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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Health and Social Services Committee
From: Commissioner of Social Services
Report: #2023-SS-7
Date: May 4, 2023

Subject:

Unbudgeted Provincial Funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program.

Recommendation:

That the Health and Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the 2023 portion of unbudgeted Provincial funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the amount of \$5,360,850 for the period of April 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, be expended in accordance with the Homelessness Prevention Program guidelines; and
 - B) That the Commissioner of Social Services be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements related to the Homelessness Prevention Program.
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Report:

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details and seek Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) Council approval to expend unbudgeted revenue provided through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).

3. Background

- 3.1 On February 3, 2023, Social Services staff received notice from MMAH outlining that the Region's planning allocation 2023-2024 for the Homelessness Prevention

Program (HPP) was \$11,536,100, and that MMAH was conducting a review of the funding allocation model.

- 3.2 On March 24, 2023, Social Services staff received notice from MMAH outlining the Region's revised HPP allocation for 2023-2024. Under this new allocation, the Region's 2023-2024 incremental increase to base funding is \$7,147,800 for a total investment of \$18,683,900.
- 3.3 The submission of the HPP Investment Plan was due back to MMAH by May 1, 2023.

4. Homelessness Prevention Program

- 4.1 The HPP is a provincially funded program that provides affordable housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, with the objective of preventing, addressing and reducing homelessness, including chronic homelessness.
- 4.2 The HPP is intended to be flexible and streamlined, so that Service Managers can target funding where community need is greatest and can make the most impact on reducing and preventing homelessness.
- 4.3 The HPP allows Service Managers to allocate as much, or as little funding as needed to capital spending that supports the creation and renewal of supportive housing and emergency shelters.
- 4.4 New for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Region will be required to update/verify, on a semi-annual basis, facility-level information about emergency shelters and congregate living supportive housing facilities, which are either wholly or in-part funded by MMAH to support risk management, preparedness, and service capacity planning by the Ministry.
- 4.5 A subsequent report and presentation in June will be provided to the Health and Social Services Committee outlining Regional, Provincial and Federal investments in homelessness as well as priority projects funded.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 As per section 11.1 of the Region's Budget Management Policy, Unanticipated revenues in excess of \$1,000,000, and the proposed expenditure plan, require approval of the appropriate Standing Committee and Regional Council prior to the expenditure of funding.
- 5.2 The unbudgeted provincial funding in the amount of \$5,360,850, calculated as 75% of the \$7,147,800 incremental increase to base funding noted in section 3.2, will be expended in accordance with the HPP funding guidelines.

- 5.3 Funding will be allocated to community agencies, subject to terms and conditions set out in the program funding guidelines.
- 5.4 There are risks to the Region with upper levels of government funding. In the event that either level of government decreases the funding or does not adjust the level of funding provided to the Region to accommodate inflationary and contractual increases, then the Region's funding costs may need to be increased if there is a request to maintain the same level of service to the community.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 2: Community Vitality – To foster an exceptional quality of life with services that contribute to strong neighbourhoods, vibrant and diverse communities, and influence our safety and well-being.
 - b. Goal 4: Social Investment – To ensure a range of programs, services and supports are available and accessible to those in need, so that no individual is left behind.
 - c. Goal 5: Service Excellence – To provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective, and fiscally sustainable service delivery.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Regional Municipality of Durham receive the additional unbudgeted Provincial funding from MMAH in the amount of \$5,360,850 as supplementary to the 2023 Business Plans and Budget and it be allocated to eligible costs as outlined in the HPP guidelines.
- 7.2 This report was reviewed by the Finance Department and the Commissioner of Finance concurs with the financial recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou
Commissioner of Social Services

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original Signed By

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer