

- 4. Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan 2022-2023**
- Plan d'investissement 2022-2023 pour le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve:

- 1. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to approve the City's Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan, which sets out the details of the program and spending plan outlined in this report and submit it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;**
- 2. That in the event additional funding becomes available under the Homelessness Prevention Program due to any reallocation by the Ministry, the Director, Housing Services, be delegated authority to amend the Investment Plan and allocate the additional funding in keeping with the process outlined in this report;**
- 3. That upon receipt of funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Housing Services deliver the operating component of the Homelessness Prevention Program funding as described in this report; and**
- 4. That five (5) fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions be added to Housing Services to stabilize service delivery of ongoing programs and funded under the administrative funding component of the federal and provincial housing programs described in this report.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil approuve :

- 1. que le directeur, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir d'approuver le plan de dépenses de la Ville pour le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance, qui donne les détails du programme et des dépenses énoncées dans le présent rapport, et de le soumettre au ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement;**
- 2. que si des fonds supplémentaires se libèrent dans le cadre du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance en raison d'une réaffectation par le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement, le directeur, 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;**
- 3. que dès réception des fonds du Ministère, les Services de logement mettent en œuvre le volet de fonctionnement du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance.**
- 4. que cinq (5) postes équivalents temps plein (ETP) soient aux Services de logement afin de stabiliser la prestation de services des programmes en cours et financés dans le cadre du volet de financement administratif des programmes de logement fédéraux et provinciaux décrits dans le présent rapport.**

DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

- 1. Donna Gray, General Manager – Community and Social Services, dated April 8, 2022 (ACS2022-CCS-GEN-0007).**

Donna Gray, Directrice générale – Services sociaux et communautaires, daté le 8 avril 2022 (ACS2022-CCS-GEN-0007)

2. Extract of Draft Minutes, Community and Protective Services Committee, dated April 21, 2022.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services communautaires et de protection, le 21 avril 2022.

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE
SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 25
27 APRIL 2022**

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**COMITÉ DES SERVICES
COMMUNAUTAIRES
ET DE PROTECTION
RAPPORT 25
LE 27 AVRIL 2022**

Subject: Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan 2022-2023

File Number: ACS2022-CSS-GEN-007

**Report to Community and Protective Services Committee on 21 April 2022
and Council 27 April 2022**

**Submitted on April 8, 2022 by Donna Gray, General Manager – Community and
Social Services**

Contact Person: Saide Sayah, Acting Director, Housing Services

613-580-2424 x16366, saide.sayah@ottawa.ca

Ward: Citywide

**Objet: Plan d'investissement 2022-2023 pour le Programme de prévention
de l'itinérance**

Dossier : ACS2022-CSS-GEN-007

**Rapport au Comité des services communautaires et de protection
le 21 avril 2022**

et au Conseil le 27 avril 2022

**Soumis le 8 avril 2022 par Donna Gray, Directrice générale – Services sociaux et
communautaires**

Personne ressource : Saide Sayah, directeur intérimaire, Services de logement

613-580-2424 poste 16366, saide.sayah@ottawa.ca

Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Community and Protective Services recommend Council approve:

- 1. That the Director, Housing Services, be delegated the authority to approve the City's Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan, which sets out the details of the program and spending plan outlined in this report and submit it to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;**
- 2. That in the event additional funding becomes available under the Homelessness Prevention Program due to any reallocation by the Ministry, the Director, Housing Services, be delegated authority to amend the Investment Plan and allocate the additional funding in keeping with the process outlined in this report;**
- 3. That upon receipt of funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Housing Services deliver the operating component of the Homelessness Prevention Program funding as described in this report; and**
- 4. That five (5) fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions be added to Housing Services to stabilize service delivery of ongoing programs and funded under the administrative funding component of the federal and provincial housing programs described in this report.**

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

Que les Services communautaires et de protection recommandent au Conseil d'approuver :

- 1. que le directeur, Services de logement, se voie déléguer le pouvoir d'approuver le plan de dépenses de la Ville pour le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance, qui donne les détails du programme et des dépenses énoncées dans le présent rapport, et de le soumettre au ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement;**
- 2. que si des fonds supplémentaires se libèrent dans le cadre du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance en raison d'une réaffectation par le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement, le directeur, 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;

- 3. que dès réception des fonds du Ministère, les Services de logement mettent en œuvre le volet de fonctionnement du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance.**
- 4. que cinq (5) postes équivalents temps plein (ETP) soient aux Services de logement afin de stabiliser la prestation de services des programmes en cours et financés dans le cadre du volet de financement administratif des programmes de logement fédéraux et provinciaux décrits dans le présent rapport.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the City's proposed spending for the 2022/23 fiscal year under the new provincial Homelessness Prevention Program, which is a consolidation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), Home for Good (HFG), and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP).

