

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2022-3797

October 19, 2022

Your Worship  
Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton  
[Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca)

Dear Mayor Eisenberger: *Fred.*

Thank you for your letter sharing Hamilton City Council 's request for additional financial support to address the housing crisis. I appreciate the time you have taken to write, and to hear how Hamilton is making progress towards helping the province's most vulnerable households.

Our government believes everyone deserves a place to call home. That is why my ministry provides annual funding in homelessness prevention, supportive housing and various other housing programs to local Service Managers across Ontario. Service Managers, like the City of Hamilton, have flexibility to use those funds to support a wide range of services for people experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness.

In 2022-23, the City of Hamilton was allocated over \$52 million through various housing and homelessness prevention programs. This includes an allocation of \$23,559,700 under the new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), which represents an increase of 4% from 2021-22. HPP provides municipal service managers with greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities.

Another key source of provincial support has been the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF). To date, we have provided funding through five phases of the SSRF to help sustain vital services for vulnerable Ontarians, including housing and homelessness programs. The City of Hamilton has received \$58,826,050 in SSRF funding, including \$6,101,000 under SSRF Phase 5. This new funding continues to offer local flexibility and allows the City of Hamilton to provide services and supports to vulnerable people based on local circumstances, pressures, and priorities.

Our government recognizes the critical role our municipal partners play in providing safe and stable housing to vulnerable members of our communities. We are also aware of the pressures the broader housing and homelessness sector has faced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we cannot address your additional funding request at this time, please know that we will be taking it under consideration.

We value our partnership with the City of Hamilton and your willingness to share your perspectives and concerns as we look for new and better ways to address the need for affordable housing and provide supports for Ontarians experiencing mental health and addiction issues moving forward.

Once again, thank you for bringing your request to our attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "S" and a cursive "Clark".

Steve Clark  
Minister

c. The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health