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| <p>2. <b>Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefits</b></p> <p><b>Initiative Canada-Ontario de logement</b></p> |
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**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

**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 or allocated.**
- 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 or further extension of the Program into 2023-2024, 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.

### **RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ**

Que le Conseil approuve :

1. que le directeur, Services du 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 directeur, Services du 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 ou alloué.
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 ou la prolongation du programme jusqu'en 2023 2024, le directeur, Services du 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 le directeur, Services du 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. Donna Gray, General Manager – Community and Social Services, dated April 21, 2022 (ACS2022-CCS-GEN-0008).

Donna Gray, Directrice générale – Services sociaux et communautaires, daté le 21 avril 2022 (ACS2022-CCS-GEN-0008)

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**

**83**

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

**Subject: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefits**

**File Number: ACS2022-CSS-GEN-008**

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

**Submitted on 21 April 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 : Initiative Canada-Ontario de logement**

**Dossier : ACS2022-CSS-GEN-008**

**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 x16366, saide.sayah@ottawa.ca**

**Quartier : À l'échelle de la ville**

**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 or allocated.**
- 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 or further extension of the Program into 2023-2024, 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 le directeur, Services du 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 directeur, Services du 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 ou alloué.
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 ou la prolongation du programme jusqu'en 2023-2024, le directeur, Services du 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 le directeur, Services du 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**

### **Assumption and Analysis**

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) is a provincially administered portable housing benefit (PHB) program that was established in 2019 as part of the National Housing Strategy. The first two years of the COHB program allocated \$1.8 million in 2021 and \$2.48 million in 2022 to the City of Ottawa. As outlined in the COHB report (Council Report ACS2020-CSS-GEN-002) dated February 26, 2020, as amended by

Motion 28/5, the first two years of the program targeted single women and female-led households with children, with priority consideration for Indigenous women (Year 1) and households at risk of homelessness due to the termination of a PHB program that the household was eligible for and in receipt of when the program terminated in 2021 (Year 2). The \$4.38 million that was awarded to the City of Ottawa in the first two years of the program was fully allocated and expended as directed by Council.

The Province has now announced the third year of the program (2022-2023) and the City of Ottawa's allocation of \$3,089,500. Staff estimate the funding will assist approximately 400 households, by providing on average a monthly subsidy of \$614 to assist with housing costs for permanent private market housing. The PHB is also portable anywhere in Ontario if households choose to move later on, which provides the household with far more flexibility as their circumstances evolve. This is not the case for Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) units, as the subsidy is attached to the unit rather than the individual, and therefore the family will lose access to their subsidy should they need to leave the unit for any reason.

This report identifies the provincially eligible priority groups as well as the City of Ottawa staff-recommended priority groups, among those eligible, that will be selected to apply for and access the COHB.

Staff recommend allocating the benefits towards the following priority groups:

- Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
- Households with Children At-Risk of Homelessness and Households Experiencing Homelessness
- Seniors Aged 60+ and People with Disabilities
- Indigenous Persons

Staff recommend that these targeted priority groups continue into 2023-2024 in the event the program is extended for an additional year.

### **Financial Implications**

The federal/provincial funding described in this report allocates up to in 2022-2023 (Year 3) for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program to assist low-income households in Ottawa who meet the eligibility criteria and selection requirements detailed in this report.

As this program is directly administered with the Province, the Ministry of Finance will be issuing monthly benefit payments to households. The City of Ottawa, as Service Manager will receive administration payments of \$250 per approved application or up to five (5) per cent of the annual funding allocation, whichever is less. The administration performed by City of Ottawa staff includes selecting households to apply for the program and assisting households to complete and submit their application to the Province for approval. The City of Ottawa issues first and last month's rent to households, where required to secure the housing, and is reimbursed by the Province for these costs upon submitting a quarterly report.

### **Public Consultation/Input**

The Housing System Working Group, consisting of representatives from not for profit 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 PHB funding in this report.

