

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee Meeting
From: Kevin Dickins, Acting Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home
Subject: 2021-2022 Homeless Prevention Program Funding Allocations – Single Source Procurement (#SS21-09)
Date: March 2, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Acting Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, that the following actions Be Taken, as per the Corporation of the City of London Procurement Policy Section 14.5 a. ii, requiring Committee and City Council approval for single source procurements greater than \$50,000;

- (a) that Single Source Purchase of Service Agreements Be Approved as set out in the Homeless Prevention 2021-2022 Program Proposed Ontario Community Homeless Prevention Initiative Allocations, attached as Schedule 1 to this report. A combined total funding amount of \$9,588,400 in 2021-2022 to provide Homeless Prevention Services;
- (b) that Civic Administration Be Authorized to undertake all administrative acts which are necessary in relation to this matter;
- (c) that the approval given herein Be Conditional upon the Corporation of the City of London entering into Purchase of Service Agreements with Agencies in the above in section (a).

Executive Summary

Homeless Prevention is seeking single source approval to enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with homeless serving agencies for a one-year period, from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Programs and allocations are included in the attached as Schedule 1 of this report. Funding for Homeless Prevention programs outlined in the attached Schedule 1 will be provided through the Ontario Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

The 2020-21 Purchase of Service agreements with homeless serving agencies delivering programs funded through CHPI will expire on March 31, 2021. Pending approval, Homeless Prevention will enter into Purchase of Service agreements for 2021-22 with all agencies listed in the attached as Schedule 1. Single source approval in 2021 will allow for continuity of services as Homeless Prevention transitions to a competitive bid process for programs beginning in 2022.

Funding allocations for emergency shelter programs have been adjusted for 2021, reflecting changes to service delivery as a result of provincial COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

In 2021, Housing Social Services and Dearness Home intends to undertake a competitive procurement processes for all emergency shelters, outreach programs, and other services and supports related to best serving London's homeless population, to support alignment with the goals of the City of London Housing Stability Action Plan 2019-2024. Pending Council approval of the programs recommended following these procurement processes, Homeless Prevention will enter into new funding agreements for 2022-2023.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (2019-2024)

London's Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan, Housing Stability for All: The Housing Stability Action Plan for the City of London (2019-2024), is the approved guiding document for homeless prevention and housing in the City of London, and was developed in consultation with Londoners.

The proposal outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 directly support the goals of the Housing Stability Action Plan, including Strategic Areas of Focus to Respond to the Homelessness Crisis, Provide Housing Supports, and Transform the Service System.

The 2019 – 2023 Strategic Plan for the City of London

Reducing the number of individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless is an expected result of the City of London Strategic Plan. Strategies to achieve this result include implementing coordinated access to mental health and addictions services and supports and improving emergency shelter diversion and rapid re-housing practices.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Homeless Prevention CHPI Purchase of Service Agreement Template (CPSC: February 19, 2020)
- Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy Community Entity – Designated Communities Funding Agreement (CPSC: April 1, 2019)
- Homeless Prevention Municipal Purchase of Service Agreement Template (CPSC: December 3, 2019)
- Housing Stability Plan, 2019-2024 (CPSC: December 3, 2019)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Homeless Prevention Federal and Provincial Guidance

In response to federal and provincial guidance, and the direction of London's Housing Stability Action Plan, London's Homeless Prevention system is shifting to a housing focused, coordinated access system.

The development of Housing Support and Housing First programs is intended to divert those at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness away from emergency shelters.

Over time, it is anticipated that as individuals and families experiencing homelessness are supported to find and maintain housing, emergency shelters will also continue to shift their service delivery models to become more housing-focused. This approach is directly in line with guidance provided through Ontario's Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

Ontario Community Homeless Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

CHPI is an outcomes-based program that aims to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness services for people experiencing homelessness and for people at-risk of homelessness.

The CHPI Guidelines (2017) note the vision for CHPI is to have:

A coordinated and holistic service delivery system that is people-centered, evidence informed and outcomes-based, and reflects a Housing First approach that focuses on homelessness prevention and reduces reliance on emergency services. This vision reflects a shift towards a system that focuses on proactive and permanent housing solutions rather than reactive responses to homelessness.

2.2 Emergency Shelter Funding Allocation Adjustments

Funding allocations for some emergency shelters have been reduced in 2021 from their 2020 allocations due in part to service delivery impacts as a result of decreased bed capacity stemming from Ontario COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

In order to follow Ontario Ministry of Health Guidance for congregate living for vulnerable populations, emergency shelters in London have reduced the number of beds available for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in London. Funding for these programs has been reduced to reflect the limited number of participants that can now be accommodated.

