

HS- B1-1

DATE: February 3, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY EXTENSION 2009-2011 -
FUNDING ALLOCATION UPDATE**

FROM: Janet Menard, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the funding recommendations made by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Allocations sub-committee and the Community Advisory Board;

And further, that Regional staff be authorized to formally notify community agencies, that applied for Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding, the recommendations made by the Allocations Sub-Committee and the Community Advisory Board;

And further, that the Region's duly authorized signing officers be authorized to execute third party agreements together with the successfully funded community agencies, and documents that may be required to participate in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy;

And further, that the Region's duly authorized signing officers be authorized to execute agreements together with Service Canada and other documents that may be required to participate in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On January 21 2009, the Government of Canada announced the extension of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, allocating \$1,874,020 million dollars to the Region of Peel, to be exhausted by March 31, 2011.
- The Region of Peel has taken the required community engagement approach to allocate the funds.
- The Region of Peel issued a proposal call for agencies to apply for HPS funding.
- The Region of Peel received a total of 11 applications for funding with a total funding request in excess of three million dollars.
- The Homelessness Partnering Strategy Allocations Sub-Committee and Community Advisory Board has recommended funding of just over \$1.5 Million to create sustainable projects that aim to reduce homelessness.
- The Region's Homelessness Steering Committee will determine the use of the remaining funds.

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DISCUSSION

1. Background

As Council was informed on March 4, 2009, the Government of Canada announced the extension of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The extension has provided the Region of Peel with \$1,874,020 over two years to offer programs or capital funds aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness.

Historically, the Region has successfully implemented homelessness programs and initiatives under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) and HPS. Projects under these initiatives aimed to increase community capacity to support homelessness programs, enhance eviction prevention programs and preserve and enhance existing transitional and supportive housing stock.

Under this round of the HPS, there was a policy shift from emergency services to a housing first approach. In addition, the Region has taken a community engagement approach in terms of allocating the funds, while still focusing on the community endorsed priorities to address homelessness. These priorities are to address the following:

- the increasing rate of recidivism among shelter users;
- the complex issues of clients accessing services; that require a wider range of services; and
- the human and financial costs of homelessness and shelter use are excessive in Peel (need to focus on transitional housing and supports).

Based on the community consultation process and extensive community feedback, Peel agencies were invited through a proposal call, to apply for funding to implement initiatives aimed at reducing homelessness in the Region.

As in previous funding periods, the Region of Peel will continue to act in a Community Entity Model for service delivery. This means that all requests for funding must go through the Community Entity (the Region of Peel). This carries responsibility of project approval, contribution agreement preparation and monitoring of approved activities.

a) Community Consultation Process

In June of 2009, the Region of Peel held a community consultation to discuss the HPS and to initiate interest from community agencies to apply for funding. Over 50 representatives from Peel community agencies attended the event to confirm the Region's priorities and discuss next steps for planning and project proposals. Service Canada also attended the event to make a presentation and explain eligibility criteria. Additionally, Service Canada assisted groups in brainstorming Peel's needs and determine existing gaps in services.

Regional staff stressed the importance of keeping future homelessness initiatives aligned with current and ongoing initiatives in order to enhance existing services, partnerships and supports, while at the same time avoiding any duplication in services. Further, it was asserted that all proposals must be self sustainable beyond 2011.

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Community members were invited to volunteer to sit on the Community Advisory Board and the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Allocations Sub-Committee. These two groups would play a large role in making recommendations for funding on behalf of the Region of Peel.

2. Funding Allocation Process

On September 15, 2009, applications for funding under the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy became available to non-profit community agencies in the Region of Peel.

a) Call for Proposals

Community agencies applying for 2009-2011 Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding were encouraged to submit applications that demonstrated a commitment to contributing to a more sustainable and comprehensive continuum of supports to help Peel's homeless population move toward self sufficiency and to prevent those at risk from becoming homeless. Applicants were also encouraged to submit proposals that fit the context of at least one of the three Homelessness Partnering Strategy priorities outlined in the Region's community plan. Further, proposals were required to fill a gap and compliment existing Regionally operated programs and services.

b) Proposal Review

On October 9, 2009, applications for this funding were closed and a total of 11 applications were received, totaling \$3,110,421.

The Allocations Sub-Committee completed an extensive review of each application to ensure that the proposed activity was in line with the established priorities and met the funding eligibility requirements as set out by Service Canada. Further, the committee looked for proposed activities that:

- Utilized enhancement of partnerships,
- Demonstrated sustainability,
- Projected community based outcomes,
- Aligned with other regional homelessness programs,
- Avoided duplication of services that already operate in the Region of Peel.

Aside from one agency, the remaining applicants were invited to meet with the Allocations Sub-Committee. Each applicant was given the opportunity to provide a brief presentation to the committee, which was followed by a question and answer period.

Resulting recommendations were based on several criteria including:

- Program need in the area proposed,
- Program met at least of Peel's priorities as outlined in the community plan,
- Program was aligned with current homelessness strategies in the Region of Peel,
- Proposal demonstrated ability to financially sustain the program after March 31, 2011,
- Program proposal displayed partnerships and collaboration with the community and other agencies,

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- Applicant demonstrated responsible use of other funding sources,
- Proposed outcomes and service levels were in line with the cost of the program.

