

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee
From: Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development
Subject: Veteran Homelessness Program Funding Agreement
Date: April 13, 2026

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, the attached proposed by-law (Appendix "A") **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on April 28, 2026 to:

Funding Agreement with Canada

1. (a) authorize and approve the Veteran Homelessness Program Funding Agreement between the Government of Canada and The Corporation of the City of London, attached as "Schedule 1" to the by-law;

(b) authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Funding Agreement; and

(c) to (e) delegate authority to the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development to approve and execute amending agreements and other documents related to this funding agreement;

Sub-Project Funding Agreement Template

2. (a) authorize and approve the Veteran Homelessness Program (Federal) Sub-Project Funding Agreement, attached as "Schedule 2" to the by-law, between the City of London and a Sub-Agreement Holder, for the period April 28, 2026 to March 31, 2028, to provide Veteran housing supports;

(b) to (c) delegate authority to the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, or their written designate, to approve and execute the sub-project funding agreements, and to carry out all administrative, financial, and reporting requirements related to the agreement, including signing authority for funding applications, budgets, financial reports, and related documents, provided the amounts do not exceed the federal contribution outlined in the agreement.

Executive Summary

This report recommends that Council pass a by-law that authorizes and approves the Veteran Homelessness Program Funding Agreement with the Federal Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC), and delegates authority to the Mayor and Clerk to sign it. This report also recommends that Council approve the use of Sub-Project Funding Agreements for the Veteran Homelessness Program (VHP), to support implementation with the agencies noted below.

The VHP will provide \$485,038 in federal funding from April 28, 2026, to March 31, 2028, to support the prevention and reduction of Veteran homelessness in the City of London. Funding will be used to enhance and expand existing homelessness response services delivered through the current service providers London Cares Homeless Response Services and the St. Leonard's Society of London Housing Identification Program.

Through this initiative, the City will continue a housing stabilization approach, supporting Veterans experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness with access to housing, portable rental benefits, and coordinated supports. This investment will strengthen the local homelessness response system and support progress toward achieving and maintaining Functional Zero for Veterans by increasing service capacity, strengthening coordination, and improving measurable housing outcomes for Veterans.

Linkages to the Corporate Strategic Plan

2023-2027 Strategic Plan for the City of London

Strategic Area of Focus: This report aligns with the City's Strategic Plan by enhancing collaboration across the homelessness response system, supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, and increasing access to affordable and supportive housing through rental assistance and coordinated supports that enable Veterans to secure and maintain stable housing.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Housing Stability Services - Single Source Procurements (CPSC: May 31, 2022)
- Single Source Award Recommendation for Housing Identification Program Expansion and Portable Housing Benefits Program (SS-2022-061) (CPSC: July 26, 2022)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

The Government of Canada has introduced the Veteran Homelessness Program (VHP) to prevent and reduce homelessness among Veterans nationwide, recognizing the need for targeted supports for those who have served. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 Veterans experience homelessness in Canada each year, highlighting the need for coordinated, community-based responses.

In response to this need, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) has identified and approached the City of London as a delivery partner under the Services and Supports Stream of the Veteran Homelessness Program, which provides funding targeted to prevent and reduce homelessness among Veterans in London. As of the date of this report, there are currently 37 confirmed veterans on case load and supported by agencies in our community, including 5 who are known to be experiencing homelessness. There were 9 newly identified veterans in 2024 and 7 in 2025.

This report provides an overview of the proposed Veteran Homelessness Program initiative. The VHP agreement is from April 28, 2026, to March 31, 2028, and is supported by a total federal contribution of \$485,038. As noted, the project aims to prevent and reduce chronic and episodic homelessness among Veterans in the City of London supporting the community's work to re-achieve functional zero for veterans' homelessness.

This funding will support existing programs and expand services delivered through London Cares Homeless Response Services and the St. Leonard's Society of London Housing Identification Program (HIP).

London Cares Homeless Response Services will provide housing-focused case management and wrap-around supports for Veterans, including housing planning, documentation support, income stabilization, life-skills coaching, crisis response, referrals to community-based services, and culturally safe supports and referrals for Indigenous Veterans. Funding will support an additional Housing Support Worker, bringing the total support workers supporting veterans to 2 and flexible funding to support unforeseen costs associated with obtaining and retaining housing.

