

11. **Grants and Contributions Reaffirmation: Essential Health and Social Supports and Supports in Social Housing Programs**
- Réaffirmation des subventions et des contributions - Programme Soutiens essentiels de santé et de services sociaux et Programme de logements sociaux avec soutien**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council reaffirm that the Community and Social Services Department:

- 1. Administer the existing Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS) Program as identified in this report and subject to annual budget allocations.**
- 2. Administer the existing Supports in Social Housing Program for the balance of the 2019-2022 Term of Council, as identified in this report and subject to annual budget allocations.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil réaffirme que la Direction générale des services sociaux et communautaires :

- 1. se charge de l'administration du programme actuel Soutiens essentiels de santé et de services sociaux (SESSS), tel que décrit dans le présent rapport et sous réserve des enveloppes budgétaires annuelles.**
- 2. se charge de l'administration du Programme de logements sociaux avec soutien (PLSS) actuel pour le reste du mandat du Conseil 2019-2022, tel que décrit dans le présent rapport et sous réserve des enveloppes budgétaires annuelles.**

DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

1. Donna Gray, General Manager, Community and Social Services, dated September 16, 2021 (ACS2021-CSS-GEN-011).

Donna Gray, Directrice générale, Services sociaux et communautaires, daté le 16 septembre 2021 (ACS2021-CSS-GEN-011)

**COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE
SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT 21
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

**169 COMITÉ DES SERVICES
COMMUNAUTAIRES ET DE
PROTECTION RAPPORT 21
LE 22 SEPTEMBRE 2021**

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**SUBJECT: Grants and Contributions Reaffirmation: Essential Health and Social
Supports and Supports in Social Housing Programs**

File Number ACS2021-CSS-GEN-011

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee on 16 September 2021

and Council 22 September 2021

Submitted on September 16, 2021

by

Donna Gray, General Manager, Community and Social Services

**Contact Person: Sarah Taylor, Manager, Business and Technical Support
Services, Community and Social Services**

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Ward: CITY WIDE

**OBJET: Réaffirmation des subventions et des contributions - Programme
Soutiens essentiels de santé et de services sociaux et Programme
de logements sociaux avec soutien**

Dossier : ACS2021-CSS-GEN-011

Rapport au Comité des services communautaires et de protection

le 16 septembre 2021

et au Conseil le 22 septembre 2021

Soumis le 16 septembre 2021 par Donna Gray, Directrice générale, Services

sociaux et communautaires

**Personne ressource: Sarah Taylor, Gestionnaire, Services de soutien technique
et aux activités**

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Quartier : À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE

REPORT RECOMMENDATION(S)

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council
reaffirm that the Community and Social Services Department:**

- 1. Administer the existing Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS) Program
as identified in this report and subject to annual budget allocations.**
- 2. Administer the existing Supports in Social Housing Program for the balance of
the 2019-2022 Term of Council, as identified in this report and subject to
annual budget allocations.**

RECOMMANDATION(S) DU RAPPORT

**Que le Conseil réaffirme que la Direction générale des services sociaux et
communautaires :**

- 1. se charge de l'administration du programme actuel Soutiens essentiels de
santé et de services sociaux (SESSS), tel que décrit dans le présent rapport et
sous réserve des enveloppes budgétaires annuelles.**
- 2. se charge de l'administration du Programme de logements sociaux avec
soutien (PLSS) actuel pour le reste du mandat du Conseil 2019-2022, tel que
décrit dans le présent rapport et sous réserve des enveloppes budgétaires
annuelles.**

BACKGROUND

On-going grants and contributions programs that are 100% funded by the City must be reaffirmed in each Term of Council. This requirement is outlined in the Corporate Grants and Contributions Policy, which came into effect on January 1st, 2011 and the Grants and Contributions Procedures; both of which were most recently updated in 2018.

This report reaffirms for this Term of Council that the Community and Social Services Department will maintain the Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS) Program and the Supports in Social Housing (SSH) Program, as outlined in this report and subject to annual budget allocations.

The Community and Social Services department administers several other Grants and Contributions programs; which are not included in this reaffirmation report due to policy exemptions or program approvals that have already occurred in this Term of Council. They include the following programs:

Children’s Services Contribution Programs:

- Capital Facility Funding
- Child Care Municipal Health & Safety Funding
- Child Care Stabilization Initiative

Grants and Contributions Policy Exemption:

“Payments made pursuant to legislation or regulations other than the *Municipal Act*, 2001, are exempt from this Policy”

The City is managing and administering the funding described in the Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2019-2023 and Provincial Update report that City Council approved on September 11, 2019 (the “Child Care Report”), in accordance with the City’s legislated role as Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) under the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*.

Term of Council approvals:

- 11 Sept 2019: Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan 2019-2023
[ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0011](#)

Community Funding Framework Contribution Programs:

- Community Partnership Major Capital Program
- Exceptional Circumstance Community Funding
- Non-Renewable Project Funding 2020 - Safer Communities
- Renewable Community Funding

Term of Council approvals:

- 26 Feb 2020: Community Funding Framework [ACS2020-CSS-GEN-0003](#)

- 25 Sept 2019: Updated Community Funding Framework and Next Steps for the Community Funding Framework Review [ACS2019-CSS-GEN-0012](#)

Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan (HHIP) Grant Programs:

- Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan - Employment Supports
- Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan - ODSP Application Support
- Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan – Rent Supplements/ Housing Allowances
- Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan - Shelters/Supports to Housing
- Housing and Homelessness Investment Plan – Social Housing Repairs/Renewal

Term of Council approvals:

- 24 Feb 2021: Housing and Homelessness Workplan 2021- 2022 [ACS2021-CSS-GEN-003](#)
- 24 Jun 2020: Legislated 5 year Review of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan [ACS2020-CSS-GEN-006](#)
- 27 Apr 2016: Housing Services and Community Funding: Grants and Contributions [ACS2016-COS-CSS-0004](#) (previous Term of Council)
 - Council approved that “Effective this term of Council, any future reporting on the HHIP will be included as part of the reporting requirements of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan.”