Of the 11 applications received, *nine met the funding criteria*. Due to competing priorities and limited funds, full funding was recommended for three of the applications, and partial funding was recommended for six of the applications. Upon hearing that their proposal could not be fully funded, one agency withdrew their application. Appendix I provides a summary of the funding requests, and the recommendations made by the Allocations Sub-Committee.

3. Proposed Direction

During the review of applications, the Allocations Sub-Committee determined that while some proposals demonstrated a strong ability to meet Peel's goals for addressing homelessness, there were some that would require additional supports to reach the full capacity of the proposed outcomes. In order to ensure good stewardship of HPS dollars, the Region has committed to dedicating a staff resource to assist in implementing the proposed projects, ensuring services are not duplicated, monitoring the outcomes of the projects and assisting the agencies with their reporting requirements.

All applicants are aware of this condition, and have agreed, if funded, to work collaboratively with the Regional of Peel.

Following Council approval of recommendations, all applicants will be notified in writing, of the outcome of the recommendations. An appeal process has been established which will allow applicants seven business days from the date that they are notified of funding decisions to appeal in writing to the Region of Peel. At that time, all appeals will be reviewed by senior Human Services staff. If the appeals team determines that additional funds should be allocated based on the appeal, this will come from the remaining unallocated funds.

The Region will execute third party agreements with funded agencies, under the direction and review of the Region's Legal staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently \$106,232 remains unallocated. Following the established appeal period, The Region's Homelessness Steering Committee will be approached to discuss possible recommendations for these remaining funds. Council will be advised of this decision once it has been made.

The Region of Peel is responsible for monitoring and distributing funding to agencies from Service Canada. Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding is being distributed to the Region from Service Canada as per the pre-established Contribution Agreement. The Region of Peel is not responsible for providing any matching funds. All approved agencies are responsible for sustaining their projects beyond the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding end date of March 31, 2011.

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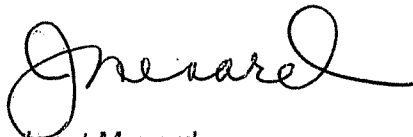
CONCLUSION

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy Allocations Sub-Committee has recommended funding to create sustainable projects that aim to reduce homelessness and to create community capacity to address homelessness issues across the Region of Peel.

Historically, the Region of Peel has been able to successfully deliver new programs and create capital projects with the use of HPS funds. As there is no requirement for the Region to match funding, this is an opportunity for the Region of Peel to strengthen the partnership with the federal government and the community to address pressing issues with homelessness without the use of Regional funds.

The community engagement process allows community agencies to become familiar with Regionally operated homelessness initiatives and to collaborate ideas to work toward a more integrated approach to delivering programs and service for the at-risk and homeless population.

It is with full confidence that Regional staff will continue to partner with community agencies to create stable supports that will assist homeless persons move toward autonomy and self-sufficiency.



Janet Menard
Commissioner of Human Services

Approved for Submission:



D. Swarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Gurpreet Malhotra at extension 4862 or via email at Gurpreet.Malhotra@peelregion.ca

Authored By: Allison Martin

- c. Legislative Services
Manager, Financial Support Unit (FSU)



APPENDIX I

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HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY EXTENSION 2009-2011 - FUNDING ALLOCATION UPDATE

APPENDIX I

2009-2011 HPS PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED \$	RECOMMENDED FUNDING \$	COMMENTS	INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRAM SUCCESS
Our Place Peel	Transitional Housing for Youth	653,228	500,000	Funding will support an expansion of programming and the implementation of a new collaborative program. Agency has agreed to deliver the program with recommended funding amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the numbers of youth that are turned away from the Our Place Peel emergency shelter due to capacity issues. • Reduction in recidivism among youth in the program.
Salvation Army	Addiction Support for Women in Shelter	217,000	217,000	Funding will support the implementation of programming for a client group for whom service gaps have historically existed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in shelter recidivism. • Improvement in housing readiness of women experiencing homelessness. • Increased referrals to and maintenance in treatment. • Reduction in emergency room contacts (for participants) • Reduction in contact with criminal justice system (for participants)
YMCA – Greater Toronto	After care support for Youth	228,321	78,372	Funding will support an expansion of services offered at Peel Youth Village to foster greater independence and self sufficiency of the youth clientele. Agency has agreed to deliver the program with the recommended funding amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of employment, housing and education for the participants. • Increased access to services. • Participants reporting decreased social isolation and increased self sufficiency.
St. Mary's Food Bank	Community Kitchen - Meals on Wheels	250,000	136,000	Funding will support offsetting the impact of food insecurity on low-income families in Peel. Agency has agreed to deliver the program with the recommended funding amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants indicating increased knowledge on healthy eating. • Increase participants' access to nutritionally balanced meals. • Decreased reports of social isolation from program participants.

