

Report HDR-SS-08-14

To: Chair Burley and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Debbie Pegelo, Social Services Manager
Anne Marie Shaw, Housing Programs Manager
Meeting Date: June 11, 2014
Subject: **Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Annual Report**
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution SSC46-14; Endorsed by County Council July 8, 2014 per Resolution CC95-14;

Recommendation

THAT Report HDR-SS-08-14 regarding an update on the administration of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative be received for information.

Background

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a consolidation of five programs, which were previously administered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), and will now be consolidated as one program (CHPI) to be administered by MMAH. CHPI will bring the following programs under a single program.

- Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program
- Emergency Energy Fund
- Emergency Hostel Services
- Domiciliary Hostel Program
- Provincial Rent Bank

CHPI aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing. After one year of administering the CHPI program as part of a collaboration between the Housing and Social Services departments the following funds were dispersed.

Emergency Shelter Solutions: \$33,761

Housing with Related Supports \$490,726

Services and Supports	\$125,423
Homelessness Prevention	\$554,226
Program Administration	\$133,793
Total	\$1,337,929

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Grey County continues to partner with the Y Housing Program for the provision of emergency shelter services. The Y identifies and establishes suitable accommodations to house those who find themselves without shelter for the night. \$33,761 in block funding was provided to Y Housing for services from April 2013 to March 2014. Y Housing reports 1246 people transitioned from homelessness to emergency housing.

Housing with Related Supports

CHPI funding was used to subsidize the accommodation costs of Grey County residents requiring a supportive living arrangement. Ayton Residential Lodge, Kent Residential Homes, Riverside Residence, Inglewood Villa, and Second Avenue Lodge housed an average of 99 clients a night and received \$490,726.

Services and Supports

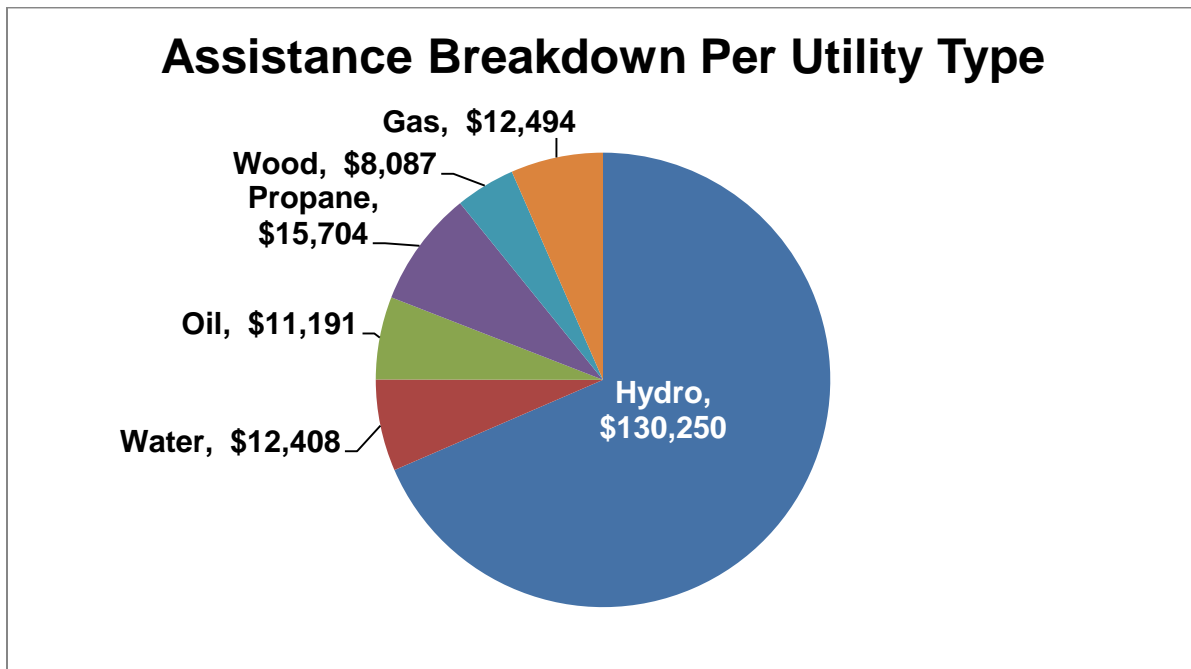
The County of Grey has continued their partnership with Y Housing to provide services and supports to vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate housing needs. The Y Housing street and housing outreach programs include ongoing case management, assistance with securing and retaining housing and food vouchers. Y Housing reports 1963 individuals or households used their services, of this total 347 were youth.

Homelessness Prevention

The Sustainable Housing Benefit (SHB) provides assistance to individuals at risk of homelessness or currently homeless with needs related to obtaining or sustaining affordable housing. The benefit is available to Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program recipients and applicants whose income falls below the Household Income Limits for Grey County. Accommodation costs must be considered sustainable to qualify for this benefit. The following costs are covered by SHB.

<u>Allowable Costs to Obtain Housing</u>	<u>Allowable Cost to Remain Housed</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Month's Rent • Moving Costs • Energy Deposits • Treatment for Bed Bugs • Fridge and Stove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility Arrears (Risk of Disconnection) • Rental Arrears (Risk of Eviction) • Treatment for Bed Bugs

From April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 a total of 1,686 requests for assistance were received totaling \$554,226 in funds provided through the SHB program. Of these funds \$290,408 were used by recipients to obtain housing and \$263,818 were used by recipients to maintain housing. The majority of funds spent on maintaining housing was due to utility arrears (\$190,134). The following chart shows a breakdown of utility arrears with hydro comprising of most of the arrears. Most applicants were unable to keep up with the demands of increasing utilities and still maintain other household and basic necessities.



One Time Transitional Funds

The County received one time transitional funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Service in the amount of \$305,700. The funds were intended to complement the CHPI funding and be used for local homelessness related supports. The transitional

funding was used locally to support community agencies providing services to homeless or those at risk of homelessness, to provide insurance coverage for abuse for our domiciliary hostels and to provide extra funding to our sustainable housing benefit program.

2014-2015 Funding

CHPI funding in the amount of \$1,367,373 has been committed for April 2014 to March 2015 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. At this point there are no transitional dollars available.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

\$1,337,929 in Provincial funding provided to the County of Grey for the fiscal year of April 2013 to March 2014.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

The CHPI program will assist in the development of a homelessness and housing strategy for Grey County.

Program will assist in the creation and sustainability of affordable housing units.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Pegelo, Social Services Manager
Anne Marie Shaw, Housing Programs Manager

Director Sign Off

Rod Wyatt, Director of Housing

Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services

