

JUN 08 2017

**Ministry of Housing****Minister Responsible for the  
Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel.: 416 585-6500  
Fax: 416 585-4035**Ministère du Logement****Ministre responsable de la Stratégie  
de réduction de la pauvreté**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tél. : 416 585-6500  
Téléc. : 416 585-4035

JUN 02 2017

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Your Worship  
 Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
 City of Hamilton  
 71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for taking the time to write on behalf of the City of Hamilton to share your concerns for additional funding through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to address the need of people experiencing homelessness in Hamilton.

As Minister of Housing, I share your commitment to ensuring affordable housing for all Ontarians. For that reason, I appreciate your interest in this crucial area and I commend your commitment.

Through the updated Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS), our government is now investing more into CHPI by increasing annual funding by \$45 million over the next three years. This increase will bring the total CHPI investment to over \$338 million by 2019-20. CHPI has helped thousands of at-risk families and individuals retain and find secure housing, allowing them to build healthy and stable lives. By giving communities the flexibility to address local priorities, they can better meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The province provides funding to municipal Service Managers to respond locally to homelessness prevention in their communities. In the fall of 2016, the province released the CHPI funding allocations for the next three years. As outlined in the table below, the City of Hamilton will be receiving increases in their annual CHPI funding allocation:

2016-17 Allocation	2017-18 Allocation	2018-19 Allocation	2019-20 Allocation
\$19,073,700	\$19,264,437	\$19,455,174	\$19,645,911

As the local Service Manager of the homelessness prevention system, the City of Hamilton decides how best to address the homelessness prevention needs in the community. I note that in the 2017-18 CHPI Investment Plan, the City of Hamilton plans to have a more coordinated approach for Housing First Programs. Innovative strategies such as these will help us reach our goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025.

Furthermore, as part of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) update, the province committed to the long-term transformation of the supportive housing system. Transformation is occurring using a whole-of-government approach informed by people living in supportive housing. A key milestone was achieved on March 9, 2017, when the province released the Supportive Housing Policy Framework and Best Practice Guide.

Other key outcomes of the Supportive Housing Policy Framework will include:

- A plan to modernize the Homes for Special Care program;
- Improved client access systems; and
- Common outcomes-focused performance measures.

On March 9, 2017, the province also announced an additional investment to make significant progress towards the government's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. The province is investing up to \$200 million in operating funding for housing assistance and support services to assist up to 6,000 families and individuals over the next three years.

The Service Manager-delivered component of this investment will be captured under a new program called **Home For Good (HFG)**. HFG is an ongoing investment to support the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025, and will assist people within the following four provincial priority homelessness areas:

- Chronic homelessness;
- Youth homelessness;
- Indigenous homelessness; and
- Homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems (e.g. hospitals and prisons).

The Ministry of Housing will distribute two years of funds dedicated for Service Managers through an Expression of Interest process. All 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards are eligible to apply to participate.

Approximately \$25 million and \$50 million will be available in 2017-18 and 2018-19, respectively, for housing assistance and supports. In addition, funding will be available for approximately 400 new capital units in each year. Service Managers selected for initial program delivery will continue to receive operating funding on an ongoing basis (subject to annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfilment of accountability requirements).

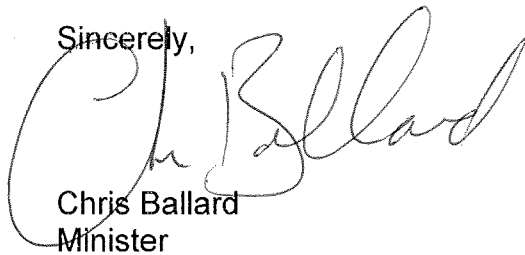
The Expression of Interest was released to all Service Managers (including the City of Hamilton) on March 28, 2017. Interested Service Managers are encouraged to submit a proposal to the Ministry by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Friday, May 19, 2017. Proposals must be submitted through the Grants Ontario System (GOS).

Please also note that there will be a separate selection process for the portion of the supportive housing investment targeted to Indigenous organizations. More details about this process will be forthcoming.

While these investments and measures are very important, our government recognizes that it alone cannot address Ontario's housing needs. As such, we look forward to working with other levels of government and local Service Managers to reduce, prevent and end homelessness.

Once again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ballard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Chris Ballard  
Minister