

Report HDR-CW-02-17

To: Warden Barfoot and Members of Grey County Council
From: Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
 Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services
Meeting Date: January 26, 2017
Subject: Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Investment Plan
 2017-2018
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution
 CW-13-17; Endorsed by County Council February 9, 2017 per
 Resolution CC07-17;

Recommendation

1. That Grey County Council approves the Investment Plan for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and approves the 2017-2018 funding to be expensed by March 31, 2018.

Background

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing. Under the CHPI, Service Managers have the flexibility to use funding to meet local needs and priorities within the guidelines set by the Province. To meet local needs the following programs are planned over the next year.

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative 2017-2018

Program	Annual Funding
Y Housing Emergency Program	54,000
Housing With Supports	620,000
Y Homelessness Prevention Program	134,000
Hope Grey Bruce Outreach Services	100,000
Sustainable Housing Program	637,271
Community Enhancement Program	25,000
Administration Fees	174,490

Total	\$1,744,761
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Y Emergency Housing Program

Since 2008, Grey County has partnered with the Family Y Owen Sound Grey Bruce for the provision of emergency shelter services. The Y finds suitable lodgings for those who find themselves without shelter for the night. The Y also partners with other community services such as Safe n Sound for the delivery of this service. This service provided 762 nights of accommodation in 2016.

Housing with Supports

Housing subsidized under the former Domiciliary Hostel program is included in this category. The County of Grey continues to fund Ayton Residential Lodge, Kent Residential Homes, Riverside Residence, Inglewood Villa, and Second Avenue Lodge. The Housing with Supports operators invoice Grey County monthly for the number residents using this service. Hostel inspections and resident income is verified annually. This program provides housing with supports for an average of 70 residents of Grey County per month.

Y Homelessness Prevention Program

Services and Supports under CHPI are services to assist vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate relief or support in obtaining housing (e.g. street and housing outreach, case management, securing and retaining housing/shelter, food banks, etc.).

The County of Grey partners with Y Housing to provide services and supports to vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate housing needs. The Y Homelessness Prevention Program includes a resource centre for clients and assistance with finding or maintaining affordable housing.

Hope Grey Bruce Outreach Program

This pilot project aims to offer one on one intensive services and group sessions for tenants to ensure they remain housed. The project also provides education sessions and support to staff of Grey County Housing and other nonprofit housing providers on mental health and housing. This pilot project started in September 2016.

Sustainable Housing Benefit

The Sustainable Housing Benefit (SHB) provides financial aid to individuals at risk of homelessness or currently homeless to find or maintain affordable housing. Accommodation costs must be sustainable to qualify for this benefit. SHB provided financial assistance to 1,039 households in 2016. SHB covers the following costs:

<p><u>Allowable Costs to Obtain Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Month's Rent • Energy Deposits 	<p><u>Allowable Cost to Remain Housed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility Arrears (Risk of Disconnection) • Rental Arrears (Risk of Eviction) • Treatment for Bed Bugs
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Note: In 2016 calendar year, Grey County spent \$163,298 on utility arrears for residents.

Community Enhancement Program

CHPI funds support local nonprofit initiatives to provide services for those at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness through the Community Enhancement Funds. As Grey County has a large geographic area and accessing programs in centralized areas is sometimes difficult for individuals. Often these individuals rely on local organizations such as churches, nonprofits and volunteer groups. Local initiatives supply meals, transportation, good food box, heating funds, furnishings and other needs. These funds strengthen local initiatives.

Program Administration

There is \$174,490 in administration funding set aside for CHPI.

Links to 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

The CHPI funding assists Grey County in providing services to fulfill goals of the Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. The plan identifies four key strategic areas:

- Sustain and Create Affordable Housing
- Homelessness Prevention
- Transitional Housing
- Service Coordination and Collaboration

Related goals include:

- Initiate a system to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and focus on supports for those individuals with long term homelessness
- Work with community partners to enhance existing support services through case management and focused collaboration
- Subsidies to maintain and access sustainable housing
- Enhance and support supportive housing

- Promote eviction diversion practices with landlords

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology Considerations

\$1,744,761 in provincial funding provided to the County of Grey for the fiscal year of April 2017 to March 2018. This program will have a neutral impact on the County, as no levy funds will be required. There is the ability to move funds between programs to ensure maximum usage.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

The CHPI program will assist in the implementation of a homelessness and housing strategy for Grey County.

Program will assist in the creation and sustainability of affordable housing units.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne Marie Shaw
Director of Housing

Barb Fedy
Director of Social Services