## **RÉSUMÉ**

### **Hypothèse et analyse**

L'Allocation Canada-Ontario pour le logement (ACOL) est un programme de prestations de logement transférables (PLT) administré par la province qui a été établi en 2019 dans le cadre de la Stratégie nationale sur le logement. Au cours des deux premières années du programme de l'ACOL, la Ville d'Ottawa a reçu 4,38 millions de dollars entre avril 2020 et mars 2022. Tel qu'il est indiqué dans le rapport sur l'ACOL (rapport du Conseil ACS2020-CSS-GEN-002) daté du 26 février 2020, tel que modifié par la motion 28/5, les deux premières années du programme ciblaient les femmes



célibataires et les ménages monoparentaux dirigés par une femme, en accordant la priorité aux femmes autochtones (première année) et aux ménages à risque d'itinérance en raison de la fin d'un programme de PLT auquel le ménage était admissible et dont il était bénéficiaire lorsque ce programme a pris fin en 2021 (deuxième année). Le montant de 4,38 millions de dollars qui a été accordé à la Ville d'Ottawa au cours des deux premières années du programme a été entièrement attribué et dépensé selon les directives du Conseil.

La province a annoncé la troisième année du programme (2022-2023) et l'affectation de 3 089 500 \$ par la Ville d'Ottawa. Le personnel estime que le financement aidera environ 400 ménages en leur accordant en moyenne une subvention mensuelle de 614 \$ qui aidera à assumer les coûts de leur logement permanent sur le marché privé. La PLT est également transférable n'importe où en Ontario si les ménages choisissent de déménager plus tard, ce qui leur offre une souplesse beaucoup plus grande à mesure que leur situation évolue. Ce n'est pas le cas pour les logements à loyer indexé sur le revenu (LIR) : la subvention étant liée au logement plutôt qu'à la personne, la famille y perd accès si elle doit quitter le logement pour quelque raison que ce soit.

Le présent rapport indique les groupes prioritaires admissibles à l'échelle provinciale ainsi que les groupes prioritaires recommandés par le personnel de la Ville d'Ottawa, parmi ceux admissibles, qui seront sélectionnés pour présenter une demande de prestations d'ACOL et y avoir accès.

Le personnel recommande d'attribuer les allocations aux groupes prioritaires suivants :

- Survivants de violence familiale ou de traite de personnes
- Ménages avec enfants à risque d'itinérance et ménages en situation d'itinérance
- Aînés de 60 ans et plus et personnes handicapées
- Personnes autochtones

Le personnel recommande que ces groupes prioritaires ciblés demeurent prioritaires en 2023-2024 si le programme est prolongé d'une année supplémentaire.

### **Répercussions financières**

Le financement fédéral-provincial décrit dans le présent rapport prévoit une attribution allant jusqu'à 3 089 500 \$ en 2022-2023 (troisième année) pour le programme de l'ACOL afin d'aider les ménages à faible revenu d'Ottawa qui satisfont aux critères d'admissibilité et de sélection décrits dans le présent rapport.

Comme ce programme est géré directement par le gouvernement provincial, le ministère des Finances versera les prestations mensuelles aux ménages. La Ville d'Ottawa, à titre de gestionnaire de services, recevra des paiements de 250 \$ par demande approuvée pour les frais administratifs, ou jusqu'à 5 % de l'allocation annuelle de fonds, selon le moins élevé de ces montants. Les tâches administratives effectuées par le personnel de la Ville d'Ottawa comprennent la sélection des ménages qui peuvent présenter une demande pour le programme ainsi que l'aide pour remplir la demande et la soumettre au gouvernement provincial pour approbation. La Ville d'Ottawa verse le premier et le dernier mois du loyer aux ménages, si nécessaire pour le placement en logement, et sera ensuite remboursée par le gouvernement provincial sur présentation d'un rapport trimestriel.

### **Consultations publiques 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 PLT.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) is a jointly funded, provincially delivered federal-provincial portable housing allowance program that was first introduced in 2019. The purpose of the program is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested PHB directly to eligible households in need that are on, or are eligible to be on, the social housing waiting list. This PHB will assist low-income households

with housing costs. PHB's are portable in nature, tied to the household and not a physical housing unit, and COHB allows recipients to move anywhere within the Province of Ontario. Households in receipt of a COHB must agree to be removed from the social housing wait list.

As the COHB is a jointly funded, provincially delivered federal-provincial housing allowance program, and the City, as Service Manager refers clients to the Province who in turn allocates the benefits to each household. Housing services staff perform case management, household engagement and work with households and individuals to provide access to the program. The City is responsible to identify eligible households from the program priority groups and assist the selected households with their application and submission to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance approves household applications and issues payments directly to approved households. The monthly payment amount is calculated using the household's income tax return and the average market rent. Service Ontario is the ongoing point of contact for households in the program.

