

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

101

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

**EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES 25
COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
APRIL 21, 2022**

**EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU PROCÈS-VERBAL 25
COMITÉ DES SERVICES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE PROTECTION
LE 21 AVRIL 2022**

2. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Benefits

ACS2022-CSS-GEN-008

CITY WIDE

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.**

Donna Gray, GM – CSS, and Saide Sayah, Director – CSS, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Committee.

A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Presenters were thanked for their presentation and received questions and comments from Councillors C. McKenney, M. Fleury, and T. Kavanagh.

Questions and comments included:

C. McKenney:

1. With 400 added benefits, how many housing benefits are in the community annually right now?
Answer: Saide Sayah:
 - Around 3,000 but need to confirm that number. We are continuously trying to increase that number.
2. We are not getting enough funding from senior levels of government to meet the housing strategy goals imposed onto the City.

M. Fleury:

1. With an additional 400 households, what total amount does that bring us to in 2022?
Answer: Saide Sayah:
 - Altogether, approximately 20,585 truly affordable housing.
2. Can you clarify if families are prioritized?
Answer: Saide Sayah:
 - Families are prioritized with current benefits. A challenge is convincing families to accept these benefits.

3. Will staff come back to Committee with a program that advances head leases?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- We have been exploring this with landlords and landlord associations.

4. Can you confirm that head lease is an enabling tool?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- Correct, and staff is looking to refine this.

5. Can tenants stay in RGIs and remain paying market rent?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- We are moving to a more portfolio based model to prevent RGI units from being vacant.

6. Is it accurate that the City is only funding \$2.5M capital repair costs?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- Yes, there is a shortfall in funding for repairs. We are working with the sector and using asset management tools to refine how we measure priorities.

T. Kavanagh:

1. With regards to block funding for shelters, will this be a concern?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- Shelters have mostly been successful. We will have to review at how we measure success in the future. We want to ensure that we are properly engaging with clients.

2. Are we getting any news re: rapid housing initiative from senior levels of government?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- No news as of yet.

M. Fleury:

1. What's the risk for not meeting capital repair costs?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- Risk for smaller providers can be quite severe. City provides assistance until they receive funding from senior levels of government.

2. How are we incentivizing providers to continue agreements with the City?
What's the risk to lose these affordable units?

Answer: Saide Sayah:

- We don't want to lose these units. We provide incentives to providers so that we don't lose these units, and that they continue their agreements with the City.

3. What are the capital costs to support supportive housing?

Answer: Saide Sayah

- These are very expensive to fund because they are considered very affordable housing with support staff included; but they are also very important. It's their best chance to get out of a shelter and into housing. \$400-\$550k to fund, depending on the area.

4. Is the block funding going to be a saver to the City of Ottawa?

Answer: Saide Sayah

- We won't know for sure for another 2-3years. We're hoping to see efficiencies with providers that provide support staff.

5. Could you speak to "family supportive housing" in these funding streams?

Answer: Saide Sayah

- We are looking to see how we can provide better supports. We're having these discussions with the sector, but it's still in the early days. We may be able to build on current models, but it depends on capacity and funding.