On March 7, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced their commitment to increasing affordable housing options and reducing homelessness through an investment of almost \$1.1 billion in 2022-23, as well as the consolidation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), Home for Good (HFG), and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP) into one flexible Homelessness Prevention Program, beginning April 1, 2022. MMAH is also increasing their investment by nearly \$25 million, bringing total provincial funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program to over \$463 million. The City's 2022-2023 allocation is \$47,619,500.

The aim of this investment is to help sustain, repair and grow community housing, and address homelessness across Ontario. The Homelessness Prevention Program is intended to advance the progress being made in addressing chronic homelessness across the province by providing municipalities with greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities. Funding is

intended to provide housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations to prevent chronic homelessness and support recipients to remain stably housed over time. It is also intended to provide municipalities with flexibility to fund capital projects and provide longer-term rental assistance as appropriate.

The City funds a coherent service system for homelessness and its prevention using investments from all three levels of government, including the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, the City's Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan (HHIP), the Supports in Social Housing (SSH) funding and other City funding for emergency shelters and housing-related benefits. Under the HPP funding envelope of \$47,619,500, staff propose to maintain the investments previously planned through CHPI, HFG, and SCRSP to support and strengthen contracts and initiatives that are currently underway.

The \$47,619,500 allocation to the City in HPP funding will be used to support the following services and initiatives for the 2022-23 fiscal year: community outreach and support services, emergency shelter solutions, housing assistance, supportive housing, including Residential Services Homes, and administration fees.

The new HPP will support the City's target outcomes of its 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan including eliminating unsheltered, veterans' and chronic homelessness by 2030, as well as reducing, by 25% each, overall homelessness, Indigenous homelessness, returns to homelessness, and the number of new people entering the homelessness system. HPP funding, along with our federal and municipal funding streams, will support Ottawa in achieving the Plan's objectives.

To reduce chronic homelessness in pursuit of these goals, it is proposed that the City continue to use HPP funding to contribute to the range of services and expenses including long-term housing allowances and a landlord damage fund for Ottawa's Housing First program, which transitions long-stay shelter clients into stable housing, with the goal of reducing the average shelter stay to less than 30 days. Many people experiencing homelessness are unable to access housing due to issues including the lack of available, affordable units and having multiple complex issues that make it challenging for them to participate in a housing search. For such individuals, and for

families without accommodations, a significant amount of both HPP and municipal funding is proposed to continue to be used to fund emergency shelters and transitional housing. Much of the funding is also recommended to continue to be used for accommodations and other expenses related to Residential Services Homes, which reduce chronic homelessness among vulnerable people who would not be able to live independently in the community. Funding is also proposed to be provided to a variety of general housing assistance programs that help to prevent homelessness and help people obtain and maintain suitable housing, including those leaving prison and hospital. Additionally, HPP funds are recommended to be used to support services for tenants in supportive housing including scattered units, and for resource centres in social housing communities, as well as other supports and benefits to either prevent housing loss or enable housing such as paying utility/rent deposits, and rental arrears. Also, street outreach to those living outdoors, services to assist with financial management and obtaining access to financial benefits. Finally, it is proposed to continue using the funding formerly provided through the SCRSP for rent supplements.

Financial Implications

With the consolidation of the CHPI, HFG, and SCRSP into the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the City will receive \$47.6 million, which is \$1.5 million more than the combined funding from 2021-2022. This additional funding will be used to strengthen capacity within the sector, increase housing support services in social housing and for families and cover the cost of a marginal increase in the administration fee.

Staff are seeking delegated authority to approve and submit the required Investment Plan and to allocate the funds in accordance with the provincial HPP Program Guidelines and as set out in this report.

