

## Summary of YWCA’s Funding Request for Transitional Living

### **YWCA HAMILTON Business Case Submission:**

#### **Summary, Plans & Outcomes for Transitional Living**

A funding increase of \$2.6 M takes Transitional Living from survival mode to a place of sustainability, where it can contribute directly to the City of Hamilton’s Housing & Homelessness Action Plan, offering trauma-informed, person-centered solutions for the complex problems of women’s homelessness and our city’s housing crisis.

This much-needed funding increase will allow Transitional Living Program (TLP) to effectively meet the critical need for housing and services, providing faster access to beds, food, and supports to help more women and gender diverse people break the cycle of homelessness for good. The expansion of human resources dedicated to the program will result in increased intake capacity, increased mental health and harm reduction supports, and a stable staff component with less turnover. TLP operates with proven models to achieve positive health and housing outcomes for high-needs women in our community but has lacked the funding to deliver on its full potential.

#### **Staffing**

Previous City of Hamilton funding covered approximately two fulltime staff per shift, 1 staff/25-30 residents. TLP houses up to 65 women and gender-diverse people at a time, many of whom have complex, interconnected needs, and is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days week, it is clear that this staffing level was not sufficient or sustainable. With the funding increase, TLP’s staffing will provide a 1/10 staff to resident ratio with specialized supports for mental health & trauma, harm reduction, securing housing, and peer support. Funding will also address staff recruitment, retention and training challenges that continue to disrupt program operations.

#### **Basic Needs & Program Supplies**

TLP should provide residents with healthy meals, health & hygiene supplies, peer support programming. All these things contribute directly to helping residents rebuild their lives after homelessness and achieve independent housing. Base funding from the City does not cover these expenses and grants / donations are inconsistent and not able to meet these needs. With the funding increase, TLP will provide a full meal program, continue 3<sup>rd</sup> party security services, cover programming costs, and expedite unit turnovers. This will enhance direct, consistent program benefits for TLP residents, quickly bring new residents into the program and stabilize services.

#### **Occupancy & Overhead Costs**

The 65 private units, washrooms, laundry, and a lounge and kitchenette occupy two floors at 75 MacNab St South. In addition, the program uses common space and office spaces 24/7 throughout the building. Utilities, cleaning, maintenance, and other facility costs are significantly underrepresented in the budget and do not meet the actual cost of operating a 65-unit residential facility.

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### Outcomes

- Increase # of intakes of people unsheltered (from encampments or emergency drop-ins/shelter)
- Increase # of people supported/housed with medium to high acuity
- Increase # of people achieving permanent, stable housing
- Expedite access to beds for pregnant, unsheltered/unhoused people
- Reduction in on-site drug poisonings/overdoses
- Reduction in involuntary discharges from the program
- Full meal service program for residents