



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**COMMUNITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Housing Services Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	December 7, 2017
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Home for Good (CES17042(a)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Amanda DiFalco 905-546-2424 ext. 3132 Nadia Zelisko 905-546-2424 ext. 3863 David Brodati 905-546-2424 ext. 6159
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Vicki Woodcox Acting General Manager Community and Emergency Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services or designate be authorized to enter into and execute an Agreement with the Ontario Minister of Housing to administer the Home for Good (HFG) Program as of September 11, 2017 and any ancillary agreements required to give effect thereto in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (b) That the General Manager of the Community and Emergency Services Department or designate be authorized:
  - (i) To approve funding for initiatives in alignment with City's Expression of Interest (EOI) application to the Provincial HFG Program and the priorities identified in Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and Homelessness Partnering Strategy 2014-2019 Community Plan; and,
  - (ii) To implement spending caps, benefit frequency limits, or other controls necessary to ensure costs are contained within the approved budgeted amount.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In March 2017, the Province introduced a new provincially-funded program named *Home for Good (HFG)*.

HFG is a homelessness-focused program delivered through Service Managers that supports the Province's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. Through HFG,

the Ministry of Housing seeks to support Service Managers (Municipalities) to develop a coordinated supportive housing system to meet people's changing needs, and to assist people to obtain and retain safe, affordable and adequate housing with the appropriate level and type of support services.

In May 2017, the Housing Services Division submitted an EOI application to the Province for HFG program funding. The Housing and Homelessness Planning Group provided input on Hamilton's submission.

The application was informed by the needs identified through previous planning exercises and ongoing consultation with community partners following the development of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and the Community Plan to end homelessness.

On September 11, 2017, the Province advised the Mayor that Hamilton will be awarded \$2,827,351 in program funds over three years. The allocated amount represents 68% of the total funding requested by the City through the EOI process. Up to 10% of the funding can be used for administration. Although requested as part of the City's EOI submission, no capital funding was awarded to the City.

Although a three year allocation was announced, the Province has indicated that the City of Hamilton will continue to receive funding for housing assistance and supports through the HFG program on an ongoing basis beyond the initial three years, subject to actual take-up, annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfilment of accountability requirements.

To fulfill Provincial requirements, for Fiscal Years 2017/18 and 2018/19 the funding must be allocated toward programs that provide supports to people experiencing homelessness in order to align with the expected provincial outcomes.

City staff will undertake a funding prioritization process, taking the EOI submission into consideration as well as the Province's parameters around the HFG program. Staff will also seek the recommendation of the Homelessness Funding Implementation Group (HFIG) on the initiatives to be funded through Hamilton's HFG allocation.

***Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable***

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: The City will receive \$2,827,351 in HFG funding over three fiscal years, beginning in 2017. The City as Service Manager is tasked with the distribution and reconciliation of funding over the three-year period, as follows:

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*OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.*

*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.*

	Notional Funding Allocation		
	Year 1 (2017-18)	Year 2 (2018-19)	Year 3 (2019-20)
Homelessness Support Services	\$827,351	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

The funding is also contingent on the City of Hamilton entering into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES17042(a).

Legal: To ensure that the City complies with the terms of the Transfer Payment Agreement, Legal Services will be involved in the review and drafting of any ancillary agreements, as may be required to deliver the HFG program.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In March 2017, the Province introduced a new, separate provincially-funded program named Home for Good.

HFG is a homelessness-focused program delivered through Service Managers (municipalities) that supports the Province's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025. The Province recognizes that achieving this goal requires both the housing of people who are currently homeless and also the prevention of additional people becoming chronically homeless.

HFG will provide housing assistance and support services to people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness within the provincial priority homelessness areas: chronic homelessness; youth homelessness; Indigenous homelessness; and, homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions.

In May 2017, Housing Services submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) application for \$4,136,755 for homelessness support services and \$15,000,000 for capital funding.

The Province advised the Mayor on September 11, 2017, that Hamilton will be awarded \$2,827,351 in program funds over 3 years, beginning with \$827,351 in fiscal year 2017/18. This represents 68% of the homelessness support services amount requested in the EOI. Capital funding was not allocated.

On October 23, 2017 information regarding the HFG program EOI application and local funding prioritization process was presented in Report (CES17042).

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## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The following parts of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan pertain to this report:

*Outcome 3: People have the individualized supports they need to help them obtain and maintain housing.*

Target #1: Each emergency shelter (men's, women's, youth and family) identifies and achieves annual targets for shorter stays.

Target #2: No one is discharged into a shelter or onto the street from an institutional setting.

Strategy 3.1: Expand housing with support options

Strategy 3.2: Develop partnerships with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Federal and Provincial Corrections System, and Ministry of Youth and Children's Services to better plan discharges.

Strategy 3.8: Ensure high quality, trauma-informed services and supports for individuals and families in homelessness and/or insecure housing situations.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

In addition to HFG program guidelines, established community priorities informed the initiatives proposed in the EOI application, including:

- Strategies in the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) 2014-2019 Community Plan
- The extensive community consultation and planning process on homelessness funding, 2012-2015
- Ongoing input received through regular planning table meetings, including the Housing and Homelessness Planning Table, the Homelessness Funding Implementation Group, Housing First Check in Table, Men's Emergency Services Committee, Women's Housing and Homelessness Planning Collaborative and the Street Youth Planning Collaborative
- Recent consultation on the development of a Coordinated Access System for the homelessness serving sector

Housing Services validated the focus areas of the EOI through consultation with the Housing and Homelessness Planning Table and the HFIG.

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## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The City of Hamilton was successful in receiving HFG Program funding through the EOI application submitted by Housing Services Division; however, the City received 68% of the funds requested for homelessness support services and did not receive capital funds to build supportive housing units.

In order to operationalize the program, the Province requires a signed Transfer Payment Agreement to be submitted by October 31, 2017. The Province also requires the Take Up Plan for Fiscal Years 2017/18 and 2018/19 to be submitted by October 31, 2017. The Province has granted an extension to the City of Hamilton.

The General Manager of Community and Emergency Services has delegated authority for all other Provincial and Federal homelessness program funding.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

None

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Economic Prosperity and Growth**

*Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.*

### **Healthy and Safe Communities**

*Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.*

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None