RÉSUMÉ

Le présent rapport décrit les dépenses proposées par la Ville pour l'exercice 2022-2023 dans le cadre du nouveau Programme de prévention de l'itinérance du gouvernement provincial, qui regroupe en un même programme l'Initiative de prévention de l'itinérance dans les collectivités (IPIC), le programme Logements pour de bon (programme LPB) et

le Programme de suppléments au loyer pour l'épanouissement communautaire (PSLEC).

Le 7 mars 2022, le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement (MAML) a annoncé son engagement à accroître les options de logements abordables et à réduire l'itinérance grâce à un investissement de près de 1,1 milliard de dollars en 2022-2023, ainsi que le regroupement, à compter du 1^{er} avril 2022, de l'IPIC, du programme LPB et du PSLEC en un seul programme souple, le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance. Le MAML augmente également son investissement de près de 25 millions de dollars, ce qui porte le financement total du gouvernement provincial dans le cadre du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance à plus de 463 millions de dollars. Le montant alloué à la Ville en 2022-2023 est de 47 619 500 \$.

L'objectif de cet investissement est d'aider à maintenir et à réparer les logements communautaires, à développer le secteur et à lutter contre l'itinérance en Ontario. Le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance a pour but de faire avancer la lutte contre l'itinérance chronique dans la province en offrant aux municipalités une plus grande flexibilité pour appuyer un large éventail d'activités liées à la prévention de l'itinérance et au logement avec services de soutien. Le financement vise à offrir une aide au logement et des services de soutien aux populations vulnérables afin de prévenir l'itinérance chronique et d'aider les bénéficiaires à conserver un logement stable à long terme. Il vise également à accorder aux municipalités la souplesse nécessaire pour financer des projets d'immobilisations et fournir une aide au loyer à plus long terme, le cas échéant.

La Ville finance un réseau de services cohérent pour combattre et prévenir l'itinérance à l'aide d'investissements des trois ordres de gouvernement, dont le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance du gouvernement provincial, le financement fédéral du programme Vers un chez-soi, le Plan d'investissement pour le secteur du logement social et l'itinérance (PISLSI) de la Ville, le financement du Programme de logements sociaux avec soutien (PLSS) et d'autres fonds municipaux pour les refuges d'urgence et les prestations liées au logement. À même l'enveloppe de financement de 47 619 500 \$ qui est destinée au Programme de prévention de l'itinérance, le personnel

propose de maintenir les investissements précédemment prévus dans le cadre de l'IPIC, du programme LPB et du PSLEC afin d'appuyer et de renforcer les contrats et les initiatives en cours.

Les 47 619 500 \$ alloués à la Ville dans le cadre du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance serviront à soutenir les initiatives et les services suivants pour l'exercice 2022-2023 : services de sensibilisation et de soutien communautaires, solutions de refuge d'urgence, aide au logement, logements avec services de soutien, y compris les centres de services résidentiels, et frais d'administration.

Le nouveau Programme de prévention de l'itinérance concourt aux résultats visés par la Ville dans son Plan décennal de logement et de lutte contre l'itinérance, qui sont notamment d'éliminer le sans-abrisme, l'itinérance chronique et l'itinérance chez les anciens combattants d'ici 2030, ainsi que de réduire, de 25 % chacun, l'itinérance globale, l'itinérance chez les Autochtones, le taux de retour à l'itinérance et le nombre de nouvelles personnes intégrant le réseau de services aux sans-abri. Le financement du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance, ainsi que les volets de financement fédéral et municipal, aidera Ottawa à atteindre les objectifs du Plan.

Afin de réduire l'itinérance chronique dans la poursuite de ces objectifs, il est proposé que la Ville continue d'utiliser le financement du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance pour contribuer à l'éventail des services et des dépenses, y compris les allocations de logement à long terme et un fonds d'indemnisation des propriétaires pour le programme Logement d'abord d'Ottawa, qui assure la transition des clients en séjour de longue durée dans un refuge vers un logement stable, dans le but de réduire le séjour moyen en refuge à moins de 30 jours. De nombreuses personnes en situation d'itinérance sont incapables d'accéder à un logement, notamment en raison du manque de logements abordables et disponibles et du fait qu'elles ont de multiples problèmes complexes qui rendent leur participation à une recherche de logement difficile. Pour ces personnes et pour les familles sans hébergement, il est proposé de continuer à utiliser un montant important des fonds du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance et du financement municipal pour financer les refuges d'urgence et les logements de transition. Il est également recommandé qu'une grande partie du financement continue

