

AUG 31 2018

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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Ontario

AUG 28 2018

18-000259

Your Worship
Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for taking the time to write about the City of Hamilton's experience with the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). In particular I wish to congratulate the City of Hamilton on its success in reducing the number of unique individuals accessing shelters since 2010.

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

The provincial government provides funding to Municipal Service Managers such as the City of Hamilton under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to assist households that are experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing, and to assist households at risk of homelessness remain housed. Through the CHPI program, Service Managers can offer services under four general categories: emergency shelter solutions, housing with related supports, other services and supports, and homelessness prevention. The vision for CHPI is to have a coordinated and holistic service delivery system that is people-centered, evidence informed and outcomes-based, and reflects a Housing First approach that focuses on homelessness prevention and reduces reliance on emergency services.

In your letter, you requested, on behalf of the City of Hamilton's City Council, that the Province of Ontario consider revising the funding formula to increase funding in alignment with the costs of living increases. In fact, funding to Service Managers under CHPI has increased over the past years. The City of Hamilton received an increase of \$191,000 in funding for 2017/18 and will receive an additional increase in funding of \$190,000 in 2018/19.

Municipal Service Managers have the flexibility to determine how best to respond to the needs of the homeless or those at risk of homelessness in their community. As a result the City of Hamilton has the ability to apply CHPI funding to operate emergency shelters to assist people that are homeless as long as they also provide services to assist households at risk of homelessness.

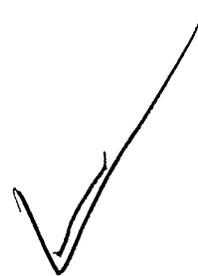
We are aware Hamilton and other municipalities are under pressure to find shelter space for the growing number of illegal border crossers. We welcome those who come to our country legally and the Ontario government offers a wide range of support for newcomers, including employment supports, language training, bridge training programs, and settlement services – we will continue to do so moving forward. Premier Doug Ford has made it clear that he views funding to accommodate illegal border crossers as a federal responsibility. If the City of Hamilton incurs any costs with illegal border crossers, please send the Ministry a list of your costs so we can relay this information to the Federal government.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK	
SEP 05 2018	
REF'D TO	<u>Council Sept 12/18</u>
REF'D TO	_____
REF'D TO	_____
ACTION _____	