



SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DEPARTMENT:	Homelessness Prevention and Children's Services
PREPARED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager Ian Hanney, Supervisor
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Ronald G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	April 20, 2022
SUBJECT:	Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) notified Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM's) of the introduction of the new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) that would consolidate and replace several existing provincial programs that aim to prevent, address, and reduce homelessness, including chronic homelessness. The new HPP will be effective April 1, 2022.

The programs that are being consolidated into the new HPP include the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Home for Good, and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program. The introduction of this new program includes an increase in the County of Lambton total allocation and additionally, it will result in changes to reporting requirements and associated guidelines.

The HPP will drive progress in addressing chronic homelessness across the province and will provide Municipalities 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 individuals to remain stably housed over time. It will also provide Municipalities with the necessary flexibility to fund capital projects and provide longer-term rental assistance as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

The HPP seeks to combine several existing programs into one policy and accountability framework. The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative allowed service managers to direct funds towards various categories of service provision including emergency shelter solutions, housing with related supports, homelessness prevention and other

services and supports. The Home For Good program sought to help people in four priority areas find stable housing, including youth, Indigenous people, the chronically homeless, and those transitioning from provincial institutions, such as jails and hospitals. The Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program provided funding for regular rent supplement units, as well as supportive housing units. The program included subsidies to non-profit housing providers, private landlords, co-operative housing providers, and directly to households through rent-geared-to-income.

Through the new HPP funding, the County of Lambton Social Services Division will continue to fund various community and internal initiatives that aim to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness. The goals of the new HPP align with ongoing work and goals of the Lambton County Housing and Homelessness Plan to ensure everyone in Lambton County has an affordable, suitable and adequate home.

The HPP builds on the provincial government mandate to introduce a local By-Name List of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as a tool to measure major indicators such as placements into more permanent housing and retention of housing. The Lambton County By-Name List enables County staff to apply common intake, assessment, referral and matching processes for households experiencing homelessness, furthering the community capacity to follow best-practices and apply equitable housing and homelessness services to those in need.

Service Managers are required to submit an annual Investment Plan for review and approval by MMAH. This Investment Plan must also be approved by the Service Manager's local Council.

The plan is comprised of two parts:

1. A financial forecast and outline of the anticipated quarterly spending in the upcoming fiscal year and projected number of households assisted for the program year across all HPP service categories;
2. The HPP Proposed Plan, which provides written details on the proposed use of funds, including information on the types of services and activities that will be funded for each service category.

Service Category	Planned Financial Commitments by Quarter				
	Q1 Apr-Jun	Q2 July-Sept	Q3 Oct-Dec	Q4 Jan-Mar	Total
Operating					
Community Outreach & Support Services	108,653	108,653	108,653	108,653	434,612
Emergency Shelter Solutions	69,624	69,625	69,625	69,625	278,499
Housing Assistance	317,856	317,856	317,856	317,856	1,271,424
Supportive Housing	351,991	351,991	351,991	351,992	1,407,965
Total Operating	848,124	848,125	848,125	848,126	3,392,500
Administration Fees	44,500	44,500	44,500	44,500	178,000
Grand Total	892,624	892,625	892,625	892,626	3,570,500

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HPP is 100% provincially funded through MMAH. The introduction of this program will result in an increase of \$215,367 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year for the County of Lambton. These funds will be allocated to existing initiatives that meet the directives of this program and address the goals of increasing prevention of and driving reductions in chronic homelessness. There is no impact to the County of Lambton.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with members of the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the Lambton County Community Advisory Board, the General Manager of Social Services, the Manager of Children's Services and Homelessness Prevention, and the Manager of Housing Services. Consultations with community service providers will continue as there are developments concerning reporting guidelines from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Advocating in a manner that raises the profile of the County and its needs in order to secure improved government supports, funding, grants, and other resources.

- Developing programs and initiatives that address poverty reduction and promote social belonging.
- Planning for and responding to the ever-changing needs of an aging population, homelessness and retaining young people in the community while supporting their transition to being employed community members and future leaders.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the well-being of the Lambton Community.

CONCLUSION

Work will continue under the HPP to build system capacity to prevent homelessness and drive reductions in chronic homelessness. Local funding allocation beyond 2022-2023 is unknown at this time. County of Lambton staff, in close partnership with local service providers, will continue to work to meet the drastically elevated need in Lambton for housing and homelessness supports and services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **That staff be authorized to submit the proposed Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for the 2022-23 fiscal year as follows:**

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- b) That staff be authorized to re-allocate program funds between the program components in response to local needs, the updated County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan, and to ensure full utilization of allocations.**