The intended benefits for households in receipt of the monthly PHB, include:

- a monthly PHB to be applied towards rent for a unit of the household's choice, giving more flexibility to live closer to work, school, and established supports
- the opportunity to be housed more quickly than if the household were to wait for an RGI unit
- the ability to remain where they are currently living if the only barrier is housing affordability
- a simple benefit calculation that is predictable each month and is reassessed each year using income tax information. The application and renewal processes are not overly administratively burdensome for households

On December 20, 2019, the Province released the parameters for the first two years of the COHB. As outlined in the COHB report (Council Report ACS2020-CSS-GEN-002) dated February 26, 2020, the City of Ottawa focused the funding allocations on single

women and female-led households with children and Indigenous women within the provincial priority groups.

The City of Ottawa received \$1,899,999 to the City of Ottawa in the first year and \$2,489,562 in the second year of COHB. A total of 377 households secured permanent housing in the City of Ottawa with the aid of the benefit in the first two years of the Program. The average household received a monthly PHB of \$614.

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 COHB, and to identify local priority households from the provincial program priority groups to apply for the PHB. Staff are recommending the following allocations for Year 3 and Year 4 if the program is extended. The reason why staff are recommending these target populations is set out in the discussion portion of this report.

**Table 1: Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Priority Plan**  
Housing Benefits Planned Allocations (approximations)

| <b>Program Component</b>                                   | <b>Estimated Funding Allocation and Households</b>       |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| Survivors of Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking           | \$100,000  | 20 households  |
| Homelessness   | \$2,135,025  | 280 households |
| Seniors and Persons with Disabilities                      | \$600,000  | 80 households  |
| Indigenous   | \$100,000  | 20 households  |
| Administration Fee (up to 5%)                              | \$250.00 per application or \$154,475, whichever is less |                |
| <b>Total Annual Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Funding</b> | <b>\$3,089,500</b>                                       | 400 households |

The recommendations of this report provide for delegated authority to the Director, Housing Services, to adjust the above allocations if take-up is less than anticipated in one group or another and to ensure no funds are “unallocated” by the end of the fiscal year since this funding is allocated on a “use it or lose it” basis. Households in the priority groups will be offered the benefit, in chronological order.

In addition to COHB, there are two (2) other PHB programs that are available to households experiencing homelessness: The municipally funded Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan (HHIP) housing allowance program (approximately 6 families access this benefit per month), and the provincially funded Home For Good (HFG) program (approximately 20 individuals access this benefit per month).

## **DISCUSSION**

The Province has established the following vulnerable populations as having 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

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

Households who fall within the above noted provincial priorities must also meet the following provincial Household Eligibility Criteria:

- Resides permanently in Ontario
- Either:
  - A Canadian citizen
  - A permanent resident
  - Has made an application for status as a permanent resident under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)*; or
  - Has made a claim for refugee protection under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* and no removal order has become enforceable under the Act against the member
- Be on the social housing waiting list; or eligible to be on such a waiting list, or living in community housing
- Not be in receipt of, or part of a household in receipt of, RGI assistance, a COHB 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

As the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program is limited in scope and since household demand far exceeds housing benefit funding, the City, as Service Manager, is responsible to identify potential households, within the provincial priority groups and among those who meet the eligibility criteria, to apply for the housing benefit.

Staff are recommending delegated authority to select, among the eligible households within the provincial priority groups, the households set out in Table 1 above and further detailed below to apply for and access the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

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

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 the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program:

- Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
- Households with Children At-Risk of Homelessness and Households Experiencing Homelessness
- Seniors Aged 60+ and People with Disabilities
- Indigenous Persons

### ***Survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking***

It is recommended that survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking households continue to be prioritized for selection under the Program. This prioritization highlights the importance for this group of securing safe and affordable housing quickly and recognizes that their safety needs may be unique. Portable housing benefits allow

households greater flexibility in selecting housing of their choice and given they are attached to the household (rather than the unit), this flexibility continues indefinitely in the event a housing relocation is required in the future. Up to \$100,000 has been ear-marked for this priority group and this allocation is consistent with the funding and associated number of new households approved under the previous Portable Housing Benefit – Special Provincial Priority program. It is anticipated up to a total of 20 households will receive this benefit.

