



County Council

Meeting Date: April 22, 2025

Submitted by: Joe Winsor, Manager of Social Services
Cindy Howard, General Manager of Finance & Community Services

Subject: Homeless Prevention Program Funding Update 2025

BACKGROUND:

In Middlesex County, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness or who are precariously housed has increased over the past few years. This has created a greater demand for supports and services. Hundreds of individuals and families have accessed housing and homelessness supports through the provincially funded Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).

HPP is a provincial program designed to support individuals and families at risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness by providing housing assistance and support services. The goal is to help prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing, as well as supportive services for individuals and families who are at risk or currently homeless.

In 2025, the Middlesex County Social Services Department submitted an Investment Plan to the City of London, which serves as our Service System Manager (SSM). The SSM has received the County's plan, to review, approve and submit to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for final approval, requesting a total of \$1,151,000. The 2025-2026 investment plan includes an increase of \$104,279.

ANALYSIS:

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Funding:

Middlesex County Social Services will focus on four service categories outlined in the HPP guidelines:

- Emergency Shelter Solutions
- Community Outreach and Support Services

- Housing Assistance
- Supportive Housing

Programs, services, and activities supported under HPP will include the Middlesex Accommodation Program, Middlesex Paramedic Outreach Program, youth transitional housing through YOU Strathroy, community education, training opportunities, food security programs, emergency hotel/motel stays, responses to inclement weather alerts (cold and heat alerts from the MLHU), and the continuation of the Whatever It Takes Fund (e.g., rental and utility arrears, last month's rent, and other supports to obtain or maintain housing).

Although the County has not yet received final approval from the City of London (pending provincial approval of the investment plans), programs continue to operate as previously funded, as discussed and agreed upon with the City.

The County collaborated with community partners and individuals with lived experience to inform the investment plan and ensure it reflects local needs.

Middlesex Accommodation Program:

The Middlesex Accommodation Program is now a well-established initiative. In collaboration with the Countryside Motel, CMHA Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (TVAMHS), Middlesex Community Navigators, and Middlesex Social Services, the program provides temporary shelter and supports when no other options are available.

In 2024, the program successfully supported 77 individuals from 62 families (including 15 dependent children) in avoiding unsheltered homelessness. With support from CMHA TVAMHS, 62% of these individuals and families secured permanent housing.

To continue this success, the County will enter into a contract with CMHA TVAMHS to provide direct client services and manage funding for Countryside Motel accommodations. A total of \$628,896 will be allocated for this program, which covers motel room costs and CMHA TVAMHS staff wages. This is an increase from the 2024–2025 allocation due to rising room demand and wage adjustments.

The contract outlines program administration, expectations, and funding details. Funding will cover expenses from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. CMHA TVAMHS will continue to collaborate with the Countryside Motel to deliver services.



We extend our gratitude to the Province of Ontario and the City of London for their financial support, and to CMHA TVAMHS, the Community Navigators, Ontario Works team, and the Countryside Motel for their ongoing contributions to the success of this program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Homelessness Prevention Program is 100% provincially funded.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Cultivating Community Vitality 	Advance a diverse, healthy, and engaged community across Middlesex County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote and support community wellness• Innovate social and community services• Attract, retain, and engage youth in our community• Champion and encourage active transportation and public transit opportunities
Promoting Service Excellence 	Innovate and transform municipal service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anticipate and align municipal service delivery to emerging needs and expectations• Engage, educate and inform residents, businesses, and visitors of county services and community activities• Strengthen our advocacy and lobbying efforts with other government bodies• Collaborate with strategic partners to leverage available resources and opportunities• Build organizational capacity and capabilities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Homeless Prevention Program Funding Update 2025 report be received for information;

AND THAT the General Manager of Finance and Community Services be authorized to execute, on behalf of the County of Middlesex, the Homeless Prevention Agreement for the Middlesex Accommodation Program between the Corporation of the County of Middlesex and Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services attached to this Report as Appendix “A”.

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Agreement to support the Middlesex Accommodation Program – Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services