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| <p><b>1. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefit</b></p> <p><b>Initiative Canada-Ontario de logement</b></p> |
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**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Council approve:**

- 1. That the Director, Housing Services be delegated the authority to sign a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance, identify program priority household groups, and submit to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, reports on a quarterly and annual basis, for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program (COHB) based on the details of the program and the spending plan outlined in this report;**
- 2. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to reallocate funding from one Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program priority household group to another priority group within the same program year if the original planned commitment for funding as outlined within the approved Priority Household Plan cannot be met;**
- 3. That in the event additional funding becomes available under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program due to any reallocation by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to allocate the additional funding in keeping with the process outlined in this report; and,**
- 4. That the Director, Housing Services be delegated the authority to allocate all Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program funding**

provided such allocations are in accordance with the provincial guidelines, and the priorities as set out in this report.

### **RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ**

**Que le Conseil approuve :**

- 1. que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir de signer un accord de paiement de transfert avec le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement et le ministère des Finances, de déterminer les groupes de ménages prioritaires pour les programmes et de présenter au ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement des rapports trimestriels et annuels sur le programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement fondés sur les détails du programme et du plan de dépenses contenu dans le présent rapport.**
- 2. que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir de réaffecter des fonds d'un groupe de ménages prioritaire visé par le programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement à un autre groupe au cours d'un même exercice si le budget initial prévu dans le plan pour les ménages prioritaires approuvé ne peut être respecté.**
- 3. que si des fonds supplémentaires se libèrent dans le cadre du programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement en raison d'une réaffectation par le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement, la directrice, Services de logement se voie déléguer le pouvoir de modifier le plan de dépenses et d'attribuer lesdits fonds selon le processus établi dans le présent rapport.**

4. **que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir d'attribuer tous les fonds du programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement, pourvu que ces allocations respectent les lignes directrices provinciales et les priorités énoncées dans le présent rapport.**

#### DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

1. Director's report, Housing Services, dated 3 February 2020 (ACS2020-CSS-GEN-0002).

Rapport de la Directrice, Services de logement, daté le 3 février 2020 (ACS2020-CSS-GEN-0002)

2. Extract of Draft Minutes, Community and Protective Services Committee, dated 20 February 2020

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services communautaires et de protection, le 20 février 2020

#### DIRECTION TO STAFF

That the Community and Protective Services Committee direct staff to work with the Mayor, Chair of Community and Protective Services, and Housing and Homelessness Liaison on a submission to the Federal 2020 Budget.

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection enjoigne au personnel de collaborer avec le maire, la présidente du Comité des services communautaires et de protection et l'agente de liaison en matière de logement et d'itinérance à une soumission dans le cadre du budget fédéral de 2020.

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT 10  
26 FEBRUARY 2020**

**COMITÉ DES SERVICES  
COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE  
PROTECTION RAPPORT 10  
LE 26 FÉVRIER 2020**

**Report to  
Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee  
Comité des services communautaires et de protection  
February 20 2020 /**

**and Council  
et au Conseil  
February 26 2020 /**

**Submitted on February 3, 2020  
Soumis le fevrier3 février 2020**

**Submitted by  
Soumis par:**

**Shelley VanBuskirk, Director, Housing Services// directrice, Services de logement  
613-580-2424 x16366, shelley.vanbuskirk@ottawa.ca**

**Contacted Person  
Personne ressource:**

**Lisa Goodfellow, Program Manager, Social Housing Branch/ gestionnaire de  
programmes, Logement sociale  
613-580-2424 x43240, lisa.goodfellow@ottawa.ca**

**Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE      File Number: ACS2020-CSS-GEN-002**

**SUBJECT: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefit**

**OBJET: Initiative Canada-Ontario de logement**

## **REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council approve:**

- 1. That the Director, Housing Services be delegated the authority to sign a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance, identify program priority household groups, and submit to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, reports on a quarterly and annual basis, for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program (COHB) based on the details of the program and the spending plan outlined in this report.**
- 2. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to reallocate funding from one Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program priority household group to another priority group within the same program year if the original planned commitment for funding as outlined within the approved Priority Household Plan cannot be met.**
- 3. That in the event additional funding becomes available under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program due to any reallocation by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to allocate the additional funding in keeping with the process outlined in this report.**
- 4. That the Director, Housing Services be delegated the authority to allocate all Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program funding provided such allocations are in accordance with the provincial guidelines, and the priorities as set out in this report.**

## **RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d'approuver :**

- 1. que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir de signer un accord de paiement de transfert avec le ministère des Affaires**

municipales et du Logement et le ministère des Finances, de déterminer les groupes de ménages prioritaires pour les programmes et de présenter au ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement des rapports trimestriels et annuels sur le programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement fondés sur les détails du programme et du plan de dépenses contenu dans le présent rapport.

2. que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir de réaffecter des fonds d'un groupe de ménages prioritaire visé par le programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement à un autre groupe au cours d'un même exercice si le budget initial prévu dans le plan pour les ménages prioritaires approuvé ne peut être respecté.
3. que si des fonds supplémentaires se libèrent dans le cadre du programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement en raison d'une réaffectation par le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement, la directrice, Services de logement se voie déléguer le pouvoir de modifier le plan de dépenses et d'attribuer lesdits fonds selon le processus établi dans le présent rapport.
4. que la directrice, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir d'attribuer tous les fonds du programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement, pourvu que ces allocations respectent les lignes directrices provinciales et les priorités énoncées dans le présent rapport.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Assumptions and Analysis**

In November 2017, the federal government released the National Housing Strategy, a 10-year \$40 billion national plan to increase access to housing and reduce housing need. The multi-year strategy includes three (3) provincially administered initiatives: the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (announced in April 2019), the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (announced in April 2019) and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (announced in December 2019).

Staff previously reported on the allocation of funds under the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative on June 26, 2019 (ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0008) and the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative on September 11, 2019 (ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0010).

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program is the third and final initiative under the Bilateral Agreement of the National Housing Strategy that requires Council approval in order for the City of Ottawa to receive and utilize the funding. The province announced the first two-years of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program which allocates up to \$4.38 million to Ottawa between April 2020 to March 2022 for portable housing benefits to address housing affordability for low income households.

This report identifies the provincially permitted priority groups as well as the recommended proposed priority household groups that will be eligible to apply for and access the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit during the first two-years of the program.

### **Financial Implications**

The federal/provincial incremental funding described in this report allocates up to \$4.38 million over the next two years for portable housing benefits to assist low-income households in Ottawa. Up to \$1,899,999 will be available to assist new households in Year 1 (2020-2021). In Year 2 (2021-2022 ) up to \$2,489,562 will be available, with funding of \$1,899,999 available to assist existing Year 1 households in the program and \$589,564 available for new households.

As this program is directly administered by the province, the Ministry of Finance will be issuing monthly payments to households. The City of Ottawa, as Service Manager, will not directly receive any funding under this program. The Service Manager will be responsible to select households to apply for the program, assist households to complete the application, and submit the applications to the province for approval. The Service Manager will issue first and last months rent to households, where required, and will be reimbursed by the province for this funding upon submitting a quarterly report. In addition, the Service Manager will receive administration payments of \$250 per approved application, of up to five (5) per cent of the annual funding allocation.

Public Consultation and Input

The Housing System Working Group, consisting of representatives from social, co-operative and supportive housing providers, tenant advocates, support services, emergency shelters, health services, funders as well as the private landlords, were consulted and provided input to determine the primary household priority groups recommended for access to the portable housing benefit funding in this report.

## **RÉSUMÉ**

### **Hypothèses et analyse**

En novembre 2017, le gouvernement fédéral a présenté sa Stratégie nationale sur le logement, un plan décennal de 40 millions de dollars visant à faciliter l'accès aux logements et à réduire les besoins en la matière. Cette stratégie pluriannuelle comprend trois (3) initiatives administrées par le gouvernement provincial : l'Initiative liée aux priorités de l'Ontario en matière de logement (annoncée en avril 2019), l'Initiative Canada-Ontario de logement communautaire (annoncée en avril 2019) et l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement.

