

**2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Update #1 on  
Negotiation of a New Federal Agreement and Transition  
to the New Program**

<b>Date:</b>	October 30, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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A staff report approved on October 16 granted the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, authority to negotiate a contribution agreement under a renewed Homelessness Partnering Strategy or any other new federal homelessness funding program. It also provided for transitional funding arrangements if a new federal agreement is not executed in time to avoid interruption of community agency funding.

In approving the report, the Committee “requested the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to provide monthly actionable reports to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the status of the Program.”

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, recommends that:

1. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, be authorized to report directly to the next meeting of Council if new information concerning 2009 federal homelessness funding becomes available.

**Implementation Points**

The current Homelessness Partnering Strategy ends March 31, 2009. Service-related funding agreements between the City of Toronto and community-based homelessness

agencies will also expire on that date. If funding is not extended or there is significant delay in renewing such funding, community agencies may need to wind down their service projects and lay off experienced staff. In addition, there may not be sufficient funds for City staff to provide direct services such as pre-employment supports for homeless individuals and also administer the HPI program.

Recommendations approved in the October 16 report make it possible for the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to move quickly to get a contribution agreement in place by April 1, 2009 and begin the investment of homelessness funding, so as to ensure no disruption of critical services.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact as a result of approval of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The report approved on October 16 was necessary because the current two-year Homelessness Partnering Strategy is scheduled to end on March 31, 2009. The October 16 report was approved by the Budget Committee at its meeting of October 24, 2008 and will be before Executive Committee at its meeting on November 10, 2008.

The staff report, entitled “2009 Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program”, can be accessed at (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-16085.pdf>).

All final decisions concerning the future funding of homelessness services will depend upon the decisions of the new federal government.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

### **The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)**

In December 2006 the federal government announced the creation of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, a new two-year homelessness funding program replacing the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), which had been in existence since 2000.

On December 20, 2007, a contribution agreement was executed with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for a total allocation of \$34,592,778 for the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2009.

Under the HPS, a wide range of community-based service programs and capital projects have been funded, as outlined in the October 16 report from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration.

HPS-funded community service programs end on March 31, 2009. An early commitment from the new federal government to renewal of funding for homelessness programming is urgently required.

## **COMMENTS**

Since October 16, when Community Development and Recreation Committee approved the staff report on 2009 Federal Homelessness Funding, a new federal government has taken office and a new Minister responsible for federal homelessness programming appointed. On October 30, 2008 Diane Finley was appointed Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSD).

The HRSD website states that “On September 4, 2008 the Government of Canada decided to set aside funding for housing and homelessness programs at \$387.9 million per year for five years to March 31, 2014.”

The above notwithstanding, there has been no further information as to when and how the HPS funding will be renewed or that other federal homelessness funding will be implemented. It is, therefore, recommended that the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, report directly to the next meeting of Council if new information becomes available.

## **CONTACT**

Katherine Chislett  
Director, Housing and Homelessness Supports and Initiatives  
Phone: 416-397-0260  
Fax: 416-338-1144  
E-mail: [kchisle@toronto.ca](mailto:kchisle@toronto.ca)

Julie Western Set  
Manager, Homelessness Partnership Initiatives Programs  
Phone: 416-338-1141  
Fax: 416-338-1144  
E-mail: [jwester@toronto.ca](mailto:jwester@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Phil Brown  
General Manager  
Shelter, Support and Housing Administration