d'être utilisée pour l'hébergement et d'autres dépenses liées aux centres de services résidentiels, qui réduisent l'itinérance chronique chez les personnes vulnérables qui ne seraient pas en mesure de vivre de façon autonome dans la collectivité. Il est également proposé de financer divers programmes généraux d'aide au logement qui soutiennent la lutte contre l'itinérance et aident les gens à trouver et à conserver un logement adéquat, y compris ceux qui sortent de prison et de l'hôpital. De plus, il est recommandé d'utiliser les fonds du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance pour appuyer les services offerts aux locataires dans les logements avec services de soutien, y compris les logements dispersés, et aux centres de ressources dans les communautés de logements sociaux, ainsi que d'autres mesures de soutien et prestations pour prévenir la perte de logement ou permettre d'accéder au logement, comme le paiement des dépôts et des arriérés de loyer et de services publics. Les fonds pourraient aussi soutenir les interventions auprès des personnes vivant à l'extérieur, les services d'aide en matière de gestion financière et l'accès aux avantages financiers. Enfin, il est proposé de continuer d'utiliser le financement auparavant fourni dans le cadre du PSLEC pour les suppléments de loyer.

Répercussions financières

Grâce au regroupement de l'IPIC, du programme LPB et du PSLEC dans le Programme de prévention de l'itinérance, la Ville recevra 47,6 millions de dollars, soit 1,5 million de plus que le financement combiné de 2021-2022. Ce financement supplémentaire servira à renforcer les capacités au sein du secteur, à accroître les services de soutien au logement dans les logements sociaux et pour les familles et à couvrir le coût d'une augmentation marginale des frais d'administration.

Le personnel demande qu'on lui délègue le pouvoir d'approuver et de soumettre le plan de dépenses requis et d'allouer les fonds conformément aux lignes directrices provinciales du Programme de prévention de l'itinérance et aux priorités énoncées dans le présent rapport.

BACKGROUND

Over 60 agencies in Ottawa's integrated homelessness and housing system work diligently and collaboratively to prevent and reduce homelessness. The City administers

over \$72 million in annual homelessness funding from all levels of government to agencies that provide services such as street outreach; emergency shelter; diversion and case management; Housing First programs; housing support services (including resource centres in social housing, supportive and transitional housing, and rooming house supports); residential services homes; general housing assistance (including housing search support and housing-loss prevention including paralegal assistance), financial trusteeship services, and in-reach to correctional institutions and psychiatric hospitals for those who will soon be released without housing.

The system is supported by governance structures consisting of agencies and groups across the housing and homelessness sectors. This work is done in the face of enormous challenges which, even before the pandemic, led Ottawa's City Council to declare a housing and homelessness crisis and emergency in January 2020. At that time, there were unprecedented numbers of people seeking asylum from the United States, low rental vacancy rates, and a severe shortage and ongoing loss of affordable rental units in the City. These factors were combined with insufficient social assistance rates that have not kept up with the costs of housing or other basic living needs. Other challenges to affordable housing supply in our community include: an overheated housing market; population growth; rising house prices and rents; an exponential increase in building costs; growing income disparity; the redevelopment of older housing stock and the resulting displacement of existing residents; the permanent loss of rental stock that has been kept affordable through rent control once tenants move out or are legally or illegally evicted due to lack of vacancy control, and the growing waitlist for social housing.

The significant housing and homelessness challenges have also been compounded by the shortage of support services, including: an insufficient supply of support services for mental health and addiction issues, which has been exacerbated by the opioid crisis; the ongoing impacts of the pandemic; the increasing complexity of clients' issues coupled with significant gaps within our health care system; and funding and program silos within and among governments and ministries. Certain groups are over-represented within our precariously housed and homeless population, including Indigenous peoples, veterans, youth, older adults, women, and newcomers. Addiction

and mental health challenges, as well as housing affordability, are the main contributing factors to housing loss and homelessness in our city. Rapidly rising rents and stagnant, low social assistance rates are now making housing of all types, including rooming houses, unattainable for some of our most vulnerable residents.

A key target of the City's refreshed 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan approved by Council in 2020 is to eliminate unsheltered, veteran, and chronic homelessness by 2030, as well as reducing overall homelessness, Indigenous homelessness, returns to homelessness, and new people entering the homelessness system by 25%. The Plan's objectives require that significant investments from all levels of government be realized and sustained, because long-term funding is needed for us to achieve these ambitious outcomes.

