

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

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August 23, 2021

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor, City of Hamilton  
City Hall 71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Fred Eisenberger:

**Re: 2022-23 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially-Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs**

I am pleased to be writing to you today with important details regarding your 2022-23 planned funding allocations for your housing and homelessness prevention programs.

As you know, our government understands the importance of housing that is affordable, adequate and accessible, and that meets the needs of Ontario's diverse communities and populations.

As part of our government's investment in housing and response to COVID-19, we are projecting to invest over \$3 billion in 2020-21 and 2021-22, which will help sustain, repair and grow community housing, and address homelessness across Ontario. This includes the province's Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), which to date has invested over \$1 billion to protect vulnerable populations, deliver critical services, and create longer-term housing solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional funding under the SSRF for 2021-22 was announced on August 16, 2021. This builds off of several other investments the Ontario government has made for vulnerable populations.

We also continue to work closely with the federal government to advocate for the needs of Ontarians, and to ensure that our residents receive their fair share of federal funding. Currently, Ontario receives its federal allocations for the National Housing Strategy (NHS) based on population, even though we have just over 44 percent of national population living in core housing need. As we begin to negotiate the amendments to the NHS Bilateral Agreement and the second NHS Action Plan, we will continue to advocate for a funding allocation based on need with the federal government.

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to continuing our vital work together to provide affordable housing options in our local communities.

To assist with planning, we are now pleased to provide **your specific planned funding allocations for the 2022-23 fiscal year.**

Please note that all funding amounts included below are for planning purposes only and are subject to confirmation through the province’s annual budget planning process. Allocations for the National Housing Strategy (NHS) programs – COCHI; OPHI; COHB – are subject to agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on NHS Bilateral Agreement amendments.

**2022-23 Fiscal Year Planned Funding Allocations – City of Hamilton**

| <b>Program</b>  | <b>Allocation Amount</b> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)   | \$4,672,594              |
| Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)          | \$3,390,400              |
| Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)                 | \$1,872,000              |
| Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)*  | \$19,645,911             |
| Home For Good (HFG)*                                  | \$1,000,000              |
| Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP)**  | \$1,921,307              |
| Service Manager Federal Funding for Social Housing*** | \$12,588,883             |

**Notes:**

\* The funding allocations for CHPI and HFG are at the same level as the 2021-22 allocations. Given the ongoing program review, allocations and programs guidelines may be subject to change.

\*\* Please note that the Ministry continues to evaluate SCRSP. As this work continues, Ministry staff will communicate updates to Service Managers as they become available.

\*\*\* As previously communicated in the October 28, 2017 issue of The Ontario Gazette, this represents Federal Social Housing Agreement planning allocations, in total value, converted into fiscal year. Payments will be adjusted and paid in accordance with the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.

For more information on the programs listed above, please see the enclosed Appendix. Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist vulnerable residents and to keep people safe as we move forward with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to continuing our vital work together to provide affordable housing options in our local communities.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosures

- c. Janette Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
- Edward John, Director of Housing Services
- Ian Russell, Team Lead, Municipal Services Office

## Appendix – Program Descriptions

### Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)

To support Ontario's *Community Housing Renewal Strategy*, COCHI was launched in fiscal 2019-20. COCHI funding is provided under the National Housing Strategy and represents a reinvestment of federal funding that has been declining under the *Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement*.

COCHI provides an opportunity for Service Managers and housing providers to address the challenges associated with social housing projects reaching the end of their operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity. This initiative provides flexible funding for social housing affordability support, repair and/or new supply.

### Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

In addition to launching COCHI under the *Community Housing Renewal Strategy*, the Ministry also launched OPHI in fiscal 2019-20. OPHI is modelled on similar, previous affordable housing programs and funding is provided under the National Housing Strategy.

OPHI provides significant flexibility to address local priorities in the areas of housing supply and affordability, including new affordable rental construction, community housing repair, rental assistance, tenant supports and affordable homeownership.

### Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)

Launched in April 2020, the COHB is a joint federal/provincial housing allowance program under the National Housing Strategy.

The purpose of the COHB is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit payment directly to eligible households in housing need that are on, or are eligible to be on, a social housing waiting list, and to households in housing need living in community housing. To date, over 8,300 households across Ontario have been approved for assistance through this program.

### Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

CHPI is a 100 per cent provincially funded outcomes-based program that aims to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness services for people experiencing homelessness and for people at-risk of homelessness. Service Managers are provided with funding and are given the flexibility to design programs to address their local needs and priorities.

### **Home For Good (HFG)**

HFG is a homelessness-focused program that provides funding for housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations within the four provincial priority homelessness areas of chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, Indigenous homelessness and homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems (e.g., hospitals and prisons).

### **Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP)**

The SCRSP provides long-term funding to Service Managers to assist clients who are on, or eligible to be on, social housing waiting lists with rent supplement assistance. This provincially funded and delivered program runs until March 31, 2023, with an annual budget of approximately \$50 million.

### **Service Manager Federal Funding for Social Housing**

As stated in the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, the Ministry is required to publish a notice in *The Ontario Gazette* of the annual amount of federal funding payable to each Service Manager. The annual allocations for 2021 to 2032 for each Service Manager were published in the October 28, 2017 issue of *The Ontario Gazette*. This was done to facilitate effective budget planning to the end of the social housing operating agreements and to help Service Managers understand the implications of federal funding declining to zero.