



## Committee of the Whole

---

**Meeting Date:** June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

**Subject:** Homeless Prevention Program Funding Update

---

### **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, 5 and the Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) funding 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. This funding has ended.

HPP is a provincially-funding program created to support individual and families with housing and support services who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This funding is from three MMAH programs. Community Homelessness Prevention initiative (CHPI), Home for Good (HFG) and Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP) were combined into one policy.

In April 2023 the Social Services Department submitted an Investment Plan to the City of London as our Service System Manager (SSM). The SSM has reviewed the County's plan and approved \$873,903 to be provided through HPP funding to prevent and end homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing and homelessness supports and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and or at-risk of homelessness.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Funding:**

Middlesex County Social Services will be focusing on the four service categories within the HPP guidelines:

- Emergency Shelter Solutions
- Community Outreach and Support Services
- Housing Assistance
- Supporting Housing

The programs, services and activities will cover the Motel Accommodation Program, Middlesex Paramedic Outreach Program, food security programs, emergency hotel/motel stays and the continuation of the Whatever it Takes Fund (example: rental and utility arrears, last months rent and other supports to obtain or maintain shelter).

As this new funding through HPP is now permanent, Social Services is able to take a step back and review how the funding will help individuals and or families with much needed shelter, food and wraparound community supports. Working with our community partners and individuals with lived experience the funding will be utilized to meet the needs of the County.

### **Middlesex Accommodation Program:**

The Middlesex Accommodation Program had been in its pilot phase over the pandemic, 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. The program provided temporary shelter and community supports when there were no other solutions available. The program has been successful in supporting over 100 individuals and families from being unsheltered.

To continue on in this success 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 program is \$472,000, this includes the cost of the motel and two CMHA TVAMHS staff persons.

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 two staff members for up to one year starting July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023: See Appendix "A". CMHA TVAMHS will be responsible to work in collaboration with the Countryside Motel.

We are thankful to the Province of Ontario 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 program successful.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The programs are 100% provincially funded.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:**

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approve the Middlesex Accommodation Program contract as attached to this report and authorize the General Manager of Finance and Community Services, Cindy Howard, to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

*Attachments:*

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