



Hamilton

## CITY OF HAMILTON

### City Manager's Office

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> February 20, 2013	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Neighbourhood Development Strategy Initiative – Ontario Job Creation Program – Hamilton Home Renovation Partnership (CM13001) (City Wide)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Chris Murray City Manager	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Suzanne Brown (905) 546-2424 ext 4711 Paul Johnson (905) 546-2424 ext 5598 Marjorie Walker (905) 546-2424 ext 4837
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the City of Hamilton enter into a partnership with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Threshold School of Building and the Hamilton Community Foundation, to provide work experience for unemployed job seekers residing in the priority neighbourhoods identified in the Neighbourhood Development Strategy through on-site work experience that will assist home owners in these neighbourhoods with small renovation projects.
- (b) That \$35,000 of the Neighbourhood Strategy Fund be provided to the Threshold School of Building to assist in the delivery of this initiative.
- (c) That the City Manager be authorized to execute an agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Threshold School of Building, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, to implement the above recommendations.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), Threshold School of Building and the Hamilton Community Foundation are proposing a job creation and home renovation project within neighbourhoods supported by the City of Hamilton's

*OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.*

*OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

*OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork*

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Neighbourhood Development Strategy. This partnership serves as a unique opportunity for 20 unemployed job seekers who reside in these neighbourhoods to build skills, gain work experience and increase their chances of obtaining long-term employment. Under the direction of Threshold School of Building, participants will gain practical experience through external repairs to owner-occupied homes in the neighbourhoods during a 26-week period. The Threshold School of Building is a registered charity that was incorporated in 2001. They are dedicated to practical and sustainable community development in the Hamilton area. They teach basic building skills and organize active participation in affordable housing and community projects.

This project addresses actions identified in several of the Council endorsed Neighbourhood Action Plans. Most notably, the job training component of this project addresses residents' desire to see activities to improve skills and increase job opportunities. In addition, the external repairs component of the project will improve the quality of housing in neighbourhoods which has an impact on the health and well-being of the individuals living in these homes and address the desire for beautification efforts of the neighbourhoods.

Eligible participants include those who have established a claim for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits or those who have had their EI benefit period end within the last three years. Eligibility is also extended to those who have established a claim for EI maternity or parental benefits, were paid those benefits with the past five years and are re-entering the labour force after having left it to care for newborn or newly adopted children. An intake process for participants will be coordinated by Threshold with input from City staff (Employment and Income Support Division of Community Services Department) that will be able to identify potential participants from our Ontario Works caseload. An application and review process for renovation projects will be developed between the City, Hamilton Community Foundation and Threshold, in consultation with neighbourhood planning teams.

Along with learning experiences and job skills that participants will gain, they will receive a stipend of approximately \$330/week.

The City of Hamilton will contribute \$35,000 to offset the administrative cost associated with this project. This investment will leverage over \$440,000 in funding from MTCU and additional funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation. Threshold School of Building will serve as Administrator of the program - providing safety training, on-site work experience and employability skills - and assume responsibility for the safety and any liability of the participants.

While currently this is a pilot initiative, should the results be favourable there are opportunities to structure this into an on-going program.

**Alternatives for Consideration – None**

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for Recommendation(s) only)**

**Financial:**

This report recommends that \$35,000 dollars be used from the Neighbourhood Strategy Fund to support the Ontario Job Creation Project - Hamilton Home Renovation Partnership in the priority neighbourhoods. This investment will leverage additional investments in excess of \$440,000 and the training experience from the Threshold School of Building, as well as investments from the Hamilton Community Foundation.

**Staffing:**

Staff currently involved in the Neighbourhood Development Strategy will partner with the MTCU, Hamilton Community Foundation and the Threshold School of Building to support this work. No additional City of Hamilton staff resources would be required.

**Legal:**

A funding agreement satisfactory to the City Manager, City Solicitor, and our Risk Management Division, Corporate Services will be prepared by Legal Services prior to the release of any funds.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)**

Table 1 highlights the chronology of events from the establishment of the Neighbourhood Development Strategy Office to today.

**Table 1 – Neighbourhood Development Strategy Timeline**

Date	Report	City Milestone
Sept. 2010	Staff Report CM09021a/ CS10091	Creation of the Neighbourhood Initiative with a focus on a) improving “Code Red” neighbourhoods; and b) better integration and focus between the City and community actions at a neighbourhood level.
May 2011	Staff Report CM11007	Approval of the components of the Neighbourhood Development Strategy.
July 2011	Info Update	Identified the neighbourhood selection criteria and initial neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods selected for 2011/12 included Keith (Ward 3), Stinson (Ward 2) and the Stadium “precinct” (Ward 3). Neighbourhoods selected for 2012/13 initiation included Beasley (Ward 2), McQuesten (Ward 4) and

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		Rolston (Ward 8). In addition, through the partnership with the Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF), 5 additional neighbourhoods to be supported through this initiative (for a total of 11).
Feb. 2012	Info Report CM11007(b)	Details provided in regards to progress made to date, overall Neighbourhood Development Strategy deliverables, governance structure, research and evaluation plan and costs.
June 2012	Info Update	Year one progress update highlighting quick-wins and next steps.
Sept. 2012	Staff Report CM12013	Endorsement of the Neighbourhood Action Plans for Keith, Stinson, Beasley and McQuesten.
Jan. 2013	Staff Report CM12013(a)	Presentation of the Neighbourhood Action Plans for Riverdale and Davis Creek (formerly known as Quigley Road).
Feb. 2013	Staff Report CM13001	Report requesting funding in support of Ontario Job Creation Program Hamilton Home Renovation Partnership

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

None.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff from Community Services Department were consulted in order to scope out the partnership opportunities with various programs such as Ontario Works and Housing. Staff from the City Manager's Office and Corporate Services assisted in the development of a funding agreement. The community development workers connected with the Neighbourhood Development Strategy have been engaged to link this work to the Neighbourhood Action Plans endorsed by Council.

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**  
(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

The Ontario Job Creation Program - Hamilton Home Renovation Partnership is consistent with goals and objectives within the Neighbourhood Action Plans which highlight the need for job creation, beautification initiatives, education, community interaction, and partnerships.

This partnership offers significant value to the City for the relatively small degree of funding provided. Work experience for participants will include:

- safety certification (Fall Protection, WHMIS, CPR, Emergency First Aid)
- job orientation
- tool orientation
- on-site instruction and supervision
- on-going participant evaluations
- completion event
- post-program support

As well as the on-the-job training, participants benefit from community networking, develop teamwork, problem solving, communication, and planning skills, all contributors to employability.

There is clear evidence that improving the quality of housing has a positive impact on the health and well-being of the individuals living in this housing, as well as a positive benefit on the neighbourhood as a whole. By providing this home renovation project to home owners who would otherwise be unable to afford them, this program allows residents to maintain their pride in ownership. Home ownership is associated with civic engagement and stability within neighbourhoods.

This also aligns with the Housing and Homeless Action Plan, Outcome 4: "People live in housing that is good quality, safe and suitable for their needs."

Value, dignity, and pride are essential components of a vibrant neighbourhood and are intangible benefits from this partnership.

Wherever possible, efforts from the community, external partners, and City staff are coordinated and opportunities leveraged.

#### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

None.

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Strategic Priority #1**

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

*WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

**Strategic Objective**

1.5 - Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

None.