

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre
777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



MIN-234-2020-5724

December 16, 2020

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
mayor@hamilton.ca fred.eisenberger@hamilton.ca

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

From the outset of COVID-19, our government knew that the pandemic was going to put a significant strain on Ontario's municipalities. That is why we are committed to working with all levels of government to ensure municipalities can continue to deliver the critical services Ontarians rely on.

In our negotiations with the federal government, what started as a \$14 billion national proposal was negotiated into the \$19 billion Safe Restart Agreement – securing up to \$4 billion for Ontario's municipalities and transit systems.

In August, our government committed \$695 million in an initial round of allocations under the \$1.39 billion municipal operating stream. Earlier today, I announced that the Ontario government is investing an additional \$695 million under the historic Safe Restart Agreement's municipal operating stream to help our municipal partners manage the financial impacts of COVID-19 and start 2021 in a more secure financial position.

I am pleased to advise that your municipality's allocation is \$11,677,000. While your application for additional funding did not demonstrate 2020 operating pressures in excess of the initial amount your municipality received, this funding is being provided to help your municipality with ongoing COVID-related costs in 2021.

Allocations for 2021 funding for all 444 municipalities are based on the number of households in the municipality and the proportion of COVID-19 cases occurring in the municipality's public health unit. Funding under the municipal operating stream is in addition to funding being provided under the Safe Restart Agreement for municipal transit systems, Social Services Relief Fund and public health.

We know municipalities will continue to feel the impacts of COVID-19 into 2021. Our government is providing this additional support as you develop your 2021 budgets. With this funding, your municipality can continue to deliver the high-quality local services your residents and business rely on every day and have the confidence you need to proceed with budgeting for planned capital projects in 2021.

We have heard that you require flexible funding and we are delivering. Funding under the municipal operating stream of the Safe Restart Agreement can be used to support your municipality's highest priority COVID-related operating needs. The province expects that any amount of funding not required by your municipality in 2020 will be used to address 2021 pandemic-related operating needs.

As previously communicated, your municipality will be expected to report back to the province in March 2021 with information about your COVID-related operating pressures and use of both funding allocations. This report template will be available via the Transfer Payment Ontario system by late January 2021. Municipalities will also be expected to report back on 2021 operating pressures due to the pandemic at a later date.

I am requesting that your municipal treasurer sign the acknowledgement below and return the signed copy to the ministry by December 24, 2020 by email to Municipal.Programs@ontario.ca. Please note that we must receive this acknowledgement before making a payment to your municipality. We expect to begin making payments to municipalities in December 2020 and complete all payments by the end of January 2021.

Municipalities are welcome to contact their municipal advisor or e-mail Municipal.Programs@ontario.ca with any questions.

Thank you once again for your commitment to serving your residents during these challenging times. Our government will continue to stand with our municipal partners because we know that strong communities are the foundation of a strong Ontario – your success is Ontario's success.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. Municipal Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer

By signing below, I acknowledge that the allocation of \$11,677,000 is provided to City of Hamilton for the purpose of assisting with COVID-19 operating costs and pressures and that the province expects that any funds not required for this purpose in 2020 will be used to support COVID-19 operating costs and pressures in 2021.

I further acknowledge that City of Hamilton is expected to report back to the province on 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 operating costs and pressures and the use of this funding.

Name:

Title:

Signature:

Date: