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Date June 7, 2023 **Report No.** 2023-360

To Chair and Members
Social Services Committee

From Aaron Wallace, Acting General Manager
Community Services and Social Development

1.0 Type of Report

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Consent Item | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Item For Consideration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

2.0 Topic Homelessness Prevention Program 2023-24 Investment Plan [Financial Impact: None]

3.0 Recommendation

- A. THAT Report 2023-360 Homelessness Prevention Program 2023-24 Investment Plan BE RECEIVED; and
- B. THAT the Homelessness Prevention Program 2023-24 Investment Plan outlined in this report BE APPROVED; and
- C. THAT the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) or Designate, BE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED to execute a Transfer Payment Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Brantford and His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and any ancillary documents thereto, in a form approved by the City Solicitor; and
- D. THAT the Director of Housing and Homelessness Services BE AUTHORIZED to reallocate capital and operating dollars within the funding

streams as may be necessary to facilitate total expenditures of the Homelessness Prevention Program funding allocations; and

- E. THAT the Director of Housing and Homelessness Services BE AUTHORIZED to revise or add capital projects for funding from Homelessness Prevention Program funding, as may be needed, to ensure full expenditure of the allocations; and
- F. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of the final resolution and staff report to the County of Brant.

4.0 Executive Summary

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is a provincial funding stream designed to support Ontarians that are homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to obtain and/or retain housing and support services.

The HPP was launched April 1, 2022 as a consolidation of three programs:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI);
- Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP); and
- Home for Good Program (HFG).

Effective February 3, 2023, the HPP funding allocation for the City of Brantford as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Housing and Homelessness for the City of Brantford and the County of Brant was \$5,179,300.

On March 23, 2023, the [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#) provided an additional \$202 million each year in the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program which will increase the annual HPP funding allocation for municipalities starting with the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

With this announcement, funding allocations for the City of Brantford for Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 will be \$7,019,400. This translates into an additional \$1.840M in funding for the City of Brantford as the Service Manager.

This report responds to the April 2023 Resolution: *Enhanced Emergency Shelter Services* and provides information on the 2023-24 HPP Investment Plan (IP)

outlining the proposed financial investment in enhancing and supporting homelessness supports.

5.0 Purpose and Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Investment Plan for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

6.0 Background

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is a provincial funding stream designed to support Ontarians that are homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to obtain and/or retain housing and support services.

The HPP was launched April 1, 2022 as a consolidation of three programs:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI);
- Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP); and
- Home for Good Program (HFG).

The intent of consolidating these three programs was to increase individual municipalities' flexibility in addressing chronic homelessness and providing greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities.

On March 23, 2023, the [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#) provided an additional \$202 million each year in the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program.

Table 1 - HPP Funding Allocations

| 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| \$4,932,777 | \$5,179,300 | \$7,019,400 | \$7,019,400 | \$ 7,019,400 | \$7,019,400 |

The planning allocations for HPP for the next three years, starting with the 2023-24 Fiscal Year (FY) are based on a new HPP funding allocation model that responds to the recommendations from the office of the Auditor General of

Ontario (OAGO) Value for Money Audit of Homelessness (2021)¹ and feedback from consultations with Service Managers (SMs) and sector partners.

The HPP funding model has been refreshed to use indicators that better reflect the current need for homelessness services and supportive housing in each community using the most current available data.

Updated indicators are:

- Number of people experiencing homelessness;
- Deep core housing need;
- Number of supportive housing units;
- Low income measure;
- Indigenous population; and
- Youth population.

Figure 1 provides a description of each indicator, the source of the data measurement, and the weighted proportion of the indicator. The full HPP funding allocation envelope in 2023-24 is based on the new model.

¹ OAGO Value-for-Money Audit: Homelessness:

https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en21/AR_Homelessness_en21.pdf

OAGA Value-for-Money Audit: Homelessness (Summary Page):

https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/news/21_summaries/2021_summary_AR_Homelessness.pdf

Figure 1 - Summary of HPP Funding Model Components

Summary of Funding Model Components

| Indicator | Description | Source | Proportion |
|--|---|---|------------|
| Number of people experiencing homelessness | Service Manager share of individuals who are homeless or in an emergency shelter based on the Social Assistance caseload (3-year average of the most recent data from 2019-20 through 2021-22) | Social Assistance (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program) caseload data, 2019-20 through 2021-22 | 40% |
| Deep Core Housing Need | Service Manager share of households in Deep Core Housing Need (in Core Housing Need and spending more than 50% of income on shelter costs) as defined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) | 2021 Census of Population | 29% |
| Number of supportive housing units | Service Manager share of supportive housing units reported | 2021 Supportive Housing Report Back Survey | 10% |
| Low Income Measure | Service Manager share of households that are below the Low Income Measure (before tax) threshold (LIM-BT) | 2021 Census of Population | 9% |
| Indigenous population | Service Manager share of Indigenous identity population (including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) | 2021 Census of Population | 8% |
| Youth population | Service Manager share of youth population aged 16-25 years | 2021 Census of Population | 4% |

