

## Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

**To:** Chair and Members, Community and Protective Services Committee Meeting  
**From:** Kevin Dickins, Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development  
**Subject:** London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowance Program – Single Source Procurement (#SS 21-36)  
**Date:** June 22, 2021

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager of Social and Health Development, the following action be taken:

1. That the funding increase to the existing Municipal Purchase of Service agreement with St. Leonard's Community Services **BE APPROVED**, at a total estimated increase of \$381,000 (excluding HST) for the period of August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to administer London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances, as per the Corporation of the City of London Procurement Policy Section 20.3.e.ii, requiring City Council approval for contract amendments greater than \$50,000 and where funds are available.
2. That single source approval for administration of London Homeless Prevention Allowances **BE APPROVED** with London Cares Homeless Response Services (London Cares) at a total estimated cost of up to \$63,000 (excluding HST) for a period between August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to administer London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances, as per the Corporation of the City of London Procurement Policy Section 14.4 for Single Source approval.

## Executive Summary

Housing Stability Services is recommending approval to amend the municipal purchase of service agreement with St. Leonard's Community Services for administration of London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances, to match increased funding availability, and to allow for expansion of the program to meet the growing need in the priority population group.

The City of London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowance program has a 2021 annual budget of \$1,015,113. This funding will support individuals and families in London who are experiencing homelessness to secure permanent housing, and over time reduce demand for emergency shelter services.

In addition, single source approval is being sought to renew the municipal purchase of service agreement for administration of London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances with London Cares in 2021.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

### 2019-2023 Strategic Plan for the City of London

The City of London identifies 'Strengthening Our Community' and 'Building a Sustainable City' as strategic areas of focus.

Londoners have access to the supports they need to be successful.

Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city.

## 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 (Housing Stability for All Plan), is the approved guiding document for homeless prevention and housing in the City of London and was developed in consultation with Londoners.

Council and staff continue to recognize the importance of actions to support the Core Area, and in the development of its 2019-2023 - Strategic Plan for the City of London. Specifically, the efforts described in this report address the following Areas of Focus, including:

- Strengthening Our Community
- Building a Sustainable City
- Safe City for Women and Girls
- Leading in Public Service

### ***Links to Community Recovery***

The City of London is committed to working in partnership with the community to identify solutions that will drive a strong, deep and inclusive community recovery for London as we move out of and beyond the global COVID-19 pandemic. This report, and the items within, are linked to urgent housing for vulnerable Londoners, and supports recovery efforts by investing in long-term housing stability for individuals and families at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

## **Analysis**

### **1.0 Background Information**

#### **1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter**

- 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget Approval (Council: March 2, 2020)
- Municipal Council Approval of the Housing Stability Plan 2019 to 2024 as Required Under The Housing Services Act, 2011 (CPSC: December 3, 2019)
- London's Homeless Prevention System Contract Award Request for Proposal 17-39 London Homeless Prevention Allowance Program (CPSC: October 11, 2017)

### **2.0 Discussion and Considerations**

#### **2.1 Purpose**

Housing Stability Services is recommending approval to amend the municipal purchase of service agreement with St. Leonard's Community Services for administration of London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances, to match increased funding availability, and allow for expansion of the program to meet the growing need. The recommended increase will bring the contract value up from \$144,000 to \$525,000 for the remainder of the 2021 calendar year.

This funding increase will support individuals and families in London who are experiencing homelessness to secure permanent housing, and over time reduce demand for emergency shelter services. Housing Allowances serve an important role in the spectrum of housing supports as it provides opportunity for direct rental relief and opens avenues for individuals to obtain and afford more market based rental units over a period of time to ensure housing stability, so that a person can also pursue gains in their social and economic stability.

In addition, single source approval is being sought to renew the municipal purchase of service agreement for administration of London's Homeless Prevention Housing

Allowances with London Cares in 2021 in the amount of up to \$63,000 for the period of August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Funding will support individuals and families in London who are experiencing homelessness to secure permanent housing, and over time reduce demand for emergency shelter services.

## **2.2 Background**

### Housing Allowances

London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances are flexible, temporary investments in long-term housing stability for individuals and families at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. This portable housing benefit supports a housing first/stability approach by assisting with rapid access to permanent housing in the neighbourhood of the individual or family's choice while longer-term solutions to support the cost of rent are identified and secured.

London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances are an effective tool in advancing London's Homeless Prevention System. In 2020, this program assisted more than 180 households and more than 230 unique individuals to move from homelessness into permanent housing.

Currently, there are six housing first programs that administer London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances.

### Procurement

In October, 2017 City Council approved contracts be awarded to the following organizations, following Request for Proposal (RFP 17-39) for the London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowance Program:

1. Regional HIV/AIDS Connection
2. Addiction Services of Thames Valley
3. Mission Services of London
4. St. Leonard's Society of London
5. Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex

In 2021, Addiction Services of Thames Valley, Mission Services of London, St. Leonard's Society of London, Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and Unity Project continue to operate the program.

In 2020, London Cares received Single Source approval to administer London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances through a municipal purchase of service agreement.

As per the Corporation of the City of London Procurement Policy Section 20.3.e.ii, requiring City Council approval for contract amendments greater than \$50,000 and where funds are available, Housing Stability Services is recommending approval to amend the St. Leonard's Community Services municipal purchase of service agreement for the period of August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to increase the value of the agreement from \$144,000 to \$525,000.

As per as the Corporation of the City of London Procurement Policy Section 14.4.d for Single Source approval, as the required services are to be supplied by a particular supplier having special knowledge, skills, expertise and experience. Housing Stability Services is recommending approval to enter into a municipal purchase of service agreement with London Cares for the period of August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to administer London Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances.

### **3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations**

#### **3.1 Funding**

Funding for London's Homeless Prevention Housing Allowances is provided through the approved Housing Stability Services 2021 municipal operating budget. The additional funding recommended in this report will be funded within the existing municipal operating budget for the program.

**Prepared by:** Kate Green, Manager, Housing Stability Services, Social and Health Development

**Submitted by:** Craig Cooper, Director, Housing Stability Services, Social and Health Development

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