

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY and PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 24, 2017
FROM:	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	LONDON'S HOMELESS PREVENTION SYSTEM CONTRACT AWARD REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 16-57 HOUSING FIRST EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR YOUTH OPERATOR

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, with the concurrence of the Director, Financial Services, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the award of the contract for Request for Proposal (RFP) 16-57 Housing First emergency shelter for youth:

- (a) that Request for Proposal 16-57 **BE AWARDED** to Youth Opportunities Unlimited, in the amount of \$1.2 million one-time capital funding and up to \$1.0 million annual operating funding, to build and operate London's Housing First emergency shelter for youth; it being noted that the request for proposal resulted in an irregular bid. The proposal submitted by Youth Opportunities Unlimited was the only bid received and meets the City's requirements in all areas; and is in compliance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) that the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** in accordance with the "Sources of Financing Report" attached hereto as Appendix "A";
- (c) that Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all administrative acts which are necessary in relation to this project;
- (d) that the approval given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Purchase of Service Agreement with Youth Opportunities Unlimited for the operations of the youth shelter; and,
- (e) that the annual funding approval noted in a) above is **SUBJECT TO** the availability of funding through the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, City of London contributions, and/or other funding sources.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- London's Homeless Prevention System Enumeration Results and London's Emergency Shelters Progress Report: 2011-2015 (CPSC: October 18, 2016)
- Multi-Year Budget for The City of London 2016 – 2019, Investing In Our Future (March 10, 2016)
- London for All: A Roadmap to End Poverty (March 2016)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Progress Report and Update (CPSC: September 22, 2015)
- Strategic Plan for the City of London 2015-2019 (March 10, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System: Presentation (CPSC: January 20, 2015)
- Homeless Prevention System for London Ontario Three Year Implementation Plan (CPSC: April 22, 2013)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CPSC: December 17, 2012)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City of London enter into a Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Purchase of Service Agreement with Youth Opportunities Unlimited to build and operate London's Housing First emergency shelter for youth. The Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services will execute the standard form Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Purchase of Service Agreement provided by By-law No. A-6955-156.

A number of primary documents have been approved by Council aimed at identifying strategies and actions to address and prevent youth from experiencing homelessness. Reports include: the Multi-Year Budget for The City of London 2016-2019; Strategic Plan for the City of London 2015-2019; London for All: A Roadmap to End Poverty; and, A Homeless Prevention System for London Implementation Plan. The business case for the emergency shelter for youth has been approved in London's Strategic Multi-Year Budget and includes sources of funding to support both the capital component, through a one-time grant, and the operating component.

Procurement Process

Request for Proposal 16-57 was released on October 28, 2016 through Purchasing and Supply, Finance and Corporate Services and was posted on Biddingo.com with a closing date of December 5, 2016. Submissions were invited from qualified, not-for-profit organizations with charitable status to design, build, and operate a 20 to 30 bed Housing First emergency shelter for youth in London. Promotion of the proposal included, and was not limited to: release based on the general advertising practices of Purchasing and Supply including posting on Biddingo.com; distribution to such groups as the London Homeless Coalition, Child and Youth Network, Homeless Prevention System Implementation Team, Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program Community Advocates, and, homeless serving organizations. A public question and answer session was held on November 16, 2016.

The full request for proposal was downloaded by twelve (12) interested parties from the Biddingo website. One (1) bid was received by the deadline of December 5, 2016; it being noted this is an irregular result according to the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. With the concurrence of the Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services and the Manager, Purchasing and Supply, the single bid was opened. An evaluation committee comprised of external reviewers and staff from the Housing Development Corporation, with the assistance of Purchasing and Supply, and Homeless Prevention reviewed and evaluated the submission against the specifications, terms and conditions outlined in RFP16-57. The submission from Youth Opportunities Unlimited meets the requirements of the criterion outlined in the request for proposal and demonstrates both the organizational competency and capacity to undertake this initiative.