En décembre 2019, le gouvernement provincial a annoncé le programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement, la troisième et dernière initiative prévue en vertu de l'accord bilatéral conclu dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale sur le logement. La Province a annoncé les deux premières années du programme de l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement, lors desquelles une somme pouvant atteindre 4,38 millions de dollars sera attribuée à Ottawa entre avril 2020 et mars 2022 pour des allocations de logement transférables en vue d'accroître l'accès aux logements abordables pour les ménages à faible revenu.

Le présent rapport précise les groupes de ménages prioritaires proposés admissibles à l'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement au cours des deux premières années du programme.

### **Répercussions financières**

Le financement supplémentaire fédéral-provincial décrit dans ce rapport prévoit une attribution de jusqu'à 4,38 millions de dollars au cours des deux prochaines années pour des allocations de logement transférables destinées à aider les ménages à faible



revenu d'Ottawa. Pour la première année (2020-2021), des fonds pouvant s'élever à 1 899 999 \$ seront dégagés pour aider les ménages nouvellement inscrits. Au cours de la deuxième année (2021-2022), une somme pouvant atteindre 2 489 562 \$ sera affectée, soit 1 899 999 \$ pour les ménages déjà inscrits au programme à l'année précédente et 589 564 \$ pour les ménages nouvellement inscrits.

Comme ce programme est géré directement par le gouvernement provincial, le ministère des Finances versera les paiements mensuels aux ménages. En tant que gestionnaire de services, la Ville d'Ottawa ne recevra pas directement de fonds dans le cadre de ce programme. Le gestionnaire de services sera chargé de sélectionner les ménages admissibles au programme, d'aider ces derniers à remplir la demande et de soumettre les demandes au gouvernement provincial aux fins d'approbation. Il versera le premier et le dernier mois de loyer aux ménages, si nécessaire, et sera ensuite remboursé par le gouvernement provincial sur présentation d'un rapport trimestriel. De plus, le gestionnaire de services recevra des paiements de 250 \$ par demande approuvée pour les frais administratifs, jusqu'à concurrence de cinq (5) pour cent de l'allocation de fonds annuelle.

### **Consultation publique et commentaires**

Le Groupe de travail sur les systèmes de logement, composé de représentants de fournisseurs de logements sociaux et de logements avec services de soutien, de coopératives d'habitation, de services de soutien, de refuges d'urgence, de services de santé, de bailleurs de fonds et de propriétaires privés, ont été consultés et se sont exprimés en vue de déterminer les principaux groupes de ménages prioritaires recommandés dans le présent rapport comme bénéficiaires des allocations de logement transférables.

### **BACKGROUND**

In November 2017, the federal government released the National Housing Strategy (NHS), a ten (10) year \$40 billion plan. The desired outcome of the strategy is to increase access to housing, reduce housing need and achieve better housing solutions across the housing continuum. The three (3) provincially-administered initiatives under the plan are:

- Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative
- Canada-Ontario Housing Initiative
- Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit

On April 30, 2018, Ontario and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) signed a Bilateral Agreement under the National Housing Strategy (NHS). The nine-year National Housing Strategy investment is being delivered in three funding periods: Phase I (2019 to 2022), Phase II (2022 to 2025) and Phase III (2026 to 2028).

In May 2019, the province released the parameters for Phase I of the Strategy for the following two programs:

1. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) - to protect affordability for households in social housing, support the repair and renewal of existing social housing supply, and to expand the supply of community housing over time
2. Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) - to address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair and new construction.