St. Leonard's Society of London Housing Identification Program will support housing, landlord engagement, and the provision of portable benefits for eligible Veterans. The average benefit for a Veteran is currently approximately \$650 per month.

Through this funding, the City of London will maintain a housing stabilization approach, prioritizing Veterans experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness by facilitating rapid access to safe, appropriate housing and coordinated supports designed to promote long-term housing stability.

Veteran identification is integrated within Coordinated Access intake as part of the existing homelessness response system. Individuals entering the system through shelters, outreach, or

Coordinated Access intake are screened for Veteran status, with self-disclosures verified through Veterans Affairs Canada, to support accuracy and appropriate prioritization. This approach supports improved data quality, effective system prioritization, and alignment with Coordinated Access requirements, ensuring that Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness are accurately identified and prioritized for housing and supports.

This initiative is expected to improve system capacity to support Veterans through increased access to housing, enhanced service coordination, and expanded availability of portable benefits and housing supports.

Outcomes will be monitored through HIFIS data, including the number of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness who receive rent supplements, as well as housing stability outcomes, such as the percentage of veterans who remain housed or successfully exit the program after 12 months, providing a clear measure of progress toward achieving and maintaining functional zero for veterans.

The number of Veterans supported through this initiative will depend on individual needs and duration of supports; however, the combination of portable benefits, case management, and system coordination is expected to increase service capacity and enable more Veterans to achieve and maintain housing stability over the funding period.

Procurement and Compliance Considerations

The proposed agreement with London Cares and St. Leonard's has been assessed in accordance with the City of London's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy and is classified as a Social and Health Service under Schedule B (k), as it delivers direct basic needs services to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

In accordance with Schedule B of the Policy, this category of service is excluded from the standard competitive procurement requirements, including open or invitational competitive processes.

The applicability of this exclusion has been reviewed in consultation with Finance Support, Procurement and Supply, and Legal Services, and is subject to confirmation by the City Treasurer (or delegate) and the Senior Manager, Procurement and Supply (or delegate), in accordance with the Policy.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

This Agreement is 100% funded by the Government of Canada, therefore there is no short-term financial impact to the City of London. There is however a longer-term potential impact related to the loss of this funding after March 31, 2028. This risk will be monitored by civic administration over the term of the program and alternative sources of funding will be evaluated as they become available.

The funding agreement is for the period of April 28, 2026 to March 31, 2028, with a total maximum federal contribution of \$485,038 toward eligible project expenditures.

The allocation of funding by fiscal year is as follows:

- \$ 285,038 in fiscal year 2026-27
- \$ 200,000 in fiscal year 2027-28

The proposed funding breakdown is as follows:

- \$211,882 for Veteran's housing supports
- \$210,600 for portable benefits
- \$62,556 City administration

Federal Funding is scheduled to end in 2028, and civic administration will need to revisit ongoing program sustainability beyond the federal funding term will be subject to future funding availability and Council consideration.

4.0 Key Issues and Considerations

Conclusion

The Veteran Homelessness Program provides an opportunity for the City of London to enhance existing services and expand support for Veterans experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. Through this federal investment, the City will continue to deliver a coordinated, housing stability approach that prioritizes access to safe and appropriate housing, along with the supports necessary to achieve long-term housing stability.

Approval of the recommended actions will enable the City to enter into a funding agreement with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada and implement the program through established community partners. This initiative will strengthen the local homelessness response system and support ongoing efforts to re-achieve and maintain Veteran Functional Zero. There is no short-term financial impact to the City associated with this funding.

Recommended by: Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development

Cc:
Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager
Scott Mathers, Deputy City Manager, Planning & Economic Development
Kelly Scherr, Deputy City Manager, Environment, and Infrastructure
Anna Lisa Barbon, Deputy City Manager, Financial Supports
Tara Pollitt, Deputy City Manager, Legal Services
Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services
John Paradis, Deputy City Manager, Enterprise Supports