



REPORT FOR ACTION

Delegation of Authority to Receive and Allocate Federal and Provincial Funding for the Delivery of Housing and Homelessness Services

Date: February 28, 2020

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

City Council authority is required for the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), to receive funding and enter into funding agreements with other levels of government for housing and homelessness programs and to spend that funding in accordance with the agreements and program guidelines.

This report seeks to update the authority of the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), under the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 169, Officials, City, Article 6, to enter into agreements with other levels of government for the purposes of receiving funding for housing and homelessness programs in Toronto; and to enter into agreements with community agencies to spend federal and provincial grant funding, in accordance with the City Council-approved SSHA Service Plan and federal and provincial program requirements and guidelines.

Municipal Code Chapter 169, Article 6, currently gives the General Manager, SSHA, authority to receive and spend only Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) funding. This authority was granted in 2001 and is out-of-date, as SCPI has been replaced by Reaching Home and does not include the new provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative and Home for Good programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council delegate authority to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in accordance with a City Council-approved Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Service Plan, to:

- a. submit applications to any government or agency for funding related to housing and homelessness services;
- b. enter into agreements with other levels of government and government agencies for the purposes of receiving funding for housing and homelessness services in Toronto; and
- c. enter into agreements with other entities, including City divisions, federal or provincial agencies, community organizations, private entities, or individuals, to spend federal and provincial funding in accordance with the federal and provincial program requirements and guidelines;

and that the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 169, Officials, City, be amended accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

SSHA will report on federal and provincial funding allocations for housing and homelessness programs through the annual budget process and in-year variance reporting.

EQUITY IMPACT

Housing and homelessness services support people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, housed in social and affordable housing and in low end of market private accommodation. These services benefit equity seeking groups such as Indigenous communities, women, seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with mental health issues, and other vulnerable groups in the City of Toronto.

DECISION HISTORY

The City of Toronto provides support to the public benefit sector through funding programs under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 (S.O. 2006, c.11).

The Act can be accessed at the following link:

[City of Toronto Act, Section 83.](#)

At its meeting on March 27 and 28, 2019, City Council approved the receipt of Reaching Home funding and authorized the General Manager, SSHA to enter into a contribution agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada and enter into agreements with community agencies to allocate and deliver Reaching Home funding in accordance with the federal program guidelines.

The staff report and decision document can be accessed at the following link:

[Implementation of Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy.](#)

At its meeting on October 2, 2017, City Council authorized the General Manager, SSHA to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Housing for the receipt of Home for Good funding and enter into agreement with community agencies to allocate and deliver the Home for Good funding in accordance with the provincial program guidelines.

The staff report and decision document can be accessed at the following link:

[Authority for the City to Take Part in Province's Home for Good Program - \\$90 Million Allocated to Toronto.](#)

At its meeting on October 30, 31 and November 1, 2012, City Council approved the receipt of Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative funding and authorized the General Manager, SSHA to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and enter into agreements with respect to the program.

The staff report and decision document can be accessed at the following link:

[Changes to Provincial Funding Approaches for Homeless Prevention and Social Assistance Programs: Implementation Strategies and Issues.](#)

COMMENTS

Current SSHA Grants

The City of Toronto is the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager and Community Entity for housing and homelessness services in Toronto, as designated by the provincial and federal governments. In this role, SSHA provides over \$60 million of grant funding to over 150 non-profit community agencies that provide a range of housing and homelessness services. These services have various revenue sources, including:

- federal Reaching Home;
- provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative; and
- provincial Home for Good.

A summary of SSHA's grant programs are detailed in Appendix 1.

Municipal Code Chapter 169, Article 6

In 2001, Municipal Code Chapter 169, Article 6 (the Code chapter), delegated authority to the General Manager, SSHA, to receive federal homelessness funding under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) program. The SCPI program was subsequently replaced by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) in 2006, and in 2019, the federal government replaced HPS with Reaching Home. The Code chapter has not been updated to reflect the new federal program nor any other new provincial housing and homelessness programs.

As the Code chapter is out-of-date and does not reflect SSHA's multiple revenue sources for grants, staff have been seeking Council's authority to administer new and renewed grant funding on a program-by-program basis.

Separate delegated authorities for each grant revenue source - each with different terms and conditions - is inconsistent with SSHA's continued efforts to modernize and streamline its grant administration processes. Consolidating these authorities, through an update to the Code chapter will improve the administrative efficiency of the grant programs.

The authority set out in the proposed changes to Municipal Code Chapter 169, Article 6 will consolidate SSHA's authority to enter into agreements with other levels of government for the purposes of receiving funding for housing and homelessness programs in Toronto; and to enter into agreements with community agencies to spend federal and provincial grant funding, in accordance with the Council-approved SSHA Service Plan and federal and provincial programs requirements and guidelines.

Program Planning and Priority Setting

Grant funding priorities and decisions are aligned with the Council-approved Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan and SSHA's Service Plan as well as provincial and federal program requirements and guidelines.

Housing and Homelessness Services Funding

SSHA will report on federal and provincial funding allocations through the annual budget process and in-year variance reporting.

Housing and homelessness support grant project funding will be reported annually through Open Data.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Mary-Anne Bédard, General Manager
Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Current Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Grant Funding

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Reaching Home (RH)

The federal government has been investing in homeless services in the City of Toronto through various iterations of the RH program since 2001. The first program, Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), was replaced by several rounds of Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding, which has now been renamed Reaching Home for the 2019-2024 funding term. RH is managed in accordance with the City's Contribution Agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, and RH Directives and Terms and Conditions.

As the designated Community Entity, the City has invested RH funding in a variety of community-based programs that help people find and keep housing, including:

- Community-based housing help
- Housing help in shelters
- Drop-in services
- Employment supports
- Streets to Homes outreach and housing support services
- Trusteeship
- System supports and shared resources, such as sector networks

In addition, for the 2019-2024 funding term, RH requires that the City implement Coordinated Access and a 2020 Street Needs Assessment, for which funding has been set aside.

The City has received funding allocations of RH until March 31, 2024.

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

The provincial government has been funding homeless services in Toronto since amalgamation, through numerous programs. In 2006, five funding programs were consolidated into a Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP): Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Fund (PHIF), Supports to Daily Living (SDL); Community Partners Program (CPP), Emergency Hostel Redirection (EHR), and Off the Street into Shelter (OSIS). The Province consolidated programming again starting in 2013, when the CHPI program replaced five funding programs previously administered by the City: Emergency Hostels; CHPP; the Rent Bank; Emergency Energy Fund; and Domiciliary Hostels.

CHPI, as a consolidated provincial program, provides greater flexibility for municipalities to respond to local needs. As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager, the City has invested CHPI grant funding primarily in housing help in shelters, Rent Bank, and drop-in services.

The City has received funding allocations of CHPI until March 31, 2022.

Home for Good (HFG)

The Province introduced HFG in 2017. HFG is a homelessness-focused program, which provides housing assistance and support services to people within the following four provincial priority homelessness areas: chronic homelessness; youth homelessness; Indigenous homelessness; and homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems (e.g., hospitals and prisons). The City has invested HFG in:

- Housing assistance, including
 - Housing allowances
 - Rent supplements
 - First and last month's rent deposits
- Housing supports, including
 - Follow-up supports
 - Case management
 - On-site and visiting supports
- Capital projects supporting the creating of supportive housing units.

The City has received funding allocations of HFG until March 31, 2022.