DISCUSSION

The City’s Community and Social Services Department (CSSD) aims to improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents in the areas of equity and inclusiveness, Indigenous relations, social assistance and employment, long-term care, child care, housing and homelessness prevention and social development. CSSD delivers provincially mandated and Council-approved programs that provide support to families and individuals to promote their self-reliance and quality of life in collaboration with our community partners.

The majority of services and programs are governed by specific provincial legislation and are cost-shared to varying degrees. The City also has complementary programs in some areas of the social services sector that provide 100% funding under the City’s

Grants and Contributions Policy; which came into effect on January 1st, 2011 and was last updated in 2018.

This report reaffirms for this Term of Council that the Community and Social Services Department will maintain the Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS) Program and the Supports in Social Housing (SSH) Program, as outlined in this report and subject to annual budget allocations.

Essential Health and Social Supports Program

The Essential Health and Social Supports (EHSS) Program is 100% funded by the City of Ottawa and was established in 1998 when the Province eliminated the cost shared Special Assistance and Supplementary Aid Programs that assisted low-income residents, not in receipt of social assistance, with the purchase of essential health related items. The City of Ottawa approved budget to fund the EHSS program is \$2.185M for each of 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The EHSS program is administered by the Employment and Social Services (ESS) branch of Community and Social Services Department, in accordance with the Essential Health and Social Supports Policy and Procedures. It is an income and asset tested program that supports low-income residents who require assistance with health-related items or assistance to retain housing or employment. Essential health related items include items or services such as dental care, vision care, medical supplies such as incontinence, surgical and diabetic supplies, as well as bathroom aids, and direct disposition (burials). The program also supports eligible low-income persons to maintain independent living arrangements; avoiding hospitalization or institutionalization thus preventing future needs that could require more costly measures.

ESS staff meet with low-income applicants to assess eligibility by completing an income test using a low-income cut-off (LICO) and asset levels based on family size to determine eligibility. In order to be eligible for the EHSS program, applicants cannot be in receipt of Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

The Essential Health and Social Supports Program was reaffirmed by the previous Term of Council on May 24, 2017 ([ACS2017-CSS-GEN-0004](#)).

Supports in Social Housing Program

Since 2009, municipal funding has been invested in homelessness services through the City's Supports in Social Housing (SSH) Program, which is administered by Housing Services to several community non-profit agencies. The City of Ottawa approved budget for 2021 is \$1.492M.

The program's objective is to provide case management and housing supports for clients who have a history of chronic homelessness, in order to:

- Improve the housing stability and quality of life of individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness and individuals living in social housing who have a history of homelessness and complex needs;
- Support social housing providers and other housing providers to maintain healthy, safe living environments while offering housing to this clientele;
- Reduce the costs of providing emergency shelter in Ottawa by assisting people to avoid homelessness.

The program's design was based on consultation, and allocations were made through a competitive process in which support-service agencies partnered with a social housing provider, proposing to provide housing with suitable supports, using existing units of social housing. Five homelessness services agencies and two social housing providers (Ottawa Community Housing Corporation (OCHC) and Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC)) were selected, as well as the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, to provide half-time psychiatric nursing support.

In 2017, once Housing Services had established a related program called Housing First providing similar services to a similar clientele, four of the SSH contracts were amended to align with Housing First, as follows:

- All future new SSH clients who were not already housed at OHCC or CCOC when they joined a SSH caseload would be prioritized for service through the Coordinated Access system that had been established for Housing First.
- SSH clients being housed would be eligible for the Apartment Set-up funding provided through the provincial Home for Good funding of up to \$1,500 per Housing First client.

The Supports in Social Housing Program was reaffirmed by the previous Term of Council on April 27th, 2016 ([ACS2016-COS-CSS-0004](#)).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

THIS SECTION IS MANDATORY. ONLY FINANCE STAFF MAY COMPLETE THIS SECTION. Report writers should provide the general finance information, details and rationale related to the topic in the Discussion section of the report. Finance will outline the financial impact to the City resulting from the report recommendations in the

Financial Implications section. If there are no financial implications, Finance will provide a comment to that effect. All reports will be sent via the online RADAR tool to your Finance Account Manager to secure the necessary comment from the Finance Department. Reports cannot go forward without addressing this section and should be forwarded to Finance five (5) working days prior to the report deadline.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This is a City-wide report

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Consultation was not required for this report

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts directly associated with this Term of Council reaffirmation report.

The programs covered within this report have accessibility impacts and considerations embedded within the program requirements. People with disabilities may be positively impacted by these programs, which administer funding for persons to remain safe and supported in their own homes.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no asset management implications associated with this report.

CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate implications associated with this report.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report

INDIGENOUS GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no indigenous, gender and equity implications directly associated with this Term of Council reaffirmation report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technology implications associated with this report

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report aligns with the Current City of Ottawa Strategic Plan Priority: Thriving Communities

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None

DISPOSITION

Staff will continue to provide funding to eligible applicants in accordance with the existing policies and procedures as outlined in this report and implement any Council direction provided as part of the consideration of this report.