OPHI is modeled after the previous Investment in Affordable Housing Program and provides options for Service Managers for use of funds. Rent Supplements is one of the offered programs.

A rent supplement is a subsidy that bridges the gap between what a renter can afford and the actual cost of the rent. The program is available for residents that meet the Provincial eligibility requirements. Eligible applicants must make under the Household Income Limits and meet requirements for rent geared to income housing under the Housing Services Act, 2011.

Program Descriptions

Rent supplements will be used in three ways to support tenants with affording rents in our communities:

1. Rent supplements will be used for applicants on the wait list offered an affordable unit that cannot afford the affordable rent. Affordable rents average \$650 a unit are unaffordable for some on our wait list. For example, a person on Ontario Disability have \$497 a month for

shelter. The rent subsidy would be used to fund the gap between the \$650 and the \$497. A subsidy of \$153 a month will secure housing.

2. Rent supplements will be used to assist applicants on our waitlist that are housed appropriately but cannot afford the rent. A rent supplement of up to \$350 will provide rent security to a person in a market unit. There will be a focus on providing these rent supplements to residents outside of Owen Sound.
3. Rent Supplements will be used to assist those entering or leaving transitional housing units. The subsidy will secure a spot in transitional housing if required and assist with affordability when securing permanent housing.

It is anticipated that these funds will assist up to 40 residents with stable housing in our community annually.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Existing rent supplement agreements and processes to be followed

Financial and Resource Implications

\$100,000 of OPHI funds will be used each year to support residents

Overall there has been a decline in OPHI funds. Our intent is to continue with RS and Build

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (list)
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

None.