

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: Single Source (SS21-49) Reaching Home Capital Projects
Date: December 14, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, that the following actions Be Taken with respect to Single Source (SS21-49) Reaching Home Capital Projects report dated December 14, 2021;

1. **TO APPROVE** the attached by-law as “Appendix A” at the Municipal Council Meeting to be held December 21, 2021 as a standard form “Sub-Project Funding Agreement”, for projects funded through the Federal Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy program, substantially in the form attached as Schedule “2” (to Appendix A), as the standard form of agreement between the City and agencies that have been selected by the Community Advisory Board for their sub-projects.
2. **TO DELEGATE and AUTHORIZE** the Deputy City Manager, Health and Social Development and/or their written designate the authority to approve and execute sub-project funding agreements, using the standard form agreement approved under recommendation 1.
3. that Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all administrative acts which are necessary in relation to this matter.
4. that the approval given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation of the City of London entering into and/or amending Purchase of Service Agreements and/or Contribution Agreement with Agencies outlined in Schedule 1 as attached to this report.
5. The attached Schedule 1 – Overview of Reaching Home Capital Project Funding Allocations **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

Civic Administration (Housing Stability Services) is providing an overview of funding allocations for proposed capital projects funded through Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (Reaching Home) in 2020-2021, and seeking approval to authorize a standard form funding agreement, for capital projects funded through Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy

All proposed projects and funding allocations are outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 of this report, including:

- London Cares Community Hub - Renovation and retrofits to London Cares office and community space.
- Atlohsa Family Healing Services - Indigenous Housing Hub - Land acquisition project to support the implementation of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (2020-2023).
- Unity Project Emergency Shelter - Land acquisition project to secure a property and develop a new emergency shelter facility.

Funding for Housing Stability Services programs outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 will be provided through Reaching Home in 2021-2022.

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 supporting Londoners experiencing homelessness during and following the COVID-19 pandemic to attain and retain permanent housing.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Sole Source Award for the Implementation of The Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (CPSC: March 2, 2021)
- Single Source Procurement of Resting Spaces (Single Source #SS20-29) and Programs (Single Source #SS20-37) for Indigenous Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (CPSC: December 15, 2020)
- Homeless Prevention COVID-19 Response and Funding Overview (CPSC: April 28, 2020)
- Municipal Council Approval of the Housing Stability Plan 2019 to 2024 as Required Under The Housing Services Act, 2011 (CPSC: December 3, 2019)
- Core Area Action Plan (SPPC: October 28, 2019)
- Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy Community Entity – Designated Communities Funding Stream (CPSC: April 1, 2019)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Purpose

This report provides an overview of funding allocations for proposed initiatives funded through Reaching Home capital funding, as outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 as attached to this report. In 2021-2022, capital funding through Reaching Home provides an opportunity to invest in longer-term capital projects to increase the capacity or improve the quality of facilities that address the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, including those that support culturally appropriate programming for Indigenous individuals and families.

In 2021-2022, three projects have been recommended by The City of London Reaching Home Community Advisory Board, including:

London Cares Community Hub

Renovation and retrofits to London Cares office and community space. Renovations will provide space for London Cares and their partner agencies to welcome individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness to access basic needs and health services, including food, washrooms, showers, laundry as well as services such as income support, identification clinic, and mental health supports.

Atlohsa Indigenous Housing Hub

Land acquisition project to support the implementation of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (2020-2023). Land purchased will be used to provide Resting Spaces, a low barrier space for individuals who are sleeping unsheltered to rest and access basic needs such as food, showers, laundry and a change of clothing. Staff will work with individuals to build trust, complete assessments, and connect individuals to supports and services based on their needs.

Unity Project Emergency Shelter

Land acquisition project to secure a property and develop a new emergency shelter facility. At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Unity Project moved its emergency shelter programming from their facility in Old East Village to hotel, as the facility did not meet new COVID-19 public health guidelines. Funding will support the land or facility acquisition required as part of Unity Project's capital campaign to develop a new housing-focused emergency shelter facility.

Additional COVID-19 relief funding through Reaching Home provided in 2021-22 gives The City of London a unique opportunity to support capital needs in community and increase longer-term capacity of the homeless prevention system.

2.2 Background

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada. This program provides funding to urban, Indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs. The City of London is a Designated Community under Reaching Home and receives annual funding through this federal program. The Reaching Home Directives provide guidance, details and expectations related to the program requirements.

Reaching Home supports the goals of the National Housing Strategy, in particular, to support the most vulnerable Canadians in maintaining safe, stable and affordable housing and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50% by fiscal year 2027 to 2028.

In 2021-22 The City of London was allocated an additional \$4,151,069 in COVID-19 relief funding through Reaching Home's Designated Community's stream. This funding is in addition to The City of London's 2021-2022 Reaching Home allocation of \$1,199,007.

Reaching Home Community Advisory Board

The Reaching Home Directives require Designated Communities to work with a local organizing committee to set direction for the use of Reaching Home funds to address homelessness in the community. In London, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) is The London Homeless Coalition Steering Committee, which is comprised of representatives of homeless population groups within London, including those with lived experience of homelessness. The CAB is responsible for the following key areas:

- Helping to guide the development of the Reaching Home Community Plan and provide approval of that plan.
- Assess and recommend projects for funding to the Community Entity.
- Being representative of the community.
- Supporting Community Entities in the planning and implementation of coordinated access.

City of London, Homeless Prevention COVID-19 Response

The City of London Housing Stability Services team is working with community collaborators to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with guidance provided by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and through the Reaching Home Directives provided by Employment and Social Development Canada.

2.3 Procurement Process

Civic Administration is recommending that the procurements in this report be made under Section 14.4.i of The Corporation of the City of London Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, as a single source approval “where another organization is funding or substantially funding the acquisition and has determined the supplier, and the terms and conditions of the commitment into which the City will enter are acceptable to the City”.

The capital projects outlined in this report are 100% funded by Reaching Home, and suppliers have been determined through the City of London Community Advisory Board.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

3.1 Funding

The program allocations outlined in the attached as Schedule 1 of this report total \$2 million and will be 100% funded by Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy, resulting in no financial impact to the City’s approved budget.

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

Schedule 1

Overview of Reaching Home Capital Funding Allocations

Capital Project	Agency	Cost Estimate	Time-period & Description
Capital			
Land Acquisition	Atlohsa Family Services	\$1,000,000	Land acquisition project to support the implementation of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (2020-2023).
Renovations and Repairs	London Cares	\$500,000	Renovation and retrofits to London Cares office and community space.
Land/Facility Acquisition	Unity Project	\$500,000	Land or facility acquisition for new emergency shelter facility.
<i>Total Capital</i>		<i>\$2,000,000</i>	