

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 23, 2022
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-03 -22
Title:	Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 Update
Prepared by:	Josh Gibson, Housing Programs Manager
Reviewed by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW33-22; Recommendation adopted by Council per Resolution CC22-22 March 10, 2022;

Recommendation

1. That Report HDR-CW-03-22 regarding an update to the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 3 be received for information.

Executive Summary

The Province has provided four phases of Social Service Relief Fund (SSRF) to the County. 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 expended by assisting with emergency housing and local social service agency needs. Phase 2 funds were 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 following outlines the specific items covered under SSRF Phase 3 and how it supports the direct needs of the community.

Background

The SSRF phase 3 funding in the amount of \$1,770,258 was fully spent by December 31, 2021 as required by the Province. 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 3

The funds received for SSRF Phase 3 were for operational 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 in the transient community and support isolation for positive individuals over the summer of 2021.

Funding for staff in outreach positions related to homelessness and support provided through the Grey Bruce by name list was one of the top expenses in SSRF Phase 3. This funding will allow us to support individuals experiencing homelessness and carry those support through to housing opportunities when they arise. In total, staffing for 5 positions has been supported through SSRF Phase 3 allowing those supports to carry through until March 2023.

SSRF Funding Allocation Phase 3

Funding Categories and Highlights	Disbursed (\$)
Housing With Related Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports with PPE and infection control • Funds to support increase in need by adding additional beds for a limited time 	150,263
Emergency Short Term Shelter Expenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for isolation rooms for transient populations • Indigenous short-term shelter supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operated by M'Wikwedong • Increase in need for short term shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Program operated by YMCA Community Initiatives ○ Shelter provided doubled from 2019-2020 and again from 2020-2021. This SSRF funding supported that need 	442,262
Homelessness Prevention Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental & Utility arrears assistance for households affected by COVID income loss • Homelessness Outreach Staffing • Planning expenses to explore affordable development 	378,995
Services and Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 211 Vaccine Support Line • Security costs for Isolation Centre and other locations • Expenses related to outbreaks in Transient Community • Support for CARE Outreach involved organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Items for individuals experiencing homeless ○ Costs related to food & location • Out of the Cold programming for evening and weekend warming • Outreach/Supportive staffing for By Name List • Community Supports for Homelessness Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Organizations include; Beaver Valley Outreach, OSHaRE, United Way, Salvation Army, South East Grey Community Health Center, Safe N Sound & YMCA Community Initiatives 	745,630
Administrative Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists with covering staff time in administering this funding and related agreements 	53,108
Total	\$1,770,258

Legal and Legislated Requirements

All funds from SSRF Phase 3 were to be spent by the Service Manager by December 31, 2021.

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 March 2023 based on current use of programs.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal:
- External:

Appendices and Attachments