



Committee of Whole

Meeting Date: October 11th, 2022

Submitted by: Cindy Howard – General Manager, Finance and Community Services
Joe Winsor – Manager, Social Services

SUBJECT: Social Services Relief Funds (SSRF) – Phase 5

BACKGROUND:

Since 2020 the County homelessness population has continued to grow, which has required more supports and services to be offered. Hundreds of individuals and or families have accessed Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) phases 1, 2, 3, 4 and now 5. Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) (formally Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)) funding is also available for housing and homelessness supports.

Social Services Relief Funds (SSRF) were allocated to protect the health and safety of the province's most vulnerable people during COVID-19. Funds were directed at supporting people in community housing, supportive housing, food programs, people with low incomes, and those experiencing homelessness or who are precariously housed.

For the fifth and final instalment of the SSRF allocations the County put forward an Investment Plan to the City of London. This Investment Plan was incorporated into the overall Service Manager Investment Plan. The County Investment Plan was approved and the county has been allocated \$250,000. The plan includes funding to support the Interim Accommodation Pilot Project, funding to food security programs and the Whatever it Takes Fund (grocery cards, local transportation, cell phone and minutes, etc.).

Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) aims to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness services for people experiencing homelessness and for people at-risk of homelessness.

ANALYSIS:

Middlesex County Interim Accommodation Pilot Project Extension:

The Middlesex County Interim Accommodation Pilot Project, in collaboration with the Countryside Motel, Middlesex Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA TVAMHS), Middlesex Community Navigator and Middlesex Social Services, provides temporary shelter and community supports has been working well. This request is to fund the project for another 6 months using the final allotment of Phase 5 – SSRF and funds from HPP. The County will enter into a contract with CMHA TVAMHS to provide the direct client services and required funding to the Countryside Motel.

The total amount to be allocated for this project is \$150,000, this includes the cost of the motel and the CMHA TVAMHS staff person. This project will be covered through SSRF and HPP funding, this will allow the County to extend the program until March 31, 2023.

This pilot project has helped individuals and or families with much needed shelter, food and wraparound community supports.

The contract with CMHA TVAMHS provides an overview of the administration and expectations of the program and funding being provided. Funding will be provided for the costs of the motel program and for the hiring of a staff member for up to 6 months starting October 1, 2022 dependent on funding. See Appendix “A”. CMHA TVAMHS will be responsible to work in collaboration with the Countryside Motel.

We are thankful to the Province and the City of London for the allocated funds, and to CMHA TVAMS, the Community Navigator and Countryside Motel for their support in making the project successful.

As of March 31, 2023 this pilot project will come to an end. The County is not allotted enough funds through the HPP funding to continue with this program. A full report will be provided to Council with all the successes of this project and indicate where gaps in services and support are within the County. The County will also review the outcomes and recommendations of the Housing Attainability study to determine next steps.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The programs are 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 Interim Housing Contract as attached to this report be authorized and approved; and

THAT the General Manager of Finance and Community Services, Cindy Howard, be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Agreement to Support Transitional Stay Program – Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services