In 2012, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) established the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to address housing and homelessness in Ontario by improving access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing that is linked to flexible support services. The CHPI funding envelope included four service categories: (1) emergency shelter solutions, (2) housing with related supports, (3) other services and supports, and (4) homelessness prevention. The City entered into an agreement with MMAH in December 2012 to administer the CHPI funding.

CHPI funding, along with provincial Home for Good funding and federal and municipal funding streams, has helped us work towards achieving the 10-Year Plan's objectives since its inception. We have been able to continue to develop Ottawa's Housing First program to transition long-stay shelter clients into stable housing, and to reduce the average length of shelter stay to less than 30 days. A significant amount of CHPI funding was used to pay per diem costs at emergency shelters, and subsidize Residential Services beds, which helps to reduce homelessness among vulnerable people who would not be able to live independently in the community. CHPI also funded a variety of general housing assistance programs to prevent homelessness and help people obtain suitable housing, support services for tenants in supportive housing as

well as other supports and benefits, such as utility/rent deposits, and rental arrears to prevent housing loss.

In 2017, the provincial government, through MMAH, announced the Supportive Housing Investment Initiative to provide funding for additional province-wide housing assistance and support services. The Home for Good (HFG) program was established as the delivery component of this housing. Home for Good was intended to assist families and individuals who fell into one or more of MMAH's four priority areas of homelessness: chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, Indigenous homelessness, and homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems.

The City entered into an agreement with MMAH in October 2017 for the administration of the HFG funding. The City has received \$4.7 million annually under the HFG program for support services, including operating funding for supportive housing programs, case management, peer support, housing subsidies, first and last month's rent, and apartment start-up funds. This funding has enabled the City to expand the Housing First initiative and has been instrumental in moving people who experience chronic or episodic homelessness into housing with the appropriate supports to remain housed.

The City's Housing First program, funded in part by the HFG funding stream, housed 1,581 individuals with supports between April 1, 2015, and December 31, 2021. This includes 813 chronically homeless single adults, 239 non-Indigenous youth, 97 Indigenous youth, 386 Indigenous Adults and 46 individuals who left provincial institutions.

The provision of supportive housing is an important component of our housing system for ending chronic homelessness as it allows people living with mental health and/or addiction issues to access the supports they need to achieve recovery, while living in a stable and safe environment. For decades, investments in subsidized and affordable housing lacked the appropriate supports to allow people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to retain housing and stabilize their lives.

In 2009, in response to this gap in services for people experiencing long term homelessness, people living with a disability or mental health and/or addiction issues, City Council strategically invested \$1 million in services for people who were homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness through the Supports in Social Housing program, a partnership between two social housing providers and six support services agencies.

Following this investment in supports for people to obtain housing and/or stabilize in their current living arrangements, in 2011, Council invested \$14 million annually in a variety of housing and homelessness initiatives under the Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan, which included \$16 million in capital for new affordable and supportive housing from 2011 to 2014. The approval of the City's first 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan in 2013 further bolstered efforts to create more supportive housing with funding from all levels of government to create more housing options for people, while providing more coordinated access to services to help people get the supports they need to find and retain housing and stabilize their lives. In 2015, an additional \$2 million was added to the Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan to provide much needed operating funding for four new supportive housing developments.

A key component of the City's updated 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan that was approved by Council in July 2020 is that 10 percent of new affordable housing units will be supportive housing units. The shift over the past decade from a traditional shelter model to the creation of more supportive housing units or housing with supports to address chronic homelessness has led to the creation of 816 supportive units/beds across the City, from Kanata to Carlsbad Springs, since 2006. As a result of an \$80 million investment by all levels of government, in 2022 alone, 142 new supportive housing units will be completed, and an additional 94 supportive housing units are expected to be complete within the next two years, which will create an additional 236 permanent housing options in our community by 2024.

Despite the significant capital and operating funding invested in affordable and social housing in recent years, shelter use remains high and there are over 12,000 households on the waiting list for community housing.

DISCUSSION

On March 7, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) announced their commitment to increasing affordable housing options and reducing homelessness through an investment of almost \$1.1 billion in 2022-23. The aim of this investment is to help sustain, repair and grow community housing, and address homelessness across Ontario.

