

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 COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE FUNDING ALLOCATION

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services, this report **BE RECEIVED** as information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- London's Homeless Prevention System Contract Award Request for Proposal 16-17 Street Level Women at Risk Evaluation Project (CPSC: June 21, 2016)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Street Level Women at Risk Prevention Program (CSPC: October 20, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Progress Report and Update (CPSC: September 22, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Housing Stability Bank (CPSC: September 22, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System: Presentation (CPSC: January 20, 2015)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Housing Stability Fund (CPSC: June 16, 2014)
- Contract Award 13-48 London CArES (CPSC: January 6, 2014)
- A Homeless Prevention System for London, A Three Year Implementation Plan (CPSC: April 22, 2013)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CSPC: December 17, 2012)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Funding Allocation for January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 (CSC: October 22, 2012)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Homelessness Social Assistance Regulation Amendments (CSC: September 10, 2012)

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Protective Services Committee with an update on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding allocation for fiscal years 2017/2018; 2018/2019; and, 2019/2020, and to offer a brief overview of some of the programs funded through this funding envelope related to London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan approved by Council April 30, 2013.

The Province, through the Ministry of Housing (MOH), began providing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding to Service Managers as of January 2013. CHPI is the consolidation of five previous homelessness prevention programs intended to create a single flexible funding envelope to better meet local needs. CHPI is included in the *Housing Services Act, 2011* and is a key resource for implementation of the Province's 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Funding is provided each fiscal year (April – March) subject to approval of an annual investment plan in alignment with CHPI Program Guidelines.

The Province has announced additional funding for London/Middlesex under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). The additional CHPI funding will be used to enhance existing programs and services and add additional programs to support the Province's goal to end chronic homelessness in 10 years, and achieve the outcomes of London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan.

Background

The Ministry of Housing identified that CHPI would be reviewed in the initial 2013-2016 implementation timeframe. Through the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update released March 2016, it was identified that an additional \$30M would be added incrementally to CHPI over the next two fiscal years, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019, for a total of \$324M in annual investments across the province. Local allocations were announced on October 4, 2016, and on November 2, 2016 London received confirmation of the 2019/2020 expected allocation.

The CHPI funding changes over the years are outlined in the table below.

Year	Funding	Additional Information
2013/14	\$9,428,102	The Ministry of Housing funding allocation of \$7,996,302 plus the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided one-time transition funding of \$1,431,800 over 2013 resulting in available funding totalling \$9,428,102.
2014/15	\$9,594,076	The original allocation of \$8,162,244 was increased by \$1,431,832 in September 2014 to total \$9,594,076.
2015/16	\$9,594,076	Fiscal funding allocation for 2015/16 and 2016/17 at the same level as previous year.
2016/17	\$9,594,076	
2017/18	\$10,159,727	October 2016 confirmed annual funding allocation (an additional \$565,727 in 2017/18)
2018/19	\$10,725,290	October 2016 confirmed annual funding allocation (a further increase of \$565,563 in 2018/19)
2019/2020	\$11,290,770	Expected CHPI allocation confirmed November 2, 2016.

The provincial CHPI Program Guidelines provide a framework for funding criteria and are designed to assist Service Managers with the delivery of the program in their local communities. The original Program Guidelines came into effect in 2013 when the program was initially implemented. Amended Guidelines have been developed by the Province and will come into effect on April 1, 2017. These will replace the original CHPI Program Guidelines. These new guidelines will be incorporated into the standard Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Purchase of Service agreements with funded agencies to strengthen the outcomes of solving homelessness under a Housing First and system framework.

Summary of Programs Currently Funded through CHPI

London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan was introduced in 2013 and focuses on applying a Housing First approach to address, reduce and prevent homelessness. A Housing First approach assists individuals and families by seeking out and supporting the right housing, at the right time, with the right level of support to develop lasting housing stability. Housing First is a housing and service intervention that provides immediate access to permanent housing and support services and is based on a philosophy of client choice.

The following provides a brief overview of a number of programs currently funded under CHPI. It being noted that a further summary, including outcomes and results, will be submitted to Council later in 2017 for programs funded between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

Homeless Management Information System

The City of London will be implementing a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in early 2017. Currently, the City of London and homeless serving programs operating in London use independent information systems, with little or no data sharing between them. The HMIS will be used by the City of London and homeless serving programs to capture and share information on individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and to support shared case management. The information collected will support a more detailed analysis of homelessness in London, and enhance access to meaningful data to improve decisions at strategic, operational, and service levels.

