



COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	December 1, 2023
SUBJECT:	Reaching Home Federal Homelessness Funding Allocation
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Michelle Baird, Director, Housing Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	<i>Michelle Baird</i>

The City of Hamilton Housing Services Division serves as Designated Community Entity for administering Federal homelessness funding through the Reaching Home Strategy. Reaching Home was launched April 1, 2019, with the goal to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% by fiscal year 2027-28. As part of the Reaching Home mandate, the City of Hamilton ran a Call for Applications in 2019 to solicit proposals for Reaching Home Funding. These were approved in 2020 through 2024 to support a continuum of supports for preventing and ending homelessness.

On November 28, 2023, Infrastructure Canada informed staff in Housing Services Division that federal Reaching Home funding will be extended for four (4) years to cover the period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2028. However, with significant reductions from the 2023-24 budget allocation.

○ 2023-2024	\$9,924,878	○ 2026-2027	\$6,174,669
○ 2024-2025	\$9,569,020	○ 2027-2028	\$6,174,669
○ 2025-2026	\$9,569,020		

Financial Impact

- In 2024-25 and 2025-26, Reaching Home funding will be reduced by \$355,000 annually from the current funding of \$9,924,878.
- In 2026-27 and 2027-28, Reaching Home funding will be reduced by an additional \$3,394,351 annually, for a total reduction of 3,750,209 from the 2023-24 allocation.

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.

- Initially, Hamilton's 2022-23 and 2023-24 Reaching Home budget was set for \$6,174,669, however an "incremental increase" was received in mid-2022 to bring the allocation to \$9,924,878. Funded partners were engaged to submit business cases for enhanced supports to existing programs. All of these have been operationalized.
- Housing Services Division currently has 10 budgeted FTE in Reaching Home.

Community Impact

Currently, the City of Hamilton funds 17 community-based homelessness support programs through Reaching Home, representing: Indigenous-led housing supports, prevention, transitional housing, and intensive case management for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

The City of Hamilton dedicates 20% of Federal homelessness program dollars to Indigenous-led services. Through Reaching Home, Designated Communities are required to work toward the following mandatory community-level outcomes: chronic homelessness in the community is reduced; homelessness in the community is reduced overall and for specific populations; new inflows into homelessness are reduced; and returns to homelessness are reduced.

Reduction of Reaching Home funding will require reduction in service levels and/or staffing during a period of heightened community need. This will have a significant negative impact on: individuals at risk of and experiencing homelessness; community agencies already struggling to maintain staffing and program stability. To avoid these impacts, the City would be required to offset this budget loss through municipal levy as no alternative Federal funding source has been identified. Specific services to reduce or cut would require further engagement and assessment of local need and program capacity. Further information will follow as analysis is completed and recommended strategies to move forward are identified.

For more information, please contact Michelle Baird, Director, Housing Services, at Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca or 905-546-2424 x4860.