As part of their funding for the 2022-23 fiscal year, MMAH has announced the consolidation of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), Home for Good (HFG), and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP) into one flexible Homelessness Prevention Program, beginning April 1, 2022. MMAH is also increasing their investment by nearly \$25 million, bringing total provincial funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program to over \$463 million.

The Homelessness Prevention Program is intended to advance the progress being made in addressing chronic homelessness across the province by providing municipalities with greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities. Funding is intended to provide housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations to prevent chronic homelessness and support recipients to remain stably housed over time. It is also intended to provide municipalities with flexibility to fund capital projects and provide longer-term rental assistance as appropriate.

Under the former CHPI, HFG and SCRSP programs, the City received an investment of \$46,053,419 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. In August 2021, MMAH communicated to the City that the investments for 2022-23 would remain the same as the 2021-22 investments under each program. A breakdown of the funding amount by program is outlined below:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI): \$38,626,981
- Home for Good (HFG): \$4,731,980
- Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP): \$2,694,458

However, under the Homelessness Prevention Program, the City's allocation for the 2022-23 fiscal year is \$47,619,500, which represents an increase in funding for

homelessness prevention of over \$1.5 million. This additional funding is proposed to be used to strengthen current staffing at funded agencies and for supports in social housing and supports for families, as well as for a slight increase in the province's apportionment to the City for the program's administration costs.

The City funds a coherent service system for homelessness and its prevention using investments from all three levels of government, including the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, the City's Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan (HHIP), and other City funding for emergency shelter and housing-related benefits. Under the HPP funding envelope, staff propose to maintain the investments previously planned through CHPI, HFG, and SCRSP to support and strengthen contracts and initiatives that are currently underway.

The HPP portion of that funding is proposed to be used to support services and initiatives in the following HPP categories for the 2022-23 fiscal year:

- Community outreach and support services: \$839,748
- Emergency shelter solutions: \$20,311,128
- Housing assistance: \$8,622,331
- Supportive housing: 15,465,318
- Administration: \$2,380,975

Part of the additional \$1,566,081 from the HPP funding is proposed to be used to increase the City's fee for administering this program from 4.5% to 5%, as prescribed by the Province. While a higher rate of 7.5% is permitted in the first year of the program, and 5% in subsequent years, staff propose to set the rate at 5% starting in this 2022-23 fiscal year. With part of the added program funding, it is also recommended to use approximately \$830,000 to further stabilize frontline staffing capacity in the homelessness sector. Historically low wages, coupled with the impacts of the pandemic on staffing recruitment and retention, this investment will help maintain and improve services to vulnerable clients. The remaining funds are proposed to be used to increase supports in social housing and for families leaving the shelter system to prevent homelessness and foster long-term housing retention.

The HPP is comprised of 100% provincial funding that is generally considered to be a permanent funding stream to the City. In addition the federal National Housing Strategy is comprised of three phases that will continue to 2027/28. Accordingly the prospect of ongoing administrative funding for Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to 2027/28 is high. Staff are therefore recommending that 5 Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) to stabilize service delivery of these federal and provincial funding streams. Should the program and funding cease, the number of FTE's will be reduced accordingly.

Community Outreach and Support Services

The City currently funds two outreach vans and proposes to continue to do so with the HPP funding. The Salvation Army's outreach van provides direct support to people staying outdoors or connects them to community services in the areas of housing, health and personal safety. It also transports people who are staying outdoors to safe shelter and facilitates access to the Housing First program and supportive housing through the City's Coordinated Access system.

A second outreach program operated by Minwaashin Lodge is provided in the Vanier area by an Indigenous agency and links and transports people experiencing homelessness to safe shelter and facilitates their access to support services. Using engagement and a harm reduction approach, staff assist clients to connect with services in the areas of housing, health and personal safety. To coordinate client care, this outreach service collaborates with other service providers, including emergency services, shelters, harm reduction services, health care services, and housing service providers to coordinate client care.

The HPP funding is also proposed to be used to continue supporting the Elizabeth Fry Society to work with women in correctional institutions and to assist men and women when released from the courthouse. The final recommendation in this category is to continue funding a rooming house community support worker through Housing Help who monitors and liaises with licensed rooming houses to ensure compliance with rooming house standards and who refers rooming house tenants to appropriate services.