As a result, Homeless Prevention funding in 2021 is being reallocated to housing programs in a targeted effort to permanently house individuals and families staying in local hotels, as COVID-19 funding ends in the spring of 2021. From the onset of COVID-19 in the local vulnerable population, the success of these types of housing programs have led to 374 unique individuals being housed (March 2020-February 2021) from sleeping rough or in encampments, temporary hotels, traditional shelters, and emergency winter response shelters.

2.3 Procurement of Goods and Services

Homeless Prevention intends to undertake competitive procurement processes for all emergency shelters, Housing First programs, and other critical and community informed services and supports in 2021, to achieve greater alignment with the goals of the City of London Housing Stability Action Plan 2019-2024 and the CHPI program guidelines. Pending Municipal Council approval of the programs recommended stemming from the procurement processes, Homeless Prevention will enter into new funding agreements starting in 2022.

In order to maintain program operations in 2021, and to reflect the current service level capabilities within the system, Homeless Prevention is seeking single source approval for the Homeless Prevention programs listed in the attached as Schedule 1, while the competitive procurement processes are underway. Single source approval is being sought under Section 14.4.e of the City of London Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, which states the following;

14.4.e) The required services are to be supplied by particular suppliers having special knowledge, skills, expertise and experience.

The Homeless Prevention agencies listed in the attached as Schedule 1 align with the requirements under Section 14.4.e of the City of London Procurement Policy for the following reasons:

- All funded agencies are active participants in the London Homeless Prevention sector, and currently funded through City of London, Homeless Prevention. As such, the existing programs have aligned operations with London's Coordinated Access System and data collection protocols, including signing of participant data collection consent forms and use of standardized assessment tools.
- All programs also operate under a unique Housing First case management model which takes a trauma informed, strengths based, and client centered approach to promote housing and life stabilization, aligning with the requirements of the Ontario Community Homeless Prevention Initiative.

- All funded agencies (including those in the attached as Schedule 1) participate in the London Homeless Prevention Network (LHPN), a collaborative led by the City of London, made up primarily of local Homeless Serving agencies. The LHPN brings together specialized knowledge of funded agencies, acting as a vehicle for information sharing, and promoting active involvement from agencies in helping to drive standards of practice. Through this collaborative, the funded agencies in the attached as Schedule 1 have actively participated in shaping London's Homeless Prevention system.
- All agencies in the attached as Schedule 1 have also received specialized training on London's Homeless Prevention System, Housing First practices, and are active users of London's data collection tool, the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

Single source procurement of the programs outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 will bring existing programs into compliance with the City of London Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

3.1 Program Funding

The City of London CHPI budget for fiscal year 2021-22 is \$11,177,082. The program allocations outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 of this report total \$9,588,400. Remaining CHPI funding will be allocated towards City of London Homeless Prevention administration, Middlesex County, and other Homeless Prevention program contingencies, as needed.

4.0 Key Issues and Considerations

4.1. Continued Operations

All of the programs outlined in this report are existing programs that support Londoners every day providing basic needs like food and shelter. While we look to make system changes in line with federal and provincial direction, it is critical that operations continue and services remain available.

Conclusion

This report recommends that the City of London enter into Purchase of Service Agreements with all agencies outlined in the attached as Schedule 1.

Prepared by: Kate Green, Manager, Homeless Prevention

Submitted by: Craig Cooper, Manager, Homeless Prevention

Recommended by: Kevin Dickins, Acting Manager, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home

Schedule 1 – Homeless Prevention 2021-2022 Program Proposed CHPI Allocations

Agency	Program	Proposed 2021-22 CHPI Allocation
Addiction Services of Thames Valley	Street Level Women at Risk	\$ 570,000
Addiction Services of Thames Valley	Simcoe St. Ash program	\$ 150,000
CMHA Elgin Middlesex	No Fixed Address	\$ 71,900
CMHA Elgin Middlesex	Housing Always Program	\$ 162,000
CMHA Elgin Middlesex	Housing Always Program - Dundas St.	\$ 150,000
CMHA Elgin-Middlesex	My Sister's Place	\$ 153,000
London Cares	Housing Stability Program	\$ 915,000
London Cares	Outreach	\$ 730,000
Mission Services of London	Rotholme Women's and Family Shelter	\$ 460,000
Mission Services of London	The Men's Mission	\$ 1,300,000
Mission Services of London	Rotholme Housing First Program	\$ 100,000
Mission Services of London	Supportive Housing Program	\$ 100,000
Regional HIV/AIDS Connection	John Gordon Home	\$ 115,000
St. Leonard's Community Services	Project Home	\$ 956,500
The Salvation Army	The Centre of Hope	\$ 1,965,000
The Salvation Army	Transitional Rooms	\$ 30,000
Unity Project	Unity Project Emergency Shelter	\$ 935,000
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	Youth Emergency Shelter	\$ 500,000
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	Cornerstone Housing	\$ 225,000
Total		\$ 9,588,400