

Report HDR-SS-08-15

To: Chair Burley and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
Meeting Date: May 13, 2015
Subject: Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution SSC54-15; Endorsed by County Council June 2, 2015 per Resolution CC82-15;

Recommendations

WHEREAS the County of Grey has entered into an agreement with The Province to administer the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI);

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey received an allocation of funding in the amount of \$1,673,100 for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report HDR-SS-07-15 be received;

AND THAT Council approves the Investment Plan (IP) for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative as outlined in Report HDR-SS-08-15 and required in the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Agreement;

AND THAT the allocation for 2015-2016 CHPI funding in the amount of \$1,673,100 be approved to be expensed by March 31, 2016.

Background

CHPI aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing.

Under the CHPI, Service Managers have the flexibility to use funding under four service categories to meet local needs and priorities. The following programs are proposed to meet local needs over the next year.

Emergency Shelter Solutions: \$ 44,000

Housing with Related Supports \$580,000

Services and Supports	\$195,000
Homelessness Prevention	\$686,790
Program Administration	\$167,310
Total	\$1,673,100

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), emergency shelter solutions refers to services and supports that provide relief or protect households/people who are homeless or are at imminent risk of homelessness.

Since 2008, Grey County has partnered with the Family Y Owen Sound Grey Bruce 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. The Y also partners with other community services, such as Safe n' Sound and the Victorious Living Centre for the delivery of this service.

251 people accessed emergency shelter through the Y emergency housing program last year for a total 1272 nights of emergency shelter.

Housing with Related Supports

Under CHPI, housing with related supports includes operating funding for long-term and transitional housing. Housing subsidized under the former Domiciliary Hostel program is included in this category. CHPI funds of \$580,000 are allocated to domiciliary hostel operations.

The County of Grey is continuing to subsidize Ayton Residential Lodge, Kent Residential Homes, Riverside Residence, Inglewood Villa, and Second Avenue Lodge. The Domiciliary Hostel operators continue to invoice Grey County monthly for the number of subsidized beds provided. These invoices are reviewed by an Ontario Works caseworker and approved by an Ontario Works manager. The eligibility criteria and application process for new residents established under the former Domiciliary Hostel program remains in place. Hostel inspections and resident income verification will continue annually.

Services and Supports

Services and Supports under CHPI refers to the services and supports which are provided to assist vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate relief or support in

obtaining housing (e.g. street and housing outreach, case management, securing and retaining housing/shelter, food banks, etc.).

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 and assistance with securing and retaining housing.

New this year is a pilot project to fund a Homeless Outreach Worker through Y Housing Program to support those experiencing chronic homelessness. Homelessness is often hidden in rural areas but there are a number of individuals that find themselves in a pattern of homelessness often referred to as chronic homelessness. This one year pilot project will work with other community organizations to identify potential clients and using the housing first model partner with individuals that are experiencing chronic homelessness to provide housing and support. The Housing First model secures housing for an individual first and then brings in community supports to ensure housing is maintained. The homeless outreach worker would continue to work with individuals after housing is obtained to help maintain housing. The worker would connect the individual with needed services such as healthcare, mental health, addictions, social, spiritual and monetary supports. This project will run from April 2015 to March 2016 with monthly evaluations and reporting.

Homelessness Prevention

CHPI funds support local non profit initiatives to provide services for those at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness through the Community Enhancement Funds. As Grey County has a large geographic area accessing programs in centralized areas is sometimes difficult for individuals and often these individuals rely on local organizations such as churches, non profits and volunteer groups. Examples are meals, transportation, good food box, heating funds, furnishings and other creative and local initiatives. These funds will be used to strengthen local initiatives.

Under CHPI, homelessness prevention includes emergency financial assistance to retain housing and assistance to secure housing. CHPI funds of \$646,790 are allocated to the County of Grey's Sustainable Housing Benefit (SHB).

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 people receiving 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

Last year 1085 people were provided funding to maintain their housing. The majority of the funds were spent on utility costs and last month's rent.

Program Administration

There is \$167,310 in administration funding set aside for CHPI

Links to 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

The CHPI funding assists Grey County in providing services to fulfill goals of the Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. The plan identifies four key strategic areas:

- Sustain and Create Affordable Housing
- Homelessness Prevention
- Transitional Housing
- Service Coordination and Collaboration

Related goals include:

- Investigate solutions for utility costs for homeowners and tenants with limited financial resources
- Initiate a tracking system to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and focus on supports for those individuals with long term homelessness
- Work with community partners to enhance existing support services through case management and focused collaboration
- Subsidies to maintain and access sustainable housing
- Enhance and support supportive housing
- Promote eviction diversion practices with landlords

2016-2017 Funding

\$1,673,100 in funding has been allocated to Grey County for the 2016-17 year.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

\$1,673,100 in provincial funding provided to the County of Grey for the fiscal year of April 2015 to March 2016. This program will have a neutral impact on the County as no levy funds will be required. There is the ability to move funds between the four funding categories to ensure maximum usage.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

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

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

Attachment

County of Grey CHPI 2015-2017 Funding Letter

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

Hours of Operation:
177 Hwy 54 14th Flr
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5
Telephone: (416) 595-4138
Fax: (416) 595-6900

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint

Heures de bureau:
77, rue Spadina 14^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Téléphone: (416) 595-4138
Télécopieur: (416) 595-6900



March 30, 2015

Ms. Anne Marie Shaw
Director, Housing
County of Grey
595 Ninth Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Ms. Shaw:

I am writing to provide you with details of your 2015-16 and 2016-17 funding allocations under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

The ministry has decided to maintain the current funding allocation model for 2015-16 and 2016-17. This approach will provide stability to Service Managers in the short-term as funding levels will remain the same as the previous year. This approach will also allow the ministry to consider the outcomes of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness, as well as the update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy planned for 2015-16, on a funding allocation model for future years.

As such, for planning purposes, the CHPI allocation for the County of Grey for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is expected to be \$1,673,100, as indicated in the table below:

2015-16 Funding Allocation	2016-17 Planning Allocation
\$1,673,100	\$1,673,100

Please note that your CHPI planning allocations are contingent on provincial budget approvals. You will be notified if there are any changes to your CHPI planning allocations once we receive the respective approved budget for each year.

As per the CHPI Program Guidelines, Service Managers are required to submit an annual CHPI Investment Plan outlining how they plan to use their CHPI allocation for the upcoming year.

Due to the timing of the release of the 2015-16 CHPI allocation, the submission deadline for Service Managers' CHPI 2015-16 Investment Plans has been extended to **May 15, 2015**. Please use the above 2015-16 CHPI planning allocation to complete the 2015-16 Investment Plan. The ministry will be distributing a 2015-16 Investment Plan template to Service Managers shortly.

Furthermore, to ensure continuity of services at the local level, the ministry will be advancing the first CHPI payment for 2015-16 to Service Managers in early April 2015. The amount for this payment will be the first quarter amount based on four equal instalments of the Service Manager's allocation. Future payments for 2015-16 are contingent on the Service Manager submitting their 2015-16 Investment Plan by May 15, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne Marie Shaw
Director of Housing