It is recommended that \$839,748 from the HPP funding be allocated to these community outreach and support services for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Staff recommend the HPP funding be used to fund 10 community shelters/transitional housing programs run by eight agencies:

- Two for families, including newcomer families;
- Two for single adult men;
- One for single women;
- One for both single men and women; and
- Three youth shelters (male/female/female prenatal-postnatal)

As part of the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, emergency shelters and transitional housing programs have recently transitioned from per diem billing to a system where the City pays a fixed amount of “block funding” quarterly to each emergency shelter/transitional housing provider. This will assist the community shelters to move to an housing outcome based approach and assist clients to transition out of shelters and into supportive housing and other housing with supports as required. This block funding also provides more funding predictability to agencies, remove financial penalties for housing clients, and reduces their administrative burden. It is recommended that the same amount of funding be allocated to this category, totaling \$20,311,128 of the HPP for block funding contracts, with the remainder of the emergency shelters solutions funding allocated to the Carling Family Shelter, off-site shelters, and off-site hotels.

Housing Assistance

The way in which housing assistance is provided can be categorized as long-term financial assistance, short-term financial assistance, and non-financial assistance. It is recommended that the bulk of the HPP funding allocated to housing assistance be invested into long-term financial assistance, with the remaining funding allocated to short-term financial assistance and non-financial assistance.

- **Long-term financial assistance**

This assistance is provided to qualified participants through housing allowances and rent supplements. Housing allowances have been provided to clients of Ottawa's Housing First program through HFG funding since 2018. The HFG funding currently serves 290 households and staff anticipate adding approximately 240 households to this program during the 2022-23 fiscal year to allocate the recommended amount of \$3,168,000 for housing allowances in the HPP investment plan.

These housing benefits will also be offered to low acuity individuals staying at both physical distancing centres and shelters. This is part of the post pandemic response to reduce shelter bed occupancy and reliance on emergency solutions in City facilities.

The former SCRSP program currently funds approximately 310 households. Through the HPP investment plan, it is recommended to allocate \$2,694,458 to maintain the existing rent supplement agreements.

The proposed yearly investment in this funding category totals \$5,862,458.

- **Short-term financial assistance**

Apartment set-up funds are made available to all the local programs that help individuals move from emergency shelters into housing, including through all Housing First programs. "Landlord Damage Fund" reimburses landlords for the cost of any significant damage that is done to their property by a Housing First tenancy. The goals of this program are to prevent the client from being evicted and returning to homelessness and to maintain a good relationship with the landlord so they continue to participate in the Housing First program.

Housing-related benefits are provided to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of it, to help them obtain or retain affordable housing. Subsidies are provided for rent and utility arrears, last

month's rent to help secure housing, utility deposits, moving expenses, essential furniture, and direct payment of rent.

- **Non-financial assistance**

Non-financial assistance is provided through seven funding agreements with community agencies that provide "General Housing Assistance" services to various clienteles, including Inuit, Indigenous people, new Canadians, and others. These services include help in finding housing, negotiating with landlords, and providing assistance at the Landlord & Tenant Tribunal. One funded program provides a trusteeship program for those who are unable to manage their own finances.

Supportive Housing

The City provides operating funding to many supportive housing programs, using homelessness funding from all three levels of government. Staff recommend allocating \$15,465,318 million of the HPP funding to supportive housing programs.

These programs provide permanent housing in self-contained units with individual kitchens and washrooms, and on-site supports, either during the day or 24-hours per day, depending on the clientele. The supports include individual case management, group activities, vocational opportunities, and recreational programming. The supportive housing programs all provide individually tailored case management supports to assist tenants according to their needs. Some programs provide some or all of a tenant's meals. This funding envelope, along with the federal Reaching Home Program, will help to offset future operating pressures from the 224 supportive housing units under construction.

Other funded programs provide housing supports to people living in scattered apartments. This includes eleven Housing First programs to which individuals are matched through the City's Housing First Coordinated Access function. Housing First helps people find housing and live independently, while building life skills and providing the supports people need to live independently and maintain their housing. Addiction, mental health and life skills supports are provided as needed.

As part of the HPP funding envelope, staff recommend allocating \$8,028,828 million to approximately 950 beds across 25 Residential Services Homes (RSHs), which is based on current and projected occupancy and expenditure trends. RSHs are private or non-profit residences providing long-term housing to vulnerable adults who require some supervision and support to allow them to live independently. These individuals are typically living with one or more psychiatric, developmental, or physical illness and/or disability. RSHs reduce homelessness among vulnerable people who would not be able to live independently in the community.

