



# Interoffice Memorandum

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**Date:** September 24, 2025

**To:** Regional Council

**From:** Elaine Baxter-Trahair

**Subject:** Results of the Region's Interim Housing  
Assistance Program Grant Application

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## 1. Purpose

This memo provides an update on the Regional Municipality of Durham's (Region) application to the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) administered by Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

## 2. Durham Region's IHAP Application

In December 2024, IRCC released new IHAP program guidelines that would provide municipalities with upfront funding, rather than reimbursement, for activities that align with a dedicated, permanent, and coordinated approach to the asylum seeker response from 2025-2027.

With Council's directive to seek federal reimbursement and explore sustainable, cost-effective approaches to support asylum seekers, the Region submitted an IHAP application totaling \$52,819,571 to cover capital and program costs.

In August 2025, the Region's IHAP application was approved for \$48,030,000 in funding, with an initial installment of \$42,051,000 in 2025 and a second installment of \$5,979,000 in June 2026. The approved amount is 91% of the Region's full funding request. These funds will support the purchase of a purpose-built, dedicated housing facility to provide interim housing as well as continued wraparound services including housing supports and services, case management, system navigation, employment supports.

### 3. Grant Agreement Highlights

#### *Cost matching requirements*

- Activities aligned with IHAP guidelines (e.g., sustainable housing solutions):
  - **95% coverage in Year 1**
  - **75% coverage in Year 2**
- Activities outside guidelines (e.g., hotel accommodations):
  - **75% coverage in Year 1**
  - **50% coverage in Year 2**

The Region must fund the remaining share through provincial, territorial, or municipal sources.

#### *Financial provisions*

- The Region can use the grant towards costs incurred between January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2027.
- The first installment of the grant is payable within 60 business days of the grant agreement coming into effect, or shortly thereafter as soon as the funds are available.
- The second installment is payable by June 30, 2026, provided Durham completes the first interim and annual reports.

#### *Reporting Requirements*

- The agreement will remain in effect until March 31, 2027.
- Durham is required to submit an interim and final annual report on the funded activities every December 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of each funding year.

#### *Program Requirements*

- The grant emphasizes the efficient use of funding demonstrated through increased municipal collaboration and the facilitation of housing independence for asylum claimants as soon as possible.
- Target: maximum length of stay of 90 days in IHAP-funded accommodations.

### 4. Durham Region's Humanitarian Response Program (DHRP)

Since 2023, the Region has coordinated support for refugees and asylum-seekers in conjunction with Community Development Council Durham

(CDCD) and other community partners through existing programs. As of August 2025, three hotel sites continue to shelter 391 individuals. The program has supported a total of 1,785 asylum claimants to-date. DHRP provides wrap-around resettlement supports while clients are on-site, such as employment and settlement support, housing search assistance, case management, children's activities, and mental health workshops.

## **5. Intergovernmental Coordination**

Staff continue to participate in intergovernmental tables with representatives from other GTHA municipalities, provincial, and federal governments to deliver a coordinated asylum seeker response. Several jurisdictions, including Toronto, Peel, York, Waterloo, Ottawa, Hamilton and Simco noted that they have also received IHAP funding.

Municipalities are preparing to present IHAP updates to their councils and set the direction for their asylum response this fall.

## **5. Next steps**

Upon receiving the final, signed grant agreement from IRCC, staff will assess and develop recommendations for Council's approval regarding how the funding will be allocated to support both asylum claimants and longer-term initiatives aligned with the Region's strategic goals.