Since 1982, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) has provided support, skill development, employment, mentoring and housing to at-risk youth in London and Middlesex County. YOU's mission is to support youth to build skills, confidence and independence to reach their potential. Approximately 3,600 local youth obtain services from YOU each year, many of whom are street involved and experiencing homelessness. A number of community partnerships are well established to provide on-site services including: health and dental care; education; job search; and, on-the-job skills training. YOU has submitted a proposal outlining a complementary expansion of its operations to champion a collaborative response to youth experiencing homelessness by operating a specialized Housing First emergency shelter for youth with interventions including prevention, diversion, access to rapid rehousing and support. YOU has received extensive recognition for its ground-breaking efforts in ending homelessness and its work in social enterprise.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited will undertake the following general activities to build and operate the emergency shelter for youth:

- Capital: Land procurement, construction management, building design and construction;
- Start up: Community engagement including individuals with lived experience; project and change management; human resource development; model of service development; and,
- Operations: Operating an emergency shelter for youth.

Background

The City of London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan is approved by Council and other orders of government, and is a coordinated and integrated Housing First approach. This approach is outcome focused and designed to address, reduce and prevent homelessness in London. This Implementation Plan concentrates on delivering actionable and measurable solutions, community-level results, consistent service delivery, and coordinated information management aimed at solving homelessness in London.

Specialized emergency shelters are identified as an area of focus and bring focus, attention and expertise to address the unique needs of priority populations of individuals and families including London's young people experiencing homelessness. It is well documented that street involved youth are at risk of harm including sexual exploitation and abuse, exposure to street drugs, gang activity, discrimination, bullying and violence. Poor personal outcomes often lead to an increase in street entrenchments, addiction and mental health, exposure to violence, abuse, and distraction from family and organizations providing services.

Currently, The Salvation Army Centre of Hope offers emergency shelter to young people between the ages of 16 and 24. The Centre of Hope currently operates over 135 emergency shelter beds, of which approximately 30 are designated for youth. The Salvation Army announced it would be ending shelter operations at the Centre of Hope in a phased in process starting with the youth emergency shelter beds in 2018. This change provides the opportunity to address the needs of young people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, through a Housing First and prevention approach.

In May 2016, community conversations took place with the London Homeless Coalition, Child and Youth Network and youth with lived experience, including Indigenous youth and youth who identify as LGBTQ2+, to inform the Request for Proposal. These events assisted with identifying many of the primary requirements of the emergency shelter.

London's Emergency Shelters Progress Report: 2011–2015 explores the use of London's emergency shelters between 2011 and 2015. The analysis relating to youth has identified that the number of young shelter users has increased while the age of the youngest independent individual to access emergency shelter has decreased from 18 years old in 2011 to 16 years old in 2015.

Conclusion

A Housing First emergency shelter for youth aligns with London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan to solve homelessness by providing interventions including diversion from entering shelter, family reconnection, and short term emergency shelter with a priority focus on rapidly securing permanent housing with intensive in home support and access to service.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited provides extensive housing and support services to young people including those experiencing homelessness. The organization is in good standing and well situated to design, build and operate London's Housing First emergency shelter for youth.

Civic Administration will continue to support the implementation of London's Homeless Prevention System and its actions to achieve our shared vision of strengthening our community through caring and compassionate services to address, reduce and prevent homelessness in London.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2016-2019 Council approved Multi Year Budget includes one-time capital funding of \$1.2 million in the form of a grant for the design and construction of London's Housing First emergency shelter for youth and annual operating funding of up to \$500,000 in 2018 and 2019.

Additional operating dollars of up to \$500,000 per fiscal year will be funded under the Province of Ontario Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. This fiscal funding is in effect until March 2020, and funding will then be subject to provincial approval.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited is committed to raising additional capital and operating dollars to support the design, construction and operation of a Housing First emergency shelter for youth. Youth Opportunities Unlimited will receive and manage any funding received from fundraising, grants, foundations, special projects and programs, along with the City of London's funding as a result of the award of RFP 16-57.

The City of London's contribution to this project will be limited to the contributions identified in this report. Any additional costs to construct the facility will be the responsibility of Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:

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