



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-242

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
RESOURCE STAFF: Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing Department
DATE OF MEETING: July 17, 2012
SUBJECT: Next Steps for funding allocations under the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At Council on June 19, 2012, City staff were directed to report back with an update and next steps of the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP) allocation process depending on provincial funding announcements.

The provincial guidelines have not yet been received and City staff have determined it is not practical to release an Request For Proposal (RFP) prior to the receipt of the provincial guidelines. This is a change in direction from the Council approved motion in April 2012 which directed staff to issue a RFP for the allocation of the 2013-2014 CHPP funding. If the funding guidelines are not announced by October a contingency plan will be brought to Council to ensure that uninterrupted programming can continue in early 2013.

Under the Housing Services Act (HSA) 2011, the Service Manager is obligated to have a Housing & Homelessness Plan approved by January 1, 2014. The Housing Department will hire a consultant in 2012 to undertake the consultation and homelessness planning process with a completion date of June 2013. The funds to retain a consultant are already included in the 2012 operational budget. This planning will include consultations with service providers, community members and clients and will set out a model and process for future funding allocation.

Should the overall consolidated funding guidelines, once announced by the Province, provide the same level of funding as 2011-2012, City staff will be recommending status quo for CHPP and HHSF funding allocations for 2013.

Staff will report back to Council when information from the Province is received. City staff will also continue to keep all CHPP funded service providers informed of the status of the consolidated funding guidelines so that they can be prepared to make any necessary changes within their organizations and for their clients for 2013.

July 17, 2012

- Page 2 -

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a Request for Proposals (RFP) not be issued for the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP) and Municipal Housing & Homelessness Strategic Fund (HHSF) to allocate funding for 2013 as the Provincial allocation has not been announced and insufficient time remains to undertake such an RFP for 2013; and

THAT staff be directed to report back to Council by October 31, 2012 with either recommendations for funding existing programs based upon the announced Provincial funding allotment for 2013 or contingency options for funding existing programs for the first quarter of 2013 if no Provincial funding has yet been announced; and

THAT a full evaluation of the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP) and Municipal Housing & Homelessness Strategic Fund (HHSF) be included in the Housing and Homelessness Plan to be undertaken in 2012 and 2013 by the Housing Department; it being understood that the plan will be used as the basis for the allocation of funding for both programs.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner Community Services
--

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer
--

CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability & Growth</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

Funding Consolidation

In 2011, the province announced its Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy, which includes the consolidation in 2013 of the following provincially funded housing and homelessness programs:

- Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP);
- Emergency Energy Fund (Provincial Utility Bank);
- Rent Bank (Provincial);
- Emergency Hostels (shelter per diems); and
- Domiciliary Hostels (Kingston has none).

In 2012 the province announced that the Ontario Works Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) would be rolled into this consolidated funding starting in 2013 and that it would be reducing its contribution to CSUMB by 50%.

Although the CSUMB is included in this consolidation, Council has approved that Community & Family Services staff continue to redirect the CSUMB funding directly to Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) clients.

The levels of funding (in addition to the CSUMB) which may be affected by the consolidated funding are as follows:

Provincial Program (Ministry of Community & Social Services – MCSS) (Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – MMAH)	2011 or 2012 Allocation
Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (MCSS)	\$1,353,000 - annually
Provincial Utility Bank (MCSS)	\$23,770 - annually
Provincial Rent Bank (MMAH)	\$66,824 - annually
Shelter per diems (MCSS) cost-shared provincial/municipal (81.2/18.8%)	\$687,818 - 2011 annual funding

RFP for CHPP Funding

The guidelines on the homelessness funding consolidation have not yet been released by the Province. In April 2012, Council approved the issuance and criteria to be used for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the allocation of funding under the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP) and Housing/Homelessness Strategy Funding (HHSF) for the period from 2013-2014. Without the guidelines and with the reduced CSUMB funding, City staff are concerned that the consolidation may result in a reduction in the amount of CHPP funding previously allocated to the Service Manager.

