

**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
*Housing Services Division*

<b>TO:</b> Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> WARD 15
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> February 13, 2012	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT:</b> Funding for the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre (CS12006) (Ward 15)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Joe-Anne Priel General Manager Community Services Department	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Amanda DiFalco 905-546-2424 Ext. 3132 Gillian Hendry 905-546-2424 Ext. 4818
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That annualized funding in the amount of \$138,488 for the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre be referred to the 2012 budget process.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the January 18, 2012 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee, staff were directed to look at alternative sources of funding for the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre for the period of March 31, 2012 to May 31, 2013 in order to enable the continued operation of the service while attempting to identify other ongoing funding sources and report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

The Flamborough Women's Resource Centre's funding from the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) will end March 31, 2012 as the program was unsuccessful in renewing their funding through the HPS Call for Application process. Report CS11083(a) – Homelessness Partnering Strategy Update provided information to Emergency and Community Services (ECS) Committee regarding allocation of the HPS funding.

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The Flamborough Women's Resource Centre, located in downtown Waterdown is a joint initiative of Interval House of Hamilton and the Hamilton Women's Centre. The service is directed to women living in Flamborough and the rural areas of Ancaster and Dundas. Historically, there are minimal services in the rural areas of Hamilton for women and their children who have experienced violence. The majority of agencies that provide services for people experiencing homelessness are located in central Hamilton. Similarly, agencies that provide employment supports, counselling, legal supports and food banks are most often located in central Hamilton rather than the outlying areas of the city. Many women and families from the rural areas of Hamilton have found it necessary to move to the downtown area to access services and to obtain more affordable housing. It has been the experience of the agencies providing shelter for victims of violence that women need and want to remain in their own communities surrounded by their own support systems. The Flamborough Women's Resource Centre was established to provide the following services:

1. Counselling and outreach services for women and children experiencing violence;
2. Mental health counselling;
3. Community engagement through support and education services to the school on violence prevention and self esteem programs;
4. Housing options and solutions;
5. Legal support services; and,
6. Support groups (such as reading circles and knitting groups).

The Social Services Initiative Reserve (SSIR) was considered as a source of temporary funding while alternate funding resources were being investigated. There is \$625,700 in the SSIR that was earmarked by the ECS Committee on December 7, 2011 as a source of funding for the Farmer's Market Food Voucher Program. Report BOH11028/CS11082 – Feasibility of Implementing a Model Program for Nutritious Food describes the program. SSIR funding could be accessed but that would leave less money for the Food Voucher Program

An inquiry was made to the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) regarding additional funding for the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre as MCSS funds the Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters such as Interval House as well as services related to the VAW program such as Transitional Support Workers. MCSS said that there is no additional funding at present for the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre.

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An inquiry was made regarding funding from the City of Hamilton's Community Partnership Program. Although applications for the funding closed on September 30, 2011, late applications and applications for emergency funding will be considered.

There are a number of local funding programs committed to building healthy and vibrant communities by investing in community based initiatives. There may be community grants available for programs such as the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre, however there are no funding opportunities that will provide financial support as early as April 1, 2012. Usually, grants are not sustainable with time limited funding such as the HPS funding.

Because there is a lack of timely and sustainable funding resources and since there is a lack of services for homeless women or those at risk of homelessness in the rural areas of Hamilton; it is recommended that funding for this program be referred to the 2012 budget process for consideration.

#### **FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:**

The budget request is \$138,448 per year for staffing and overhead costs. As the program was granted \$140,000 in HPS funding for April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, a prorated amount of \$103,836 is required for April 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. An annual amount of \$138,448 is required commencing 2013.

**Staffing:**

There are no staffing implications to Report CS12006.

**Legal:**

There are no legal implications to Report CS12006.

#### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Flamborough Women's Resource Centre successfully made an application for project funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for the period of 2007 to 2011. HPS is the federal government's primary program to address homelessness in Canada. When the HPS Program was renewed for a period of three years (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014), funding was extended for the first 12 months (April 1, 2011 to March 2012) for currently funded programs. The extension was to avoid a lapse in local services while new HPS priorities were being developed and for the Call for Applications to be issued. Report CS11083 – Homelessness Partnering Strategy Update describes

the process undertaken to establish the priorities for the current iteration of HPS funding.

The Flamborough Women's Resource Centre's application for HPS funding for the 2012-2014 was not recommended for funding as it did not align with Service Canada's HPS objectives or the local priorities as closely as other projects that were successful in obtaining the funding.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications to Report CS12006.

#### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff consulted with Corporate Finance and Administration in the writing of this report. It was their recommendation that this funding request be referred to the 2012 budget process since there is no funding in City Reserve Accounts that meet the criteria for this program.

Staff also consulted with the MCSS representative who stated that there is currently no additional funding for this program.

#### **ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Without funding, the Flamborough Women's Resource Centre may need to reduce or cease their operations. The women who they serve would need to seek services at other agencies most of which are located in downtown core. This distance would present a significant challenge to the women for whom transportation is a barrier..

#### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

There are no alternatives to Report CS12006.

#### **CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)**

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development,

6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

***Social Development***

- ◆ Residents in need have access to adequate support services

<b>APPENDICES / SCHEDULES</b>
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There are no appendices to Report CS12006.