



Hamilton

CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Housing Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	January 16, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Recommended Projects from Coming Together to End Homelessness: Call for Applications 2019 (HSC20004) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Edward John Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That, the Coming Together to End Homelessness Call for Applications (CFA) recommended funding allocations, in the amount of \$7,576,159 (as outlined in Appendix "A" to Report HSC20004), be approved;
- (b) That the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities, or his designate, be authorized and directed to enter into and execute agreements according to the recommended funding allocations and any subsequent ancillary agreements required to give effect thereto in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (c) That Good Shepherd Non-Profit HOMES – Low Barrier Housing for Women application be referred to the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Sub-committee for further review and to seek external financial and operational partnerships.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To facilitate the delivery of Reaching Home funds, the Housing Services Division on behalf of the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities issued a Call for Applications (CFA) on July 25, 2019.

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Based on the parameters of the Reaching Home funds, the aim of the CFA is to create a homeless-serving system that ensures homelessness is rare, brief and non-reoccurring. The recommended investments in housing with support interventions will more than double the number of permanent housing placements and in-home case management supports, from 350 program spaces to 732. Building on past success of Prevention Services and Shelter Diversion, the system will continue to support individuals in maintaining their current tenancies, with enhanced population-specific capacity for youth, seniors, families and women. By implementing a robust system of care, occupancy pressures within the emergency shelter system may incrementally decrease over time.

An applied Equity, Diversity and Inclusion framework on the CFA process, and the subsequent implementation process, ensures a homeless-serving system that accounts for the unique needs and considerations of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples. With a 30% funding investment to interventions serving single homeless women, Hamilton exceeds the National Housing Strategy's recommended 25% funding investment for women and girls.

The City of Hamilton also dedicates 20% of Federal homelessness program dollars to Indigenous-specific homelessness services, with the Indigenous Community Entity and Aboriginal Community Advisory Board providing funding recommendations to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities.

Good Shepherd Non-Profit HOMES—Low Barrier Housing for Women application identifies the need for comprehensive permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with complex medical conditions. It is recommended that this application be referred to the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Subcommittee of Council for further exploration into external funding and operational partnerships and opportunities.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: All recommended allocations through the CFA are within the budgeted Federal Reaching Home (RH), and Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Home For Good (HFG) funding streams.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: To ensure compliance with Federal Reaching Home directives, funding contracts and programs must be implemented by April 1, 2020.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2019, Council approved the recommendation that the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities, or his designate, be authorized and directed to enter into and execute an agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada to Administer the Reaching Home Program as of April 1, 2019 and any ancillary agreements required to give effect thereto in form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

To facilitate the delivery of Reaching Home funds, Housing Services Division on behalf of the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities issued a Call for Applications (CFA) on July 25, 2019.

The CFA incorporated Federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, and Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Home For Good (HFG) funding, with a combined annual allocation of \$6,621,690. The CFA functioned as a brokerage of services following the policy direction outlined in Coming Together to End Homelessness: Hamilton's Systems Planning Framework (July 2019), and in compliance with funding requirements for all three funding streams.

The CFA closed on September 15, 2019, with 30 applications received equalling a combined annual funding ask of approximately \$14.4 M. The Hamilton Funding Implementation Group (HFIG) reviewed applications and presented their recommendations to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities on December 3, 2019.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

All recommended projects have been determined to meet both Federal and Provincial homelessness funding eligibility criteria.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Research and Consultation

In advance of the CFA process, City staff conducted research, data analysis, and consultations with funder representatives, community stakeholders, people with lived/living experience, subject matter experts and other communities across Canada to determine which intervention services are required for Hamilton to achieve measurable outcomes in reducing homelessness. In 2018 and early 2019, City staff met with community planning tables (Women's Housing Planning Collaborative, Men's Emergency Shelter System, Street Youth Planning Collaborative) to articulate significant changes in Federal Reaching Home homelessness funding (Report HSC19008).

