



Committee Report

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	April 8, 2021
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-07-21
Title:	Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	

Recommendation

- 1. That Report HDR-CW-07-21 be received; and**
- 2. That the additional \$1,770,258 in unbudgeted Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 funds be approved for use in 2021, including grants to be made to outside organizations, in accordance with the SSRF Phase 3 program guidelines.**

Executive Summary

The Province has extended Social Service Relief Fund (SSRF) and added Phase 3 of funding to assist agencies providing services to our most vulnerable populations to navigate through Covid 19 to the end of December 2021. The funds will be used to continue to fund current services and supports that address the negative impacts of Covid 19. Previous funding ended March 31, 2021. An update on current Covid 19 initiatives is provided.

Background

The Province has extended SSRF funding past March 31, 2021 with additional SSRF Phase 3 funding to be used by December 31, 2021. The funds will be used to continue to fund current services and supports that address the negative impacts of Covid 19 on vulnerable households and individuals. The funds will assist with rental arrears due to Covid 19, short term emergency accommodations and provide assistance to community agencies to provide extended or additional services and supplies. The funds will

maintain and improve on infection prevention and control measures in congregate care settings and other non-profit settings.

The County received **\$1,770,258** in SSRF Phase 3 funding for operational expenses. The funds cannot be used for capital expenses.

Funding Plan

Short Term Emergency Housing: continue to support emergency housing for people experiencing homelessness. Due to Covid 19 and lack of vacancies, short term emergency stays are longer in days and due to Covid 19 related practices and precautions, nightly rental amounts are higher.

Community Supports: funds will allow extra staffing for Outreach Supports for mental health and housing to continue. Extra staffing is required due to increase of people seeking assistance in our communities. There is also an increase in the acuity of assistance required. Funding is being provided for extra staffing at Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Y Housing and Safe n Sound.

Community agencies: will continue to support multiple community agencies that provide supports to our residents such as food banks, food delivery to motels during isolation, drop in centres for services, indigenous housing initiatives, 211 and the United Way.

Rental Arrears Program: the County will continue to fund a rental arrears program to assist residents behind in their rent due to Covid 19.

PPE and cleaning: the funds will continue to assist organizations and Grey County Housing with required PPE and cleaning to meet Covid 19 related standards and best practices.

Housing with Supports: funds will continue to assist congregate care settings to ensure cleaning and best practices are being met. The funds will also be used to pay for the overflow of clients at the centres from hospital. The funds will assist in paying the per diem required above normal funding rates through our Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

Community Initiatives: funds will allow the County to identify gaps in services and find solutions to best serve resident needs through Covid 19 and the recovery phase.

COVID 19 Housing Initiatives 2021

Area of Need	Actions
Community and Non-Profit Housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced cleaning of public high touch areas in Grey County Housing Buildings. Information posted in buildings for social distancing, self-isolation, procedures for safely doing laundry. Common rooms open with limited occupancy for physical distancing. 2. Phone reach out to residents of Grey County Housing to provide information on how to access vaccine for those in priority groups. Grey County has 90 residents over 80 years of age. 3. Short-term rental arrears program is available for those behind in rent due to Covid 19. 4. Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program year two is due to start in April to assist households on the County's subsidized housing wait list living in private rental housing with a rent benefit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide a subsidy to approximately 20 households on the Grey County waitlist. • The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is intended to help bridge the gap between the rent a household can afford to pay and the market rent of their unit 5. Provide funding for enhanced cleaning and PPE to non-profit housing providers 6. Provide IPAC information and tools to congregate care living centres supported by Grey County. 7. Provide additional subsidy to cover additional tenants over and above annual allocations at congregate living settings through CHPI program
Services for People Experiencing Homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Increased funding through Social Services Relief Fund for emergency short term housing. Rooms secured at motels and hotels throughout Grey County. 9. Funding for Outreach Workers due to increase in residents accessing emergency short term shelter. 10. Funding for an Outreach Mental Health Worker through CMHA 11. Established a By-Name list to assist those experiencing homelessness, specifically chronic homelessness. A By Name List is a list of people experiencing homelessness who would like to receive assistance from the Service Manager and other community supports.

Area of Need	Actions
	<p>12. In partnership with Bruce County provide funding to staff the Housing Navigator position at CMHA for the by name list</p> <p>13. Establish a Self-Isolation Centre for people who are experiencing homelessness and need a place to live when they are confirmed to have COVID-19 or pending results of their COVID-19 test. Centre could be used as a relocation centre for supportive housing, if required</p> <p>14. Funding to Safe n Sound to provide after-hours/evening services and a additional outreach worker to support individuals experiencing homelessness</p> <p>15. Funding to local groups throughout Grey County providing food and meals due to increased need</p> <p>16. Funding to 211 Community Connections for staffing due to large increase in volume of calls. Receive weekly reports of unmet needs and find solutions to housing and homelessness related gaps.</p> <p>17. Funds to local indigenous outreach services due to increase in need</p> <p>18. Funding for three proponents to renovate existing buildings into transitional/supportive housing.</p>

Legal and Legislated Requirements

All funds must be spent by the Service Manager by December 31, 2021

Financial and Resource Implications

All funds are Provincial.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal:
- External:

Appendices and Attachments

[Grey County SSRF Phase 3 Funding Letter](#)