

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: Multi-Program Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - Homelessness Prevention Program Approval
Date: March 29, 2022

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, that the following actions Be Taken with respect to the Multi-Program Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - Homelessness Prevention Program that;

- 1) The proposed by-law attached as (Appendix "A") **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on April 12, 2022;
 - (a) To **AUTHORIZE** and **APPROVE** the Multi-Program Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement (Homelessness Prevention Program), substantially in the form attached as Schedule 1 to this By-law to be entered into between The Corporation of the City of London and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing "MMAH";
 - (b) **AUTHORIZE** the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Transfer Payment Agreement in subsection 1(a);
 - (c) **DELEGATE** to the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development or written designate, the authority to approve any further Amendments to the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement if the Amendments are substantially in the form of the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement approved in subsection 1(a);
 - (d) **AUTHORIZE** the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, or written designate, to execute any Amendments to the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement approved in subsection 1(a); and,
 - (e) **DELEGATE** to the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, or written designate administrative, financial and reporting acts (including signing authority) associated with the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement and any Amendments that are necessary in connection with the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement approved in subsection 1(a).
 - (f) **CONFIRM** that the Deputy City Manager, Social and Health Development, or their written designate, has the powers as set out in section 2 of By-law A-7924-5, being the authority to execute the Municipal Purchase of Service Agreements with Service Providers, employing the standard form Agreement authorized and approved in that by-law.

Executive Summary

On March 7, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced the new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). This program will consolidate three (3) former MMAH programs, The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Program (CHPI), Home for Good, and the Strong Community Rent Supplement Programs. At this time, the City of London has Service Manager Agreements in place with MMAH for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative program and the Strong Community Rent Supplement program. These two programs and their funding allocations will be consolidated into the new Ontario Homelessness Prevention Program.

Civic Administration is recommending approval to enter into the Multi-Program Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement (Homelessness Prevention Program) with MMAH effective as of April 1, 2022.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The 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)

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

Providing the right level of support at the right time to decrease the use of emergency services and creating an outreach system and rapid response to support individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness are strategic areas of focus within the 2019 – 2024 Housing Stability Action Plan. London needs to increase system capacity and availability of services across many sectors to meet the housing stability needs of individuals and families in crisis.

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 the COVID-19 pandemic to attain and retain permanent housing. This work supports recovery efforts through use of the City’s By-Name-List of people experiencing homelessness and a coordinated response that will support the transition of individuals and families experiencing homelessness obtain permanent housing.

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)
- Homeless Prevention Municipal Purchase of Service Agreement Template (CPSC: December 3, 2019)
- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CPSC: December 17, 2012)

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Purpose

This report seeks approval to enter into a transfer payment agreement with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and provides an overview of the new Homelessness Prevention program

2.2 Background

Ontario Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

In March 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Home for Good and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Programs are being consolidated into one flexible Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) under a single policy and accountability framework, beginning April 1, 2022.

The Homelessness Prevention Program will drive progress in addressing chronic homelessness across the province and will provide the City with greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities.

Funding will provide housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations to prevent chronic homelessness and support recipients to remain stably housed over time. It will also provide the City with the necessary flexibility to fund capital projects and provide longer-term rental assistance as appropriate.

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Funding Methodology

To make further progress in allocating funding to meet local need, the ministry intends to review the funding allocation methodology for the overall HPP funding envelope. Current revised funding allocations are outlined in the table below.

To reviewing the funding methodology, new and updated data sources and new indicators may be identified for consideration by MMAH, including identifying indicators to replace the outdated historic spending model. Part of the recommendations for the new methodology will likely include consistently using the most up-to-date data available to the Ministry.

The Ministry intends to consult with Service Managers and further details regarding consultation and next steps will be communicated in 2022-23.

2022-23 Fiscal Year Planned Funding Allocations – City of London

Program	2021-22 Allocation	2022-23 Planned Allocation (previously communicated August 2021)	2022-23 Revised Allocations
<i>Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)</i>	\$11,290,770	\$11,290,770	N/A
<i>Home For Good (HFG)</i>	\$0	\$0	N/A
<i>Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP)</i>	\$1,231,488	\$1,231,488	N/A
Subtotal	\$12,522,258	\$12,522,258	See Below
Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)	N/A	N/A	\$13,375,000

Under the HPP funding, the City is allocated \$13,375,000 for 2022-23, which is an \$852,742 increase from existing funding under CHPI and SCRSP. The program allocation for the former CHPI and SCRSP have existing approval from the City Council; Civic Administration will bring forward a future report recommending a plan to allocate the additional funding. The full program guidelines are attached as “Appendix B” to this report.

Funding Agreement Risk Assessment

The Funding Agreement has been reviewed by the City Solicitor's Office, Finance Supports and Risk Management. Civic Administration notes the requirement on the City to provide an indemnification. In consultation with Risk Management, it was concluded this provision should not prevent the City from entering in the Funding Agreement as the benefits outweigh the associated risk from the indemnity provision. The City will mitigate risks associated with the Agreement by using the optimum level of oversight and control, enabling both risk management and meeting objectives of the funding agreement. The indemnification provision is as follows:

A9.1 Indemnification. The Recipient will indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnified Parties from and against any and all liability, loss, costs, damages and expenses (including legal, expert and consultant fees), causes of action, actions, claims, demands, lawsuits or other proceedings, by whomever made, sustained, incurred, brought or prosecuted, in any way arising out of or in connection with each Program or otherwise in connection with the Agreement, unless solely caused by the negligence or wilful misconduct of the Indemnified Parties.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

This agreement is 100% provincially funded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The agreement is effective April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, with the total maximum funding of \$13,375,00 towards eligible expenditures for the Homelessness Prevention Program, resulting in no financial impact to the City's approved budget.

The 2022-23 allocation through the HPP Transfer Payment Agreement is being provided to the City in its role as Service Manager for the Services Area of City of London and County of Middlesex under the *Housing Services Act, 2001*. Funding will be utilized to ensure existing Council approved programs are funded for the 2022-2023 year. As necessary, additional reports may be brought forward to committee and council at the appropriate time to ensure full utilization of the HPP funding.

Conclusion

This report seeks Council direction and support for the City of London to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario to implement the Homelessness Prevention Program.

Prepared by: Kate Green, Manager Homeless Prevention, Funding

Submitted by: Craig Cooper, Director, Housing Stability Services

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