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Additionally, public and social service agency-specific events were held in 2019, including Systems Planning Design Lab in February, What We Heard Event in April, seven Intervention Information Sessions in June, and two Coordinated Access information sessions in August.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A set of local priorities were developed based on evidence-informed best practice. Four applications streams encompassing seven homelessness intervention services were developed:

- Assertive Housing-Focused Street Outreach;
- Prevention and Diversion;
- Transitional Housing; and,
- Permanent Housing with Supports.

These streams were communicated to the Federal government in Hamilton's Community Plan submission, which was reviewed and approved by the Community Advisory Board in August 2019, as mandated by Reaching Home. The CFA was open from July 25 – September 15, 2019.

Thirty applications were received and reviewed by the Homelessness Funding Implementation Group (HFIG,) as required by Reaching Home. HFIG consists of nine volunteer community members who have a range of professional and/or personal experiences related to issues of housing and homelessness in Hamilton. Applications were evaluated utilizing a prepared scoring matrix.

In addition, the City of Hamilton allocated 20% of the CFA funding amount to Indigenous-specific interventions. The CFA process continues to promote Indigenous-led solutions to address the over-representation of Indigenous individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Hamilton. Dedicating 20% of Federal homelessness program dollars is an arrangement that was developed in 2004 to acknowledge the disproportionate rates of homelessness among Indigenous people. A review of the funding relationship between the urban Indigenous community and the City of Hamilton was conducted in 2013. Under Federal Reaching Home funding in April 2019, two Community Entities were established: The City of Hamilton and the Indigenous Community Entity. The Indigenous Community Entity is guided by their Community Plan, Aboriginal Community Advisory Board and their CFA process.

HFIG recommended an additional \$100,000 be designated to Indigenous-specific programs, which ensures 20% of the Provincial programming funds included in the CFA. The total amount allocated to the Indigenous Community Entity is \$1,054,469.

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CFA Service Delivery Outcomes

The Federal Government aims to achieve a 50% reduction in chronic homelessness by 2027-28, and the Province commits to ending chronic homelessness in Ontario by 2025. To ensure measurable progress towards these reductions in homelessness, an integrated, housing-focused systems approach was applied to the CFA application process.

The proposed investments would more than double the number of permanent housing placements and in-home case management services for homeless individuals and families. These supports would be projected to increase significantly, from 350 to 732 program spaces annually, focusing on rehousing individuals and families who are homeless for six months or longer. Additionally, proposed increase in investments and capacity to homelessness prevention programs would provide time-sensitive case management support to families and individuals at imminent risk of losing their homes.

Population	Housing Targets 2018/2019	Housing Targets 2019/2020
Women	144	258
Youth	34	60
Men	112	293
Families	60	121
Total	350	732

Building on the positive impact that previously funded prevention and shelter diversion programs, this funding period will continue to strengthen supports that preserve current tenancies. The scope of prevention services will focus on imminent risk of homelessness, with a range of population-specific services, including youth, seniors, families and women.

It is anticipated that occupancy pressures in the emergency shelter system would be incrementally alleviated over time due to targeted investing in prevention and diversion services, and robust housing with supports interventions.

CFA Funding Outcomes

Twelve applications were deemed successful through the call, totalling \$6,205,120 annually as noted in Appendix "A" to Report HSC20004. There were no recommended proponents for the Assertive Housing-Focused Street Outreach stream. An additional call for applications for this intervention will be required to occur in calendar year 2020, with new contracts in place by April 1, 2021.

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To ensure continuity of services in the interim, it is recommended that the City of Hamilton Public Health, Mental Health Street Outreach Program be funded status quo at \$148,450 in fiscal year 2020/2021.

The remaining annual funding available is approximately \$268,120. Of this amount, it is recommended that an additional \$100,000 be allocated to Indigenous-specific programs as proposed by the Indigenous Reaching Home Community Entity and the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board.

