

To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 28, 2019
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-04-19
Title:	Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan 2019-2020
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	County-wide initiative
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee of the Whole as presented as per Resolution CW59-19; Endorsed by County Council on March 14, 2019 as per Resolution CC24-19.

Recommendation

1. That Report HDR-CW-04-19 regarding a proposed Investment Plan for Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative for 2019-20 be received; and
2. That Grey County Council approves the Investment Plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and approves the 2019-20 funding to be expensed by March 31, 2020.

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 2019-20.

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*

Program	Annual Funding
Housing with Related Supports	620,000
Sustainable Housing Benefit	540,000
CMHA Outreach Worker	80,000
Y Homeless Prevention Program	138,681
Emergency Housing Program	100,000
Homelessness Outreach Worker	70,600
Transitional Housing Initiatives	100,192
Community Enhancement Program	50,000
Administration	188,830
Total CHPI Funding	1,888,303

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.

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 \$499,221 to 1110 households in 2018. SHB covers last month's rent, utility arrears and rental arrears.

SHB Funding Provided in 2018		
Expense Type	Households Assisted	Amount Issued (\$)
Beds/Appliances	139	40,645
Utility Costs	234	116,321
Last Month's Rent	470	218,540
Pest Control/Maintenance	29	12,700
Moving Expenses	78	14,292
Rental Arrears	160	96,723

Total	1110	\$499,221
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CMHA Outreach Program

This is the second year of this pilot project. The pilot aims to offer one-on-one intensive services and group sessions for tenants to ensure they remain housed. The project also provides education sessions and support to staff of Grey County Housing and other nonprofit housing providers on mental health and housing. The program has been very successful in Owen Sound and extended to buildings outside Owen Sound in 2018.

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 the Family Y Owen Sound Grey Bruce for the provision of emergency shelter services. The Y finds suitable lodgings for those who find themselves without shelter for the night. The Y also partners with other community services such as Safe n Sound for the delivery of this service. This service provided emergency accommodation for 406 people/households in 2018.

Homelessness Outreach Worker

Grey County is working with local homelessness prevention services to implement a homelessness outreach system. A homelessness outreach worker will identify people having repeated episodes of homelessness and work with community partners to provide wrap around services for permanent housing.

Transitional Housing/Initiatives

This funding will be used to fund recommendations from the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan update. Funds will go towards initiatives that will assist people in transitioning from homelessness to housed.

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, Meal on the Hill, The Deck, 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. The plan identifies four key strategic areas:

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

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

As the County is at the five year mark of its 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan, consultation sessions for an update are underway. A draft plan will be brought forward to council in May 2019.

Financial and Resource Implications

\$1,888,303 in provincial funding provided to the County of Grey for the fiscal year of April 2019 to March 2020. 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:

External:

Appendices and Attachments