



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**2016 – 2018 Enhanced Federal Homelessness
Partnering Strategy (HPS) Allocations**

Date:	June 13, 2016
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The federal government has announced an enhancement to the existing Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) for two years from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018. This report seeks authorization for the General Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), to enter into and administer the amending agreement with the federal government.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, SSHA, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to amend the 2014 contribution agreement with Service Canada or related entity for up to \$8,648,194 in funding over a two-year period under an enhancement of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, or any new federal homelessness funding program, effective April 1, 2016.

Financial Impact

Funding for the recommendation in this report is subject to Council's approval of a subsequent report requesting an adjustment to the 2016 City Operating Budget, and approval of the 2017 and 2018 Operating Budgets for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration.

Year	Enhanced Federal HPS Funding
2016	\$3,243,073
2017	\$4,324,097
2018	\$1,081,024
Total	\$8,648,194

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

Equity Impact

Projects and programs funded from the allocations recommended in this report seek to improve the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, which includes equity seeking groups such as Aboriginal people, women, seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with mental health issues, and other vulnerable groups in the City of Toronto. Support for these programs is consistent with the priorities and directions in the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

DECISION HISTORY

The City of Toronto is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) and Community Entity for homelessness services, as designated by the provincial and federal governments. The City supports grant funding to community agencies through the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

At its meeting of November 13, 2013, Council approved authority for allocation of federal HPS funds from 2014 to 2019. A copy of this report can be found at: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD24.6ISSUES>

At its meeting of December 16, 17 and 18, 2013, City Council unanimously adopted the *2014-2019 Housing Stability Service Planning Framework*, which includes nine strategic directions and a number of key actions to transform Toronto's housing stability service system. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD25.10>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Funding for Homelessness Services

The City of Toronto plays a critical role in helping vulnerable and low-income residents to stabilize their housing. SSHA is responsible for administering social housing programs, shelters and services that help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness find and stabilize in housing.

Since its adoption in 2009, the *Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT)* 10 year affordable housing strategy has set out Council's strategic directions to guide Toronto housing services, including a Housing First approach to end homelessness.

In December 2013, City Council unanimously adopted the *2014-2019 Housing Stability Service Planning Framework*. The framework includes nine strategic directions and a number of key actions to transform Toronto's housing stability service system.

In April 2016, Community Development and Recreation Committee adopted the Update on Implementation of the 2014-2019 Housing Stability Service Plan which provided an update on the work undertaken in 2015 to achieve the goals of the HSSP and an overview of the next two years of the HSSP's phased implementation plan. After the first two years of activity under the direction of the HSSP, a number of strategic policy initiatives are underway, innovative service approaches are in development and several new services have been implemented to respond to client needs.

The funding support recommended in this report plays a key role in implementing the HSSP strategic directions.

COMMENTS

In its 2016 Budget, the Government of Canada announced an enhancement to the current HPS program for the next two years. On June 8, 2016, SSHA received confirmation of Toronto's allocation of up to \$8,648,194 gross, \$0 net effective April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018. This additional funding is intended to enhance the continued implementation of Housing First and complementary initiatives to assist individuals and families who are homelessness, or at risk of homelessness or recently housed within the City of Toronto. The City will have to enter into an amended contribution agreement with the federal government to receive and administer the funds. In order to ensure full take up of funds available in this fiscal year, the City will need to act quickly once the amended contribution agreement is in place.

Authority is requested for the General Manager, SSHA, to enter into an amendment to the federal contribution agreement for the enhanced HPS funding from 2016 to 2018 for up

to \$8,648,194 and to allocate this funding based on developed priorities and emerging needs.

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SIGNATURE

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