The remaining \$168,120 is recommended for developing innovative, system-wide shelter diversion programs, particularly in the men's shelter system and the women's shelter system. These would operate as pilots, allowing the City and agency partners to test program designs and measure the impact of this intervention on shelter occupancy pressures.

Good Shepherd Non-Profit HOMES--Low Barrier Housing for Women application was identified as a program model that could be further explored by the Expanding Housing and Support Services for Women and Transgender Community Subcommittee. This proposal was deemed an effective, gender-specific intervention to address the housing and healthcare needs of chronically homeless women with high level of health concerns related to physical illness, cognitive/acquired brain injuries, mental health diagnosis, and/or active substance use.

The operational cost and contract length were deemed to be prohibitive to funding this program through this CFA process. In order to make this program financially viable and secure alternative funding options, it was considered beneficial to explore partnership opportunities with other sectors, particularly with healthcare, as it may also expedite a connection to specialized supports for chronically homeless individuals with enduring, complex health and housing needs. This approach forms part of Recommendation (c) of Report HSC20004(b).

Indigenous Community Entity Funding Recommendations

The Indigenous Community Entity and Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ABCAB) received approval for a transition year of 2020/2021, with a call for application process occurring for new contracts to be in place April 1, 2021. For the fiscal year of 2020/2021, totalling \$1,054,469, ABCAB have submitted these recommendations to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities as detailed in Appendix "A" to Report HSC20004.

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Call for Applications (CFA) Funding Outcomes

Twelve applications were deemed successful through the call, totalling \$6,205,120 annually. These include:

Proponent	Annual Funding Amount
Catholic Children’s Aid Society, Community Youth Housing Project Diversion	\$332,150
Good Shepherd Centres, Housing First Staying Home Program	\$367,400
Good Shepherd Centres, Housing First Family Diversion	\$225,910
Good Shepherd Centres, Housing First Intensive Case Management Program	\$1,336,410
Good Shepherd Centres, Rapid Rehousing Program	\$534,210
Housing Help Centre—Hamilton & Area, Hamilton Housing Help	\$513,930
Mission Services of Hamilton, Housing UP Intensive Case Management	\$820,000
Mission Services of Hamilton, Housing UP Rapid Rehousing	\$503,760
St. Matthew’s House, Housing Outreach Prevention Eviction for Seniors (HOPES)	\$153,980
Wesley Urban Ministries, Wesley Youth Housing	\$108,650
Wesley Urban Ministries, Wesley Hamilton Housing Services Intensive Case Management Housing	\$820,000
YWCA Transitional Living Program	\$488,720

Indigenous Community Entity Funding Recommendations

The Indigenous Community Entity and Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ABCAB) received approval for a transition year of 2020/2021, with a call for application process occurring for new contracts to be in place April 1, 2021. For the fiscal year of 2020/2021, totalling \$1,054,469, ABCAB recommends the following applications, submitted to the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities:

Proponent	Funding Amount
Native Women’s Centre- Honouring the Circle, Crisis Intervention Worker	\$13,242
Native Women’s Centre- Honouring the Circle, Home Proctor	\$39,491
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Aboriginal Men/Youth Homelessness Support Worker	\$62,065
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Intensive Case Management Team, Indigenous Housing Services	\$604,003
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Aboriginal Men/Youth Homelessness Support Worker- increase program funds	\$12,895

De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Intensive Case Management Team, Indigenous Housing Services—increase program funds	\$116,805
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Intensive Case Management Team, Indigenous Housing Services – Damage Repair (Housing First Clients)	\$25,000
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Intensive Case Management Team, Indigenous Housing Services—Move-in package (Housing First Clients)	\$25,000
Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leaders (CHIL), Coordinated Access and Data Related Activities	\$55,966
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Endaayang: Housing First for Youth	\$50,000
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre, Indigenous Housing Services	\$50,000