



Hamilton

Renewal of Homelessness Prevention Strategy (HPS)

**Emergency and Community Services Committee
June 9, 2014**

Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

- Federal funding program designed to prevent and reduce homelessness
- 2014 – 2019 allocation = \$21,141,270
- Annual allocation = \$4,228,254
- \$634,238 (15%) = HPS administration (city staff)
- \$718,803 (20%) = the Aboriginal Community
- \$2,875,212 = Housing First and Homelessness Prevention Projects

Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

According to federal Terms & Conditions for HPS funding effective 2015/16:

- \$2,875,212 (100%) HPS Project funding
- \$1,868,887 (65%) of HPS funding must be spent on “Housing First” to house people most at risk
- \$1,006,325 (35%) of HPS funding must be spent on Homelessness Prevention programs



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What is Housing First?

- Provides people experiencing homelessness permanent housing quickly and aligns supports as needed
- Evidence-based model (local and national evidence)
- Focus is chronic and episodic homelessness populations
- One of few homelessness interventions considered “best practice”
- Currently Hamilton allocates 45% of the HPS allocation on Housing First programs such as Transitions to Homes, Supporting Our Sisters and the Youth Housing Support Team

Housing First Activities

| Activity | Description | Amount |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Housing First Readiness | Planning activities (coordination of resources, training, research, etc.) | \$149,510 |
| Intake & Assessment | Ensuring that people are provided the right kinds of service through cross-community assessment tools | \$149,510 |
| Connecting to & Maintaining Housing | Establishing housing placements and building relationships with landlords | \$448,530 |
| Case Management | Providing referrals, supports to increase social integration. | \$1,046,580 |
| Data & Tracking | Tracking the housing outcomes of participants to ensure the interventions are working | \$74,750 |
| Total: | | \$1.86 million |

What are Homelessness Prevention Programs?

- Activities that mitigate risk factors for homelessness
- Risk factors include: poverty, family breakdown, leaving jail, leaving the child welfare system, poor mental health and experiencing trauma
- Homelessness Prevention responses can include eviction prevention through direct benefits, financial supports, shelter diversion programs
- Little evaluation on interventions but some common understanding on promising practices



Homelessness Prevention Activities

| Activity | Description | Amount |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Direct Services | Housing placement and housing loss prevention | \$805,060 |
| Facilities | Increasing the capacity of facilities | \$0 |
| Coordination of Resources | Ensuring best practices in homelessness prevention, coordination of services, community planning | \$150,950 |
| Data | Better understanding of the homeless population and tracking the housing outcomes | \$50,315 |
| Total: | | \$1.006 million |

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

- Provincial funding program designed to assist people to attain and maintain housing
- 2014 CHPI allocation = \$15,668,792
- Majority of CHPI funding is allocated to the Emergency Shelter, Domiciliary Hostels and the Housing Stability Benefit
- 2014 Homelessness Prevention = \$762,000
- Homelessness Prevention is final phase of CHPI review and recommendations

Combined Funding for Call for Applications

Two Call for Applications:

1. Housing First
2. Homelessness Prevention

Combined funding totals **\$3,637,212**

| | Housing First | Homelessness Prevention | <i>TOTAL</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>HPS Stream</i> | \$1,868,887 | \$1,006,325 | \$2,875,212 |
| <i>CHPI Stream</i> | N/A | \$762,000 | \$762,000 |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>\$1,868,887</i> | <i>\$1,768,325</i> | <i>\$3,637,212</i> |



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Next Steps

- A Call for Applications will be released in late June or early-July for both Housing First and Homelessness Prevention programs
- The applications will be evaluated in the early fall
- Agencies will be notified of the decisions in December
- A follow-up report with the decisions will go to E&CS Committee in early 2015
- New projects will begin April 1, 2015