While the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has advised that the consolidated funding will provide some local discretion on the allocation of this funding, City staff have been unable to

July 17, 2012

- Page 5 -

obtain confirmation of the current funding levels, goals and outcomes for these programs will remain the same.

Other Service Managers

Recently the City of Kingston surveyed other Service Managers across the province regarding their practices related to CHPP funding allocations including their amount of funding and manner of allocation. 24 out of 47 Service Managers have responded and it is evident that the City of Kingston is being funded at a much higher level than other municipalities. It is staff's understanding that the initial funding allocation to municipalities considered the number of federal institutions, mental health facilities and emergency hostels in the area which can result in a higher need population, increased homelessness issues and the need for additional support workers. The closure of beds in the local mental health facilities has affected the need for support workers and directly impacts the City's limited housing supply and contributes to Kingston's low vacancy rate and homelessness issues. The surveys also revealed that very few municipalities have issued RFPs to allocate the CHPP funding in the past and have used varying methods to determine the allocation of CHPP funding including community consultations, the development of a homelessness plan, Service Manager review of services and to a lesser extent the results of Request for Proposals issued.

Housing & Homelessness Planning

Another requirement for Service Managers under the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Program and the Housing Services Act (HSA) 2011 is an approved Housing & Homelessness Plan by January 1, 2014. City staff are presently preparing to issue an RFP to hire a consultant to prepare the Homelessness portion of this plan and will undertake the consultation and planning process in 2012 and 2013. Funding to retain the consultant is included in the 2012 operational budget. The Municipal Housing Strategy approved by City Council in 2011 will be the basis for the housing portion of the plan. The homelessness planning will include consultations with service providers, community members and clients and will provide direction on the priorities for homelessness funding.

City staff led two community consultations in 2011 to identify gaps in services and prioritize homeless services in the community. In April 2012, staff from the United Way, Service Canada and the City's Housing Department conducted a service mapping session with service providers to better understand the wide array of homeless services offered in the community.

It is the goal that the Homelessness Plan will build on these initiatives and provide direction regarding the priorities and programs required in the community and how the consolidated funding should be allocated. The homelessness plan will reveal the most necessary services and ensure that the neediest clients will benefit from the CHPP funding. In the meantime, City staff continue to facilitate discussions with service providers to reduce gaps and avoid duplication in services by reviewing hours of operation of drop-in centres to ensure coverage each day; providing transit passes for homeless clients; and identifying the role and mandate of the many support workers employed by various agencies throughout the community.

July 17, 2012

- Page 6 -

Next Steps

Should the overall consolidated funding guidelines, once announced by the Province, provide the same level of funding as 2011-2012, City staff would be recommending status quo for CHPP and HHSF funding allocations for 2013. This would allow direction to be taken from the Homelessness Plan recommendations as to how stable funding should be allocated moving forward.

The majority of CHPP funds are allocated to agencies to fund positions for support workers. Any reduction in funding could affect staffing at the agencies and service delivery to clients. City staff will continue to keep service providers informed of the status of the consolidated funding guidelines so that they can be prepared to make any necessary changes within their organizations and for their clients for 2013.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Susan Beckel, Deputy Clerk, County of Frontenac

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

No notice requirements

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

This report is available in alternative formats upon request.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

In past years, CHPP funding has been annualized 100% provincial funding. The level of funding for 2013 is unknown and could change with the consolidation of programs and guidelines. The City currently receives \$1.3M annually. The \$150,000 HHSF funding is 100% municipally funded and is included in the City's annual operating budget.

CONTACTS:

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

613-546-4291 ext. 1231

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing Department

Lee Campbell, Housing Program Administrator, Housing Department

Adele Lafrance, Director, Community & Family Services Department

Katie Clarke, Manager, Ontario Works Program, Community & Family Services Dept.

Desiree Kennedy, City Treasurer

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A