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Regeneration	Community Kitchen & life Skills program for 100 people.	221,265	58,000	Based on the recommended funding amount, this agency has declined funding as they did not feel that they could deliver the anticipated outcomes. This amount has been redistributed to the funds remaining to be allocated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success indicators not listed as agency has decided not to accept recommended funding.
Caledon Community Services	Homeless Worker and Housing Help Centre	154,555	55,316	Funding will support the implementation of an advocacy worker to support clients facing housing and tenancy related issues in Caledon. Agency has agreed to deliver the program with the recommended funding amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to housing options for citizens of Caledon. • Early identification and prevention of potential homelessness through advocacy, information and support. • Increased awareness amongst community members of the complexities in developing an effective response to homelessness in Caledon. • Creation of formal inter-agency working relationships that provide a holistic approach to resettlement, tenancy sustainability and life-skills training. • Establishment of housing registry in Caledon.
Church of the Virgin Mary	Transition/ Emergency Shelter for 40 people	500,000	500,000	Funding will support the implementation of new Transitional housing in Mississauga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in emergency shelter recidivism. • Reported increase in self-sufficiency for participants • Reported decrease in social isolation. • Increase in use of other services to promote independence among target group.

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Knights Table - Cecil's Kitchen	Community Kitchen	31,560	31,560	Funding will support the agency to make a much needed capital purchase in order to run the community kitchen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased food security for those using the service. • Reported decrease in barriers to access healthy food. • Ability for participants to redirect household funds to address other fundamental needs.
St. Leonard's Place (Peel)	Mental Health and Addiction support for Youth 16 - 21. 126 individuals served by the project	514,298	78,080	Funding will support the implementation of a new component to existing agency programming. Agency has agreed to deliver a portion of the proposed program with the recommended funding amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participant engagement in a continuum of support services. • Solid recovery and lifestyle action planning for participants. • Attainment of long term housing solutions which are suitable for participant needs.
Erin Mills Youth Outreach	Counseling and Youth	66,620	0	Application did not show funding sustainability. Collaboration with other community partners was lacking. Funding not recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success indicators not listed as funding has not been recommended.
Knights Table - Next Steps	Employment Programs for 40 homeless individuals	273,574	0	Application duplicated services. Funding sustainability was not demonstrated. Funding not recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success indicators not listed as funding has not been recommended.

**HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY EXTENSION 2009-2011 - FUNDING
ALLOCATION UPDATE**

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING DETAILS	
TOTAL HPS DOLLARS AVAILABLE	\$ 1,724,098.00
TOTAL REQUEST	\$ 3,110,421.24
TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$ 1,596,328.00
TOTAL FOR PEEL'S COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS	\$ 21,538.00
TOTAL REMAINING	\$ 106,232.00

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APPENDIX II

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY

Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Member Name	Organization
Alex Fernandez	Service Canada
Drew Goursky	Region of Peel
Sue Ritchie	Region of Peel
Lorna Dixon	United Way of Peel Region
Mark McNeil	Community Member - Caledon
Salima Tejani	Brampton Multicultural Centre
Kathryn Lynch	John Howard Society
Judy Shum	Catholic Cross Cultural Services
Cindy Cowan	Interim Place
Sharon Floyd	Interim Place
Vanita Varma	Telecare Distress Centre
Kerry Samuels	Community Member
Realiza Reyes	Community Member
Norma English	North Peel and Dufferin Community Legal Services
Naz Husain	Accessibility Advisory Committee

Allocations Sub-Committee

Member Name	Organization
Lorna Dixon	United Way of Peel Region
Cindy Cowan	Interim Place
Teresa Pifa	Region of Peel
Florence Lum	Region of Peel
Alex Fernandes (support only ~ no voting)	Service Canada
Allison Martin (admin only ~ no voting)	Region of Peel
Kathryn Lynch	John Howard Society
Catherine Fox	ARMAGH

Homelessness Steering Committee

Member Name	Title
Graham Bettes	Acting Sergeant, 22 Division, Peel Police
Lisa Duarte	Acting Director, Ontario Works
Janet Menard	Commissioner, Peel Human Services
Sonia Pace	Director, Children's Services Operations
Sue Ritchie	Manager, Community Programs Unit
Eileen de Villa	Associate Medical Officer, Office of MOH
Dawn Machado	Supervisor, Homelessness Program, Health
Kathleen Lewis	Administrative Assistant, Service Access
Joan Endersby	Acting Sr. Public Affairs Associate
Thomas Yoon	Manager, Human Services Business Unit, Peel CFO/Treasurer, Corporate Finance
Allan Britton	Inspector, 22 Division, Peel Police
Mike Goldrup	Director, Human Resources
Bryan Hill	Manager, Urban Policy, Planning Policy and Research, Peel Environment and Development Services
Donna McBride	Coordinator, Neighbourhood Capacity Support Strategy
Isabelle Mogck	Director Communicable Diseases
David Mowat	Medical Officer of Health, Office of the MOH
Arvin Prasad	Director, Planning Policy and Research, Peel Environment and Development Services
Janette Smith	Commissioner of Peel Health Services
Norma Trim	Acting CFO, Corporate Finance Admin, Peel CFO/Treasurer