



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Housing Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 4, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Adaptation and Transformation of Services for People Experiencing Homelessness Update 2 (HSC20020(b)) (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 Council approve an additional grant to a maximum amount of \$673,166 to the Good Shepherd Centre Hamilton to continue to operate 378 Main Street East (the former Cathedral Boys School) as a temporary shelter for 45 men to June 30, 2021;
- (b) That all such purchases and grants outlined in Recommendation (a) that are approved by Council be funded using Provincial Funding or through an available source jointly deemed appropriate by the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department and the General Manager of the Finance and Corporate Services Department; and,
- (c) That the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department be directed and authorized, to enter into, execute and administer all agreements and documents necessary to implement the purchases and grants outlined in Recommendation (a) on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of the Healthy and Safe Communities Department and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An integral part of Housing Services' COVID-19 response framework to support the adaptation and transformation of services for people experiencing homelessness has been the creation of an additional temporary emergency shelter at the former Cathedral Boys School. This temporary facility, approved to operate for the period of September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, is owned and operated by Good Shepherd Centre Hamilton (Good Shepherd) and provides up to 45 beds of temporary emergency shelter for men. These temporary beds are located within a congregate setting, however appropriate physical distancing measures and, where possible, physical barriers have been put in place in order to create as safe of an environment as possible for residents and staff.

As approved through Report HSC20020(a), initial funding of up to \$700,000 to support this necessary emergency shelter intervention until June 30, 2021 had been funded through the Provincial Social Services Relief Fund 2 (SSRF2) however actual operational costs are exceeding the initial forecasted expenses, resulting in a funding shortfall. In order to ensure operations to the original June 30, 2021 date, funding of \$673,166 is required. Currently there is funding from SSRF2 to fund \$223,778 to March 31, 2021 to address this shortfall with the balance funded through the COVID-19 Reserve (Municipal Safe Restart Fund).

Housing Services Division continues to support the implementation of the COVID-19 response framework to support the adaptation and transformation of services for people experiencing homelessness. The immediate, mid-term and long-term actions within this response continue to guide a transition from emergency response to a focus on adaption and transformation of the services to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus. A key part of the framework remains the need to maintain existing shelter capacity in order to continue enhanced services and supports for unhoused individuals, while ensuring that the emergency shelter system is well positioned to safely respond to expanded needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A report outlining future needs for shelter spaces and drop-in programming beyond June 30, 2021 will be provide in early Q2 2021.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - As approved through Report HSC20020(a), \$700 K of the Provincial Social Services Relief Fund 2 (SSRF2) was allocated to support the temporary men's emergency shelter intervention until June 30, 2021. The actual operating costs are higher than estimated and are now recalculated at an additional \$673 K for a total of \$1.373 M. The additional \$673 K will be funded from a combination of SSRF2 funds and the Municipal Safe Restart Reserve.

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Month	Expenses		
	Cathedral Boys Men's Shelter	SSRF Phase 2	Submitted 2021 Budget Municipal Safe Restart
HSC20020(a)(iv) Total Oct. 2020 – Feb. 15 2021	\$700,000	\$700,000	—
Proposed Report HSC20020(b) (a) Total Feb. 15, 2021 – Jun. 30, 2021	\$673,180	\$223,780	\$449,400
Total October 2020 to Jun. 2021	\$1,373,180	\$923,780	\$449,400

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS – N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At its July 13, 2020 meeting, the Emergency and Community Services (ECS) Committee approved Report HSC20020(a) which authorized a conditional grant in the maximum amount of \$700 K to the Good Shepherd Centre Hamilton to operate 378 Main Street East (the former Cathedral Boys School) as a temporary shelter for 45 men for the period of September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Housing Services Division continues to participate in regular meetings and consultation with the sector planning tables including the Women's Housing Planning Collaborative, the Men's Emergency Services Coordination Committee, as well as an ad hoc sector group representing community partners in the health and housing sector. These groups continue to advise that shelter capacity must be maintained to address current needs and potential rise in demand for emergency shelter supports. There remains ongoing support for continuing and expanding responses that allow for maximizing physical distancing to enhance safety for both shelter residents and agency staff.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Housing Services Division has developed a framework to guide its transition from emergency response to adaption and transformation of its services. A key component of the framework has been maintaining the appropriate number of emergency beds currently available. To this end, the establishment of the temporary shelter at the former Cathedral Boys School along with the agreements in place with hotels has allowed the City to ensure emergency beds are available for families, men, women and couples. These expanded supports have also been critical in order to be able to maintain expanded service levels where possible in the event of COVID-19 outbreaks within the emergency shelter system in recent months.

In continuing its operations to June 30, 2021, the temporary emergency shelter for men at the former Cathedral Boys School would continue to provide critical housing-focused services and supports and would continue to include the provision of:

- meals and snacks for all of those accommodated;
- lounge space;
- recreational activities;
- medical services through a nurse practitioner and the Shelter Health Network;
- harm reduction supports;
- case management and housing support services; and,
- outreach services provided through other agencies including Ontario Works.

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.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state of the art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None