

Community Partners Program - Administration and Funding Transfer

(City Council on December 14, 15 and 16, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Policy and Finance Committee recommends the adoption of the Recommendations of the Community Services Committee embodied in the following communication (December 1, 1999) from the City Clerk:

Recommendations:

The Community Services Committee on December 1, 1999, recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee, and Council:

- (i) the adoption of the report dated November 15, 1999, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting the administration and funding transfer of the provincial Community Partners Program, subject to amending Recommendation No. (4) by adding thereto the following words:

“and that the Province be requested to consider indexing the funding for this Program to inflation”; and

- (ii) the Chair of the Community Services Committee be requested to seek confirmation, in writing, from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the Province has no short or long-term plans to withdraw or reduce its 100 percent funding commitment to the Community Partners Program.

(Report dated November 15, 1999, addressed to the
Community Services Committee from the
Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services)

Purpose:

This report provides information on the provincial Community Partners Program (CPP) which allocates \$862,307.00 in annual funding to ten community-based Housing Help services in Toronto. The Province will transfer administration and funding for the CPP to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs), effective January 2000.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

CPP contributes \$862,307.00 annually to agencies in the City of Toronto. The Province will forward \$517,384.00 (60 percent of the total annual budget) directly to funded agencies for the first seven months of operation in 2000. The City of Toronto will receive \$344,923.00 in a

single payment by April 2000 (40 percent of the total annual budget) and will be expected to disperse these funds.

Funds for CPP grants have been included in the Shelter, Housing and Support Division's Operating Budget for 2000. The cost implications for CPP grant administration will be dealt with through the regular City budget process, and \$35,000.00 will be requested from the Province to compensate for additional staffing demands. There is no net increase in the grants budget.

Finance staff have been consulted and concur with the impact statements of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the City of Toronto assume responsibility for administration and funding for the provincial Community Partners Program (CPP), which has an annualized grants budget of \$862,307.00, on the condition that the Province provide 100 percent funding;
- (2) the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Community Partners Program in 2000, which sets out the City's responsibility for administration for the full year and for CPP funding of \$344,923.00 for the last five months of the year;
- (3) the Commissioner of Community Services be authorized to disperse CPP grants under the terms of this agreement, to the agencies named in this report for their final payment in 2000 which totals \$344,923.00;
- (4) City Council request provincial funding of \$35,000.00 for administration costs, based on one-half FTE, to support the City's new responsibility for the Community Partners Program;
- (5) this report be forwarded to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration and to the Budget Advisory Committee secretary for budget process pending file, in accordance with the Financial Control Protocols, adopted by Council at its meeting of July 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1999; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

The Province of Ontario announced its intention to transfer funding and administrative responsibility for the Community Partners Program (CPP) to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs), in March 1999. This initiative was one of several actions recommended by the Provincial Task Force on Homelessness, and supports the Mayor's Homelessness Action

Task Force recommendation concerning the municipality's role as manager of housing and homeless services.

The provincial Community Partners Program is a \$2.2 million grant fund, allocated across the Province to fund 29 agencies, the majority of which operate Housing Help Centres. Clients are low-income tenants, and many have special needs as a result of homelessness, institutional discharge, recent arrival to Canada or other individual challenges. Some of the standard services offered at Housing Help Centres are: free housing vacancy information; individual counselling on housing issues; liaison and client advocacy with income supports and other services; mediation for landlords and tenants; follow-up and tracking Housing Help clients.

The Ministry reports that CPP funds ten agencies for a total of \$862,307.00 within the City of Toronto. Five grants are to Housing Help Centres and five for speciality services for chronically homeless individuals (see Appendix 1 for details.) CPP staffing at the Ministry is estimated to be .8 FTE for every ten projects, not including managerial supervision.

Comments:

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will assign all contracts between the Ministry and the funded agencies to CMSMs, and will require that all funding commitments be maintained until the end of 2000. CPP transfer to CMSMs will take place in two steps:

- (1) funding decisions for 2000 are being made by the Province, and 60 percent of the annual funding will flow from the Ministry to the selected agencies before January 2000. CMSMs assume administrative responsibility in January, and provincial staff are available for assistance and consultation during the transition period;
- (2) by July, a direct funding relationship begins between the CMSMs and CPP agencies: CMSMs will receive the remaining 40 percent of the annual budget for the purpose of continued funding for agencies which submit satisfactory interim reports.

Funding and administration of CPP for the City of Toronto would be suitably located within the Shelter, Housing and Support Division, which has responsibility for the City of Toronto Homeless Initiative Fund (CT-HIF.) The objectives of CT-HIF and CPP funding programs are compatible. As well, there exist current funding relationships under CT-HIF (for other project activities) with seven of the ten Community Partners agencies.

The addition of the Community Partners Program to the Division's responsibilities may enable program refinements to address current funding gaps and inequalities, particularly within the Housing Help sector. Shelter, Housing and Support staff are currently engaged within this sector and I estimate that .5 FTE (\$35,000.00) will be required to support CPP. Staffing requirements are being dealt with in the regular City budget process. To compensate for the projected additional expense to the City, \$35,000.00 from the Province for administration will be requested.

Conclusions:

The Province of Ontario will transfer funding and administrative responsibility for the Community Partners Program (CPP), from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Consolidated Municipal Service Managers. The City of Toronto's responsibility for funding agencies receiving CPP grants is contingent upon provincial funding, which in 2000 will be \$344,923.00 (40 percent of the annual CPP budget for Toronto agencies.)

Community Partners Program funds ten agencies in the City of Toronto for a total of \$862,307.00. These agencies provide generic and specialized Housing Help services. In assuming funding and administrative responsibility for the Community Partners Program, the City will be in an improved position to manage program funding within the Housing Help sector specifically and the City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund more generally.

Contact:

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Appendix 1

Community Partners Program Agencies and Grant Amounts

January to December 2000
(City of Toronto Locations)

	Provincial Funding (60%)	Toronto Funding (40%)	Total
Housing Help Centres:			
Etobicoke North Housing Help	\$72,960	\$48,640	\$121,600
Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services	32,640	21,760	54,400
North York Housing Help	84,000	56,000	140,000
Scarborough Housing Help	90,000	60,000	150,000
York Community Services	47,729	31,819	79,548
Specialized Housing Help:			
Fred Victor Centre	64,800	43,200	108,000
Good Shepherd	42,000	28,000	70,000
Mental Health Program Services	30,000	20,000	50,000
Salvation Army	22,404	14,936	37,340
St. Stephen's Community House	30,851	20,568	51,419
Total	\$517,384	\$344,923	\$862,307