



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Bridges to Housing Funding Allocation

Date:	March 30, 2016
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Acting General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), along with a select group of partnering agencies, have received approval for Provincial funding by the Ministry Community and Social Services under its Developmental Services Housing Task Force.

The City has been approved a total of \$964,736 over a twenty four month period, to be used for the Bridges to Housing project. This project will provide housing with supports to 25 homeless individuals with developmental disabilities.

This report seeks City Council approval to enter into agreements and adjust the 2016 Approved Operating Budget for SSHA by an increase of \$484,868 gross and zero net, and a complement increase of 2 temporary Counsellors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Acting General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and/or his designate to:
 - a. enter into a new two-year service agreement with the Inner City Family Health Team to provide behavioural and occupational therapy, counselling and other community based rehabilitation to clients participating in the Bridges to Housing project. The maximum amount of the agreement shall not exceed \$260,000; and

- b. enter into a new two-year service agreement with Community Living Toronto to provide staffing and the appropriate administrative support to the Bridges to Housing project. The maximum amount of the agreement shall not exceed \$138,080; and
2. City Council amend the 2016 Approved Operating Budget for SSHA by \$484,868 gross, \$0 net, with a complement increase of 2 temporary full-time equivalents (FTE), to allow for the receipt and allocation of the Provincial funding dedicated to the Bridges to Housing project.

Financial Impact

The Provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has approved the City's proposal for the Bridges to Housing project. The Province has approved the City's operating components as well as the funding for the partnering agencies. The Province will flow \$964,736 to the City over two years and as such requires an in-year budget adjustment to facilitate payments to the agencies and cover the related costs the City will incur.

The following table details the anticipated expenses:

	2016	2017	Total
Payroll			
2 Counsellors	\$ 190,828	\$ 190,828	\$ 381,656
Grants			
Community Living Toronto	\$ 69,040	\$ 69,040	\$ 138,080
Inner City Family Health Team	\$ 130,000	\$ 130,000	\$ 260,000
Subtotal	\$ 199,040	\$ 199,040	\$ 398,080
Non Payroll			
Staff Training	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
Program Expenses	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
Research and Program Evaluation	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
Equipment	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
Subtotal	\$ 95,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 185,000
Grand Total	\$ 484,868	\$ 479,868	\$ 964,736

The 2016 Approved Operating Budget for SSHA will be amended by \$0.485 million gross and \$0 net.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Equity Impact

The emergency shelter system in Toronto serves equity-seeking groups such as seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with mental health issues, the working poor, Aboriginal peoples, people who identify as LGBTQ2S and other vulnerable groups. Effective housing with supports is important in ensuring that permanent accommodation is available to people with developmental disabilities.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 17, 2016, City Council approved EX12.12, *"2016 Capital and Operating Budgets"* which approved an operating budget for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration of \$668,803,700 gross and \$353,278,900 net.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-89176.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Bridges to Housing project was created through funding received from the Developmental Services Housing Task Force of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The project will provide clinical and housing supports to house 25 people with developmental disabilities. These clients may also be long-term shelter users. This type of pilot project supports the vision and strategic directions outlined in SSHA's 2014-2019 Housing Stability Service Plan.

The project is funded by a \$964,736 subsidy received as a result of SSHA (Seaton House and Streets to Homes) in partnership with the Inner City Family Health Team and Community Living Toronto submitting a proposal to the Developmental Services Housing Task Force. The project period is January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

The project leveraged the unique capacities of the project's partners to deliver the specific assessment, support and clinical services this project will require. As such, the specific partners are part of the funding agreement, and are not subject to a competitive process. SSHA will flow \$398,080 of the project funds to these agencies over the course of the project, and will retain the remainder, \$566,656, to cover the City's project expenses.

SSHA's housing and case management expertise will be critical to the clients' successful placements. One SSHA staff from each of Seaton House and Streets to Homes will be part of the dedicated 4-person case management team for this project, with the other two coming from partner agencies. The base positions of the City staff that are seconded to the project will be backfilled by temporary staff.

COMMENTS

The pilot project seeks to provide the supports required for moderate- to high-need shelter clients, and potentially users of community-based developmental services, successfully secure and maintain long-term residencies outside the shelter system. It will target 25 long-term shelter users or rough sleepers who have intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Intensive case management approaches will be used to develop and support the implementation of self-directed housing and service plans. The pilot will also leverage all available housing types, in each case, chosen in response to the client's specific needs and circumstances, including single-occupancy private market rental, social housing, shared apartments or group living residences. Housing allowances of up to \$400 per month have been committed to all eligible participants of the project to support their transition to stable, permanent housing. Additionally, clients will continue to receive case management support and housing supports indefinitely in alignment with ongoing case planning.

This pilot project will also allow SSHA and its partners to:

- test client identification and assessment approaches, and service delivery and housing models for their effectiveness in supporting positive housing outcomes for a specific high-need client groups. The program has secured research and evaluation partners linked to St. Michael's Hospital's Inner City Family Health Team;
- identify and better understand service gaps for this client population, which may prompt consideration of policy and investment responses that address the gaps;
- expand and enhance the outreach and engagement tools and techniques that might be used to target and engage these high-needs clients; and
- Increase capacity among the partner organizations to collaborate in serving these particular client groups.

It is anticipated that the pilot will free up emergency shelter beds, contributing to SSHA's goal of reducing shelter occupancy levels.

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SIGNATURE

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