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative funding represents a re-investment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement and provides an opportunity for Municipal Service Managers<sup>1</sup> and housing providers to address the challenges associated with social housing communities (now referred to as Community Housing) reaching the end of their operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity. The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative provides \$22.433 million for Ottawa between 2019 and 2022. An Investment Plan for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative was approved by Council on September 11, 2019 (ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0010)

The Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative provides \$17.689 million for Ottawa between 2019 and 2022 and replaces the previous Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (IAH) 2014 Extension Program (2014-2020) and the Social Infrastructure Fund (2016-

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<sup>1</sup> Municipal Service Managers (MSMs) are responsible for delivering and administering social and affordable housing and in many cases also deliver homelessness initiatives. MSMs are also responsible for administering social service programs (e.g. Ontario Works, Child Care).

2019). An Investment Plan for the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative was approved by Council on June 26, 2019 (ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0008).

On December 20, 2019, the province released the parameters for Phase 1 of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB). The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is a jointly funded, provincially delivered federal-provincial housing allowance program. The purpose of the program is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested portable housing benefit directly to eligible households in housing need that are on or are eligible to be on the social housing waiting list and to households in financial need living in community housing. The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit provides up to \$4.38 million to Ottawa between April 2020 and March 2022.

This report is being brought forward to obtain delegated authority to execute a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), and to identify priority households from the program priority groups to apply for the housing benefit, as per the provincial funding requirements (Table 1).

**TABLE 1: PHASE 1 OF THE CANADA-ONTARIO HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
Funding	\$1,899,999	\$2,489,562	\$4,389,561

Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program Priority Groups:

The following vulnerable populations have primary priority for Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit funding:

- Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking
- Persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Indigenous persons
- Seniors
- People with disabilities.

The second priority is to support households in housing need living in community housing within a market unit.

The third priority, where no community housing exists, is for vulnerable households in the private sector.

The Service Manager is responsible for identifying potential households within those priority groups to apply for and access the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

Household Eligibility Criteria – New Applicants:

Households must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) benefit:

- A Canadian Citizen
- Either:
  - A landed immigrant (permanent resident)
  - An applicant for permanent residence; or
  - A refugee or refugee claimant with no enforceable deportation, departure or exclusion order
- Be on the social housing waiting list; or eligible to be on such a waiting list, or exiting community housing
- Not be in receipt of, or part of a household in receipt of, rent geared to income assistance, more than one Canada-Ontario Housing benefit, or any other government-funded housing benefit, excepting social assistance shelter payments
- Consent to being removed from the social housing waiting list of the Service Manager where the application was completed and approved
- Not reside in a home suitable for year-round occupancy owned by a member of the household within 90 days of being determined eligible.

Household Monthly Housing Benefit:

The monthly housing benefit is calculated using a provincial formula that takes into account both the average market rent for the Ottawa area and the household income from income tax assessments. It is reviewed annually and will vary by household.

Selection:

The following discussion provides the rationale and proposed identification of the priority households from the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit priority groups to apply for and access the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit funding. These are based on the City's priorities and demands as reflected in the City's Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (the "10-Year Plan") and Centralized Waiting List as of December 31, 2019.

### **Proposed Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Priority Household Plan**

Staff recommend that the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit funding be allocated toward the following program priority groups in Years 1 and 2 of the program:

- Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking; and
- Persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

Under the "persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness priority group":

- Year 1 funding priority would be given to single women or lone female led households with children
- Year 2 funding priority would be given to households at risk of homelessness due to the termination of a housing benefit program that the household was eligible for and in receipt of when the program terminated during the April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 period.

Staff recommend the delegated authority to reallocate funding from these identified priorities to other program priority groups within the same program year if the original planned commitment for funding cannot be met.

In making these recommendations consideration has been given to the requirement that funding must be used, and fully disbursed to the recipient in the program year in which the funding was committed. The recommended funding allocation ensures funding can be fully committed, expended, meet reporting requirements and timelines as outlined within the program guidelines.

Staff will continue to monitor the household take up of housing benefit funds to ensure all funding is fully utilized.

Table #3 shows the proposed priority allocation of federal and provincial funds under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program.

