



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	February 27, 2020
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	HDR-CW-02-20
<b>Title:</b>	Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan 2020-21
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<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	County-wide initiative
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW51-20; Endorsed by County Council March 12, 2020 per Resolution CC35-20;

## Recommendation

1. That Report HDR-CW-02-20 regarding a proposed Investment Plan for Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative for 2020-21 be received; and
2. That Grey County Council approves the Investment Plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and approves the 2020-21 funding to be expensed by March 31, 2021.

## Executive Summary

The County receives funds from the Province through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to deliver local homelessness and homelessness prevention programs. This report provides details on the programs and services for 2020-21.

## Background and Discussion

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing. Under CHPI, Service Managers have the flexibility to use funding to meet local needs and priorities within the guidelines set by the Province. To meet local needs the following programs are planned over the next year.

*Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative  
2019-20*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Annual Funding</b>
<b>Housing with Related Supports</b>	<b>680,000</b>
<b>Sustainable Housing Benefit</b>	<b>475,000</b>
<b>CMHA Outreach Worker</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Y Homeless Prevention Program</b>	<b>211,514</b>
<b>Emergency Housing Program</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>Homelessness Response Table</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Community Enhancement Program</b>	<b>92,959</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>188,830</b>
<b>Total CHPI Funding</b>	<b>1,888,303</b>

## Housing with Related Supports

Grey County funds four housing with related supports providers; Ayton Residential Lodge, Kent Residential Homes, Inglewood Villa, and Second Avenue Lodge. This housing provides services such as medication management, laundry services and meals. This program provides housing with supports for an average of 70 residents of Grey County per month or over 25,000 nights of accommodation.

Increased allocation this year due to a proposed per diem increase effective April 1, 2020 from \$51.89 to \$54.25 in order to assist with the providers increasing costs. The most recent per diem increase was provided on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 over 2 years ago.

Grey County will enter into a new agreement with each housing provider for the increased per diem.

## Sustainable Housing Benefit

The Sustainable Housing Benefit (SHB) provides financial aid to individuals at risk of homelessness or currently homeless to find or maintain affordable housing. SHB provided financial assistance in the amount of \$478,667 to 890 households in 2019. SHB covers last month's rent, utility arrears and rental arrears.

<b>SHB Funding Provided in 2019</b>		
<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Households Assisted</b>	<b>Amount Issued (\$)</b>
Beds/Appliances	79	26,386

Utility Costs	196	107,191
Last Month's Rent	422	244,310
Pest Control/Maintenance	32	11,596
Moving Expenses	29	6,991
Rental Arrears	132	82,193
<b>Total</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>\$478,667</b>

## CMHA- Grey County Housing Outreach Worker

Housing has hired an outreach worker through the Canadian Mental Health Association to assist tenants in maintaining their housing, providing supports and making referrals to community agencies. The Outreach Worker will build more partnership opportunities with Grey County Housing and CMHA.

## Y Homelessness Prevention Program

The County of Grey partners with Y Housing to provide services and supports to vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate housing needs. The Y Homelessness Prevention Program includes a resource centre for clients and assistance with finding or maintaining affordable housing.

## Y Emergency Housing Program

Since 2008, Grey County has partnered with Y Housing for the provision of emergency shelter services. The Y finds suitable lodgings for those who find themselves without shelter for the night. A 24-hour service is available in cold winter months in partnership with 211. This service provided emergency accommodation for 456 people/households in 2019.

## Homelessness Response Table

Grey County Housing is working with Canadian Mental Health Association, Grey Bruce Health Services, Bruce County and local homelessness prevention services to implement a homelessness outreach system. Funds will go towards initiatives that will assist in the creation of a coordinated access system. The Coordinator will implement the creation of a By-Name list to better track and support people experiencing homelessness.

The outreach worker will identify people having repeated episodes of homelessness and work with community partners to provide wrap around services. A pilot project using transitional units from our existing stock to provide housing with supports to people experiencing chronic homelessness that are participating in the homelessness response table will start this April.

## Community Enhancement Program

CHPI funds support local nonprofit initiatives to provide services for those at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness through the Community Enhancement Funds. Grey County has a large geographic area and accessing programs which are offered only in centralized areas is sometimes difficult for individuals. Often these individuals rely on local organizations such as churches, nonprofits and volunteer groups. Local initiatives supply meals,

transportation, good food box, heating funds, furnishings and other needs. These funds strengthen local initiatives such as Beaver Valley Outreach, Safe N Sound, O Share and other local community groups.

## 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 which was reviewed and updated this year. The plan identifies four key strategic areas:

- Create More Affordable Housing
- Preserve Existing Stock
- Reduce Chronic Homelessness
- Increase Supportive Housing

Related goals include:

- Initiate a 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

## Financial and Resource Implications

\$1,888,303 in provincial funding will be provided to the County of Grey for the fiscal year of April 2020 to March 2021. This program has a neutral impact on the County, as no levy funds are required. There is the ability to move funds between programs to ensure maximum usage.

## Relevant Consultation

Internal: 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan

External:

## Appendices and Attachments