Administration

Under the former funding streams, administration fees were set at 4.5% of the funding allocation. Under the HPP program, the minimum amount of administration funding permitted is 5% of the funding amount, up to a maximum of 7.5% for the first year. However, staff propose to set the administration funding at 5% starting in 2022-2023, which represents a yearly increase of \$213,807. The funding will continue to be used to cover expenses related to the following:

- Salaries and benefits of staff who administer the funding for homelessness programs, rent supplements/housing allowances, housing-related emergency benefits and emergency shelters
- Salaries and benefits of staff of the family emergency shelter system
- Office expenses such as rent and equipment
- Supports to this funding's administration and staffing such as for legal and human resources services, translation, etc.
- Costs of consultants related to homelessness
- Audit fees

It is recommended that the 0.5% increase in administration be covered by the additional \$1.5 million allocation under the HPP funding allocation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the consolidation of the CHPI, HFG, and SCRSP into the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the City will receive \$47.6 million, which is \$1.5 million above previous funding allocated to the 2022-23 fiscal year. This additional funding will be used to strengthen and stabilize staffing resources, to provide additional supports in social housing and supports for families, as well as to cover a marginal increase in administration funding. The distribution of the \$47.6 million will be approximately 77% in 2022 and 23% in 2023.

To stabilize the service delivery in the housing program and given the ongoing funding commitments of HPP, COHB and COCHI, five (5) Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions with an annual cost of approximately \$500K will be added and funded through the administrative component of the mentioned funding stream.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the report recommendations.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

N/A

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

N/A

CONSULTATION

In early 2010, the Housing Systems Working Group (HSWG) was created to provide guidance and support to the City's Housing Services in the development and implementation of the Ten-Year Plan. The HSWG's 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 HSWG was consulted on the proposed allocations in this report.

Housing Services also conducts ongoing consultation with the 27 agencies to which it provides ongoing funding for homelessness services. This consultation takes place through both ongoing monitoring activities and through meeting with the agencies in many sectoral working groups. The input received from these sources has led Housing Services to recommend the above uses of the additional HPP funding and to confirm that the already-funded activities should be continued.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

All funding categories of the Homelessness Prevention Program have a direct benefit to households with disabilities, in particular, supportive housing and housing assistance.

INDIGENOUS GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

Indigenous Policy Considerations

Indigenous peoples are specifically supported through services and organizations funded through HPP and other streams, including short- and long-term housing assistance via housing allowances. The HPP funding will also support Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Minwaashin Lodge, and Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health. Community outreach and support services specific to Indigenous peoples are offered through

Tewegan and Tungasuvvingat Inuit, as well as through Minwaashin Lodge, which operates an HPP-funded outreach van. Services through other funding streams include supports at transitional housing for Indigenous young women through Tewegan.

Gender and Equity Implications

Many of the service areas targeted by HPP are areas that disproportionately impact women. The funding allocated towards these areas will therefore benefit women and support gender equity. One prominent example is funding allocated towards emergency shelters and short and long-term housing assistance for families, which are disproportionately female-led households. Several other emergency shelter solutions funded through HPP provide women and gender non-conforming individuals with shelter services, including St-Mary's Home (pre- and post-natal youth) Evelyn Horne Youth Women's Shelter, Cornerstone (single women) and Tewegan (Indigenous women). Additionally, Elizabeth Fry is funded through HPP to support women in, as well as those transitioning out of, correctional institutions. Finally, part of the additional \$1.5 million allocation under the HPP funding is proposed to improve financial and contract stability for shelter workers and front-line staff. A significant majority of these front-line staff and shelter workers are women, therefore allocating additional funding will support gender equity by creating better financial stability for the women benefiting employed in this sector.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural impacts associated with this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The recommendations of this report support the 2019-2022 Strategic Priority: Thriving Communities. The recommendations will specifically enhance the City's ability to support vulnerable members of the community and support the development of affordable and supportive housing options and homelessness solutions.

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE
SERVICES COMMITTEE
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**COMITÉ DES SERVICES
COMMUNAUTAIRES
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DISPOSITION

Housing Services staff will action the recommendations.