<b>Table 3: Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Phase I Plan</b>				
	<b>Housing Benefit Planned Allocations - \$</b>			
<b>Program Component</b>	<b>Year 1 New Households</b>	<b>Year 2 Existing Households</b>	<b>Year 2 New Households</b>	
	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
Survivors of Domestic Violence	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$70,000	\$470,000
Homelessness	\$1,605,000	\$1,605,000	\$580,337	\$3,790,337
Administration Fee (up to 5%)	\$94,999	\$0	\$34,225	\$129,224
<b>Total Annual Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefit Funding</b>	<b>\$1,899,999</b>	<b>\$1,805,000</b>	<b>\$684,562</b>	<b>\$4,389,561</b>

## **DISCUSSION**

In December 2019, the province released the parameters for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), the third and final program of Phase 1 of the National Housing Strategy. The guidelines for the program were released in February 2020. The purpose of the program is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-

tested portable housing benefit directly to eligible households in housing need that are on or are eligible to be on the social housing waiting list and to households in financial need living in community housing. The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit provides up to \$4.38 million to Ottawa between April 2020 and March 2022.

As the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is a jointly funded, provincially delivered federal-provincial housing allowance program, the City, as Service Manager, will not directly receive funding under this program and will not directly administer this program. Funding will remain with the province and the City is responsible to identify eligible households from the program priority groups and assist with the household application submission to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance will approve household applications and will issue payments directly to approved households. The monthly payment amount is calculated using the household's income tax return. Service Ontario will be the ongoing point of contact for households in the program.

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit will assist low-income households with housing costs. The housing benefit is portable in nature, tied to the household, not a physical housing unit. Households will have the ability to move anywhere within the province of Ontario, while maintaining their housing benefit. Households in receipt of a Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit must agree to be removed from the social housing wait list.

The intended benefits for households in receipt of the month housing benefit, include:

- Provides certain program priority groups on the social housing wait list an option to receive a monthly housing benefit in their housing of choice instead of a rent-geared-to-income unit, which gives more flexibility to live closer to work, school and established support
- Provides the opportunity to be housed more quickly
- Helps applicants remain where they are currently living where the only barrier to remaining where they are is housing affordability
- The COHB monthly benefit calculation is simple and is reassessed each year using income tax information. The application and renewal processes are not overly administratively burdensome for households.

As the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program is limited in scope and where household demand far exceeds housing benefit funding, the City, as Service Manager is responsible to identify potential households to apply for the housing benefit.

Households must be on, or eligible to be on the social housing wait list, and must be chosen from the following Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit vulnerable population primary groups:

- Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking
- Persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Indigenous persons
- Seniors
- People with disabilities

If all Canada-Ontario Housing benefits cannot be allocated to the primary priority group, the second priority is to support households in housing need living in community housing within a market unit. The third priority, where no community housing exists, is for vulnerable households in the private sector.

### **Priority Group Recommendation**

Based on the recent needs' assessment completed by the City's Housing Services as part of the Housing and Homelessness 10-Year Plan Mid-Year Review, it has been determined all Canada-Ontario Housing benefits can be utilized by the primary priority groups as identified by the Province. Given that the demand within these priority groups greatly exceeds funding available, Housing Services staff are recommending the following priority households for Year 1 and Year 2 of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program:

- Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking
- Persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

Under the "persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness" priority group:



- Year 1 funding priority would be given to single women or lone female led households with children
- Year 2 funding priority would be given to households at risk of homelessness due to the termination of a housing benefit program under the administration of the City, that the household was eligible for and in receipt of when the program terminated during the April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 period.

These recommendations have been made with consideration for:

- terminating/expiring existing housing benefit programs currently provided to low-income residents of Ottawa
- individuals and households most in need identified on the social housing centralized wait list and within the need assessment carried out to inform the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan refresh.