### ***Persons Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness***

#### **Households with Children At-Risk of Homelessness:**

In order to assist households with children find safe and affordable housing, staff recommends this vulnerable population as a priority group. Approximately 12,106 households were on the social housing wait list as of December 31, 2021, of which 36% were households with children. The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program is a key component for creating housing stability for these households. Up to \$1,067,512 has been ear-marked to this priority group and it is anticipated up to 140 households will receive this benefit.

#### **Households Experiencing Homelessness:**

Approximately 7% of households on the wait list are homeless and often have the lowest incomes and the least number of available resources to assist them while homeless or precariously housed. While homeless households have also been prioritized to receive portable housing benefits under the Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan (HHIP), prioritizing persons experiencing homelessness to receive the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit will ensure ongoing funding for this priority group.

### ***Seniors Aged 60+ and People with Disabilities***

Seniors 60 years of age and older represent 21% of households on the wait list. Seniors often have secured housing independently, however, are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program is an integral element of maintaining housing stability for these households. Up to \$600,000 has been ear-marked to this priority group and it is anticipated up to a total of 80 households will receive the benefit.



Housing Services has also been engaging with the developmental services sector to identify people with disabilities that are ready for independence but require the aid of a PHB in order to exit supportive housing. Staff recommend that a modest number of housing benefits be provided to support a pilot in this sector for graduates of supportive housing. To date, the developmental services sector has requested only 2 housing benefits under the proposed pilot.

### ***Indigenous Persons***

Indigenous women were a priority for Years 1 and 2 of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program. Indigenous people in Ottawa are disproportionately overrepresented in the population of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity and are in need of safe, affordable housing options. As such, Indigenous persons are being recommended as a priority. While they may fall under one of the previously noted target populations, up to \$100,000 is being ear-market to this priority group, in the event some do not fall into the above noted groups, and it is anticipated up to a total of 20 households will be assisted.

The first two years of the program were successful. Staff are of the view that, considering the progress made for the target populations in Year 1 and 2, and based on the household composition of those on the Centralized Wait List, it would be beneficial, at this time, to expand the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit to include all households that fall within the above groups, rather than exclusively prioritizing single women, female-led households and Indigenous women. These priorities align with the City's priorities and demands as reflected in the City's Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan (the "10-Year Plan").

### **Selection of Eligible Households Within the Priority Groups**

Recognizing the demand will exceed the ear-marked allocations, eligible households will be selected within the proposed priority groups based on their date of application to the Centralized Wait List, with those who have been waiting the longest being offered the benefit first.

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 that the funding was committed. The recommended funding allocation ensures funding can be fully committed, expended and 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.

### **Household Monthly Housing Benefit**

The proposed allocations and estimated households are based on the anticipated monthly housing benefit which 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. The household's benefit is reviewed annually and will vary by household. Staff will monitor the allocations to ensure funding allocations are maximized.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the report recommendations. The City receives administration funding, under the Transfer Payment Agreement, to offset staff time spent on supporting the households and administering the program.

## **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.

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

N/A

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

N/A

## **CONSULTATION**

The Housing System Working Group in addition to Community Shelter Providers were consulted prior to this report and recommendations being finalized.

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.

## **ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

Households with disabilities within the priority groups identified in this report will have access to apply for Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. Households with disabilities may in fact find and access suitable affordable housing, with the use of the housing benefit, more rapidly than they would if they were to wait for a suitable rent-gear-to-income (accessible) unit.

### **ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no climate implications, associated with the recommendation of the report.

### **ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

**There are no economic implications in the recommendations of the report.**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

**There are no environmental implications in the recommendations of the report.**

### **INDIGENOUS GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS**

Prioritizing Indigenous peoples to apply for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit contributes to reconciliation by closing gaps in economic outcomes and increasing housing stability. There are no gender and equity implications in the recommendations of the report.

### **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.

### **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications in the recommendations of the report. Households may choose to find housing in more rural areas where rent-geared-to-income is in fact very limited and rents may be lower.

### **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 2018-2022 Strategic Priority: Thriving Communities priority. The City is committed to ensuring that Ottawa residents have access to safe, adequate and affordable housing. The recommendations will specifically enhance the City's ability to sustain and grow the number of housing options targeted to low income households.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

N/A

### **DISPOSITION**

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefit will be used to advance the objectives of the updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan by promoting housing stability and rental affordability for our residents and reducing the number of households on the Centralized Wait List who are waiting for affordable housing.

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, based on priorities and processes identified in this report.