



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Housing Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 19, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Canadian Medical Association Foundation COVID-19 Community Response for Vulnerable Populations Fund (HSC20022) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Nadia Zelisko (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3863 Greg Tedesco (905-546-2424 Ext.7168 Rob Mastroianni (905) 546-2424 Ext. 8035
SUBMITTED BY:	Edward John Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

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 the Canadian Medical Association Foundation to administer the Canadian Medical Association Foundation COVID-19 Community Response for Vulnerable Populations Fund and any agreements with Community Services Provider(s), as well as any ancillary agreements, contracts, extensions and documents required to give effect thereto in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On May 29, 2020, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) announced that the City of Hamilton was selected as one of the recipient communities for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund supported by the Canadian Medical Association Foundation (CMAF). The City of Hamilton will receive \$345,500 to provide COVID-19 related support to vulnerable populations.

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.

These funds are intended to complement funding provided through the Reaching Home program as part of the federal government's COVID-19 response plan. The City of Hamilton received \$2,274,966 from Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for People Experiencing and at Risk of Homelessness.

Hamilton has coordinated closely with critical community partners in health and social services to plan for the risk of infection, spread or outbreak of COVID-19, with success to date reflected in only three confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 among those experiencing homelessness in Hamilton in the emergency shelter system and no outbreaks reported in these facilities, despite increased occupancy pressures.

The funding will further Hamilton's ability to continue with containment practices that have proven successful thus far, such as efforts to enhance permanent housing interventions, reduce shelter crowding, establish isolation services, COVID-19 screening and testing protocols in all funded shelters and drop-in programs, securing personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and other equipment, and increased presence of nurse-practitioners on site at shelters and drop-ins related to the provision of mental health and addiction services including counselling.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton received a base funding amount of \$5,718,428 from the Federal Government's Reaching Home program for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The Reaching Home program aims to assist local communities in adopting an outcome-based coordinated system response that supports the national goal of reducing chronic homelessness by 50% on or before March 31, 2028. Housing Services issued a Call for Applications in the summer of 2019 to broker services through community partners.

On March 30, 2020, the City of Hamilton received an incremental funding allocation for 2020-2021 under Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to Support People Experiencing and At Risk of Homelessness of \$2,274,966. The additional funding is intended to complement Hamilton's Reaching Home base funding.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Quick distribution of COVID-19 emergency response funding is critical to protect those experiencing homelessness or housing instability and the workers supporting them. On March 27, 2020, Housing Services received endorsement from the Community Advisory Board for the investment of Federal and Provincial COVID-19 funds in accordance with the coordination provided by the City of Hamilton's Emergency Operations Committee and information provided by the Indigenous Community and community partners. Housing Services committed to reporting back to the Community Advisory Board with details on the details of investments made.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund will support Federal Reaching Home investments in Hamilton to connect individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent housing with supports and to keep individuals and staff in the homelessness sector safe during COVID-19.

Eligible activities under the CMAF fund include: health and medical services; daytime services and facilities; client support services; coordination of resources and data collection; prevention and shelter diversion; housing services; and capital investments. Ineligible expenditures include: general overhead expenditures incurred in the City's regular course of business, including salaries and other employment benefits of any employees; any direct or indirect operating or administrative costs of the City; and, expenses for any other activities normally carried by the City.

Authorization of the General Manager of Healthy and Safe Communities, or his designate, to enter into and execute an Agreement with the CMAF is recommended to facilitate the acceptance and quick distribution of funding from the CMAF, which is critical to Hamilton's COVID-19 response related to housing and shelter services.

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