

## **Attachment 1: Proposed City of Toronto Principles to Inform Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal (SARR) Plan Co-Design and Implementation**

The provincial vision and plan identifies a number of key principles to guide system transformation, including improving efficiency and integrity, designing in partnership with municipalities and prioritizing employment and well-being outcomes. These principles provide an important starting point. It is critical however that further clarity is established in a number of areas. As a result it is proposed that the City adopts the following principles to inform City engagement with the province with regard to the process of co-designing and implementing social assistance renewal plans, including the end vision of an integrated human services delivery system that includes social assistance, children's services and housing.

### *Principle 1: Prioritize Client Well-Being and Progression*

To prioritize client well-being and progression, renewal approaches and reforms should ensure:

- Streamlined and simplified access to and transitions between services with integrated case management guiding the client journey across provincial (intake and benefits), municipal (life stabilization) and employment service systems
- Financial benefits significantly reduce poverty and enable clients to live with dignity and are delivered at the point in service that best supports client progression toward life stabilization and employment.
- Services and supports identify and respond to diverse and changing client needs and support clients to access pathways to a better life.

### *Principle 2: Commitment to Engagement and Collaboration*

To recognize that a commitment to engagement and collaboration is integral to successful co-design and implementation, renewal approaches and reforms should ensure:

- Broad, sustained and transparent engagement across human services entities, both municipally and provincially
- Municipal experience and expertise is fully leveraged and respected
- Individuals with lived experience and community organizations and partners are active participants in co-design discussions so that changes make sense for how clients access and engage with supports

### *Principle 3: Recognition of Toronto's Unique Size, Diversity and Complexity*

To recognize Toronto's unique size, diverse population and service system complexity, renewal approaches and reforms should ensure:

- A flexible, phased approach that reflects the diversity of clients and stakeholders and the complexity of system change in Toronto
- Minimal disruption to the City of Toronto as a whole and to clients and staff

- Existing local / municipal functions and structures that have optimized efficiencies and maximized client service benefits are leveraged
- Local flexibility to enhance service effectiveness

*Principle 4: Adequate and Sustainable Funding to Drive Best Outcomes*

To recognize that adequate and sustainable funding is essential to drive best outcomes, reforms should ensure:

- Municipalities are adequately funded to meet their revised case management/ life stabilization service responsibilities – especially as the caseload served becomes more diverse/complex - and that funding is sustainable.
- The City of Toronto is not financially worse off as a result of these changes.
- Bridge funding is provided to the City of Toronto to address the full costs of system change
- Savings are reinvested to support clients

*Principle 5: Promoting Local Economic and Social Inclusion*

To promote local economic and social inclusion, renewal approaches and reforms should ensure:

- Alignment with the City's For Public Benefit Framework, Poverty Reduction Strategy, inclusive economic development initiatives and recommendations from the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild recommendations
- Consideration of partnerships, roles and outcome measures related to the City's Community Benefits Framework.
- Connection with employer needs in order to ensure a demand-driven approach to employment supports
- Incorporation, as appropriate, of City workforce development experience and expertise, especially for low income residents and OW clients.