Emergency Shelters

In London, emergency shelters are aimed at meeting immediate needs, and provide a bed, basic needs, and some support to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Mission Services of London, The Salvation Army Centre of Hope, and Unity Project for the Relief of Homelessness in London receive funding through the City of London based on a per diem model to operate 320 emergency shelter beds.

Housing First emergency shelter for youth

Planned for opening in 2018, 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, use of emergency services, 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.

Housing Stability Bank

The Housing Stability Bank offers financial assistance to low income Londoners to obtain and retain their housing and offers financial assistance to those at risk of homelessness to remain housed. The Housing Stability Bank provides rental assistance, emergency utility assistance, Ontario Electricity Support Program and provides referrals to community resources. The Housing Stability Bank is offered by The Salvation Army Centre of Hope in cooperation with the City of London, London Hydro and Union Gas.

London CAREs

London CAREs is a Housing First intervention aimed at improving the health and housing outcomes of individuals experiencing chronic and persistent homelessness based on a collaborative community-based approach. The Housing First approach offers private market, scattered-site independent housing to individuals along with intensive support to achieve housing stability in their neighbourhood and community, and 24 hour outreach. London CAREs is proceeding with incorporating as a not-for-profit corporation which is expected to strengthen operational capacity.

Street Level Women at Risk

This collaboration is aimed at street involved sex workers and has been endorsed by 24 services to offer a rapid response, housing with intensive services, and a system of individualized services focused on long-term community integration and belonging.

Orders to Reside Pilot Project

The Orders to Reside Pilot Project (O2R) operated from November 4, 2014 to September 30, 2016 as a collaborative effort between St. Leonard's Community Services, The Salvation Army Centre of Hope, The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services, Mission Services of London – Men's Mission, Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London, and the City of London, Homeless Prevention.

The O2R Pilot Project was commissioned by the City of London, Homeless Prevention to test assumptions and to develop a better understanding of what happens to individuals on a Judicial Interim Release Order with a condition to reside at an emergency shelter. As a result of this pilot project, this practice has ended. A new Housing First initiative, entitled Youth and Justice Collaboration, has launched expanding on the success of the O2R Pilot Project to focus on individuals involved in the justice system residing at an emergency shelter.

Youth and Justice Collaborative

The Housing First Youth and Justice Collaboration aims to transition individuals involved with the justice system and youth residing at an emergency shelter into permanent, sustainable housing with intensive in-home support and shared case management.

At Lohsa Native Family Healing Services

At Lohsa Native Family Healing Services provides drop-in centre services and housing support services. A Housing Support Worker supports individuals and families who are experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness in securing housing and providing referrals and intentional connections to ongoing supports.

CMHA Middlesex, My Sisters' Place

My Sisters' Place operates a drop-in program offering a low barrier and high tolerance environment and provides access to safety, and a continuum of services including crisis, short-term, and long-term support.

Syringe Recovery – Stationary Needle Collection Bins

Like many municipalities, London continues to experience growing and changing drug trends including the increased use of synthetic street drugs such as crystal methamphetamine and crack cocaine along with the use of synthetic opiates such as Fentanyl and Oxycodone. The City of London is a part of the community efforts underway regarding such things as the safe distribution and recovery of drug using equipment, including the installation and maintenance of stationary needle collection bins.

County of Middlesex

The County of Middlesex continues to provide funding to support individuals and families who are homeless to secure housing and individuals who are housed to remain housed. Initiatives include last month's rent; deposit for utilities; arrears for unpaid rent; and/or utilities arrears; and, to support community programs involved in a County focused solution to homelessness.

CONCLUSION

New contracts will be issued to funded programs under CHPI in 2017 which incorporates the new guidelines and funding criteria.

Civic Administration will continue to work in cooperation with the Province of Ontario to succeed at our local vision and plans to strengthen our community through caring and compassionate services to address, reduce and prevent homelessness in London.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative is 100 percent provincial funding with up to 10 percent allowed for administration. This funding increase has no net financial impact on the City's approved 2017-2019 Operating Budget. This additional CHPI funding will enhance existing programs and services and add new programs to support the Province's goal to end chronic homelessness in 10 years and achieve the actions under London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan. The 2017 CHPI Investment Plan will incorporate the impact of this funding announcement.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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