**1) *Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking:***

The existing *Portable Housing Benefit for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking (PHB-SPP)* will terminate/expire on March 31, 2020. This benefit has been well utilized by Special Provincial Priority households over the two (2) years of the expiring program, with forty-three (43) households currently in receipt of this housing benefit. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will continue to support these current households directly when this program transitions into the new Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

Given the success of the PHB-SPP in moving these vulnerable, and at-risk households quickly to safe and appropriate housing, it is recommended that this priority group continue for new SPP households under Years 1 and 2 of COHB. Up to \$200,000 has been allocated to this priority group for Year 1 of this program, with \$200,000 allocated for continued support of these Year 1 households and up to \$70,000 for new SPP households in Year 2 of the program. This allocation is consistent with the funding and associated number of new households approved under the previous PHB-SPP program. It is anticipated up to a total of 40 households will receive assistance during Year 1 and 2 of COHB.

***2) Persons Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness:***

Year 1 - Vulnerable Female Led Households:

Approximately 12,577 households were on the social housing wait list as of December 31, 2019. Female led households represented over 56% of those households on the wait list. Both single women and lone female led households can be in greatest need, often with the lowest incomes and the least number of available resources to assist them while homeless or precariously housed. Information gathered within the need assessment for the Housing and Homelessness 10-Year Plan Refresh supports this finding.

In order to assist women and children find safe and affordable housing, staff recommends this vulnerable population as a priority group for Year 1 of the program. Those lone female led households with a Homeless Priority and lone female led households who have been waiting the longest on the social housing wait list will have access to these funds until such time Year 1 funding is depleted. Up to \$1,605,000 has been allocated to this priority group for Year 1 of this program, with \$1,605,000 allocated for continued support of these Year 1 households in Year 2 of the program. It is anticipated up to 235 households will benefit from COHB.

Year 2 – Terminating/Expiring Housing Benefit Programs:

During Year 2 (April 1, 2021-March 31, 2020), it is expected a limited number of existing housing benefit programs administered by the City will expire, when program funding is fully depleted. Many low-income households currently in receipt of these housing benefits could face housing insecurity or possible eviction and homelessness if these housing benefits are not maintained.

In order to assist these households maintain housing stability where they currently live, staff recommends these households as a priority group for Year 2 of the program. Households in City administered terminated housing benefit programs will have access to these funds in Year 2 until such time funds are depleted. Up to \$580,337 has been allocated to this priority group for Year 2 of the program. It is anticipated up to 86 households will benefit in Year 2 of COHB.

Staff will be closely monitoring this program. Staff recommend that the Director, Housing Services, have the authority to reallocate funding from one Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program priority household group to another priority group within the same program year if the original planned commitment for funding as outlined within the approved Priority Household Plan cannot be met.

### **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications.

### **CONSULTATION**

In early 2010, the Housing Systems Working Group was created to provide guidance and support to the City's Housing Services in the development and implementation of the Ten-Year Plan. The Housing Systems Working Group membership includes representatives from a broad range of sectors including: social housing (non-profit and co-ops), shelters, housing and homelessness supports and prevention, supportive housing, the Champlain Local Health Integration Network, the Royal Ottawa Hospital and the Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization. The Housing System Working Group was consulted on the development of the proposed allocations.

### **COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

N/A

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS**

N/A

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the report recommendations. The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit allows for Council to delegate the authority to approve priority households within the priority groups to apply for and access the housing benefit.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

As part of a comprehensive risk mitigation strategy, staff will monitor expenditures closely and take the necessary proactive steps to maximize the use of available funds to avoid any loss in funding.

### **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no asset management implications, associated with the recommendations of the report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the report recommendations.

### **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

Households with disabilities within the priority groups identified in this report will have access to apply the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no technology implications associated with the recommendations of the report.

### **TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The recommendations of this report support the 2014-2018 Strategic Priority: Healthy and Caring Communities (HC). The recommendations will specifically enhance the City's ability to sustain existing social housing with our community housing portfolio.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

N/A

## **DISPOSITION**

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefit will be used to advance the objectives of the Ten-Year Plan, by promoting housing stability and rental affordability for our residents.

The Director, Housing Services will sign a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance and submit the associated quarterly and annual reports for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program.

The Director, Housing Services will identify eligible households to apply for Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit funding for Years 1 and 2 of the Program based on priorities identified in this report.