Resolution – Enhanced Emergency Shelter Services (April 2023)

WHEREAS the City of Brantford is the Service Manager for Housing Services in the City of Brantford and County of Brant; and

WHEREAS the City of Brantford provides funding to community agencies for the delivery of emergency shelter services; and

WHEREAS emergency shelters are an important connection point for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health, addictions and other challenges; and

WHEREAS it is critical that emergency shelter programs support both shelter clients and the surrounding neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS expanding services available through emergency shelters such as peer support, public washrooms, warming centres, cooling centres and medical supports can increase positive outcomes for both clients and neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS city staff are currently developing plans to enhance emergency shelter and homelessness services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff BE DIRECTED to:

-
- A. Conduct a jurisdictional scan of service models that provide enhanced supports to both clients and the neighbourhoods in which emergency shelters are located; and
 - B. Explore the feasibility of additional services that support clients and neighbourhoods including, but not limited to, increased medical supports, improved access to public washrooms, peer support, warming centres and cooling centres; and
 - C. Provide a report to Social Services Committee prior to the end of Q2 2023 outlining:
 - i. Recommendations regarding additional supports and services to be delivered through emergency shelter;
 - ii. Costs and recommended funding source for these additional supports and services;
 - iii. The process to incorporate these services into future service contracts with emergency shelters providers, including accountability measures such as customer service standards and annual service reviews.

7.0 Corporate Policy Context

This report supports:

City Council's 2023-2026 Strategic Theme 6 (b): invest in a long-term strategy and plan to manage the homelessness crisis, inclusive of the related issues of mental health and addiction issues and safety and security concerns.

County of Brant's 2019-2023 Strategic Priorities: "Healthy, safe, and engaged citizens".

The Community Services and Social Development (CSSD) Commission Vision Plan "Making Life Better, Every Day" specifically:

- P 1.1 - Continue working towards a range of available housing so residents can live in a setting most appropriate to their needs.
- P 1.3 - Promote solutions to ensure individuals and families who are unhoused or at highest risk for chronic homelessness are housed and experience housing stability.

- P 3.1 - Identify and strengthen collaborations to best serve marginalized communities.

8.0 Input From Other Sources

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

City of Brantford - Finance

9.0 Analysis

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), launched April 1, 2022, consolidated three programs:

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI);
- Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP); and
- Home for Good Program (HFG).

The intent of consolidating these three programs was to increase Service Manager flexibility in addressing chronic homelessness and providing greater flexibility that meets individual municipalities' needs to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities. Staff review HPP spending quarterly and ensure that capital and operating dollars within the funding streams are reallocated as necessary to facilitate total expenditures of the Homelessness Prevention Program funding allocations.

The emergency shelter system is funded solely by the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding stream.

Emergency sheltering services are one facet of the housing continuum. The housing continuum describes a range of housing types available in a community (Figure 2) and ranges from homelessness services to home ownership.

Every component within the housing continuum plays a critical role in housing stability and supports system throughput as households move from emergency or temporary sheltering situations to transitional and community housing and eventually stable, permanent housing.

As outlined in Report 2023-183 [Housing Stability Services Update](#), staff are issuing a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for the emergency shelter system (ESS), with the intent to ensure that individuals and families experiencing

homelessness have access to services that suit their needs and fill any current systemic gaps within the ESS. Staff have identified the lack of transitional housing as a current systemic gap. As such, ongoing emphasis will be placed on increasing the availability of housing options such as transitional housing within the community to help individuals exit emergency shelters into more stable and appropriate accommodations.

Figure 2 - Housing Continuum



The City of Brantford's HPP allocation for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year is \$7,019,400.

The 2023-24 HPP Investment Plan (IP) includes the following:

Table 2 - 2023-24 HPP Investment Plan

| Enhanced investment in supports for individuals and families experiencing homelessness: | |
|---|-------------|
| Staffing requirements for housing stability program service delivery. | \$4,166,700 |
| Honouring existing contracts for emergency sheltering solutions and transitioning to the enhanced emergency shelter solutions once the Request for Proposal has been issued and awarded. | |
| <p>The Request for Proposal will include requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Intake/Entry Point to emergency shelters • Shelter Diversion and Intense Case Management supports • Accessible emergency sheltering options that meet individuals/families' needs and circumstances; • Warming/cooling centres; • Options for bathrooms/hygiene stations; and • Peer support. | |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| <p>Investment in the City of Brantford Encampment Network</p> <p>Community Outreach and Support Services including the Housing Resource Centre service delivery contract</p> | |
| <p>Continuation and enhancement of Rent Supplement programs:</p> | |
| <p>Investments in this area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 345 households are currently in receipt of Rent Supplements through HPP funding. • Non HPP-funded Rent Supplement streams that are scheduled to end in FY 2023-24 will be moved over to HPP-funded Rent Supplements. <p>The Investment in Affordable Housing – Year 5 extension funding stream is scheduled to end in October 2023. These households will have their rent supplements continued through HPP funding (Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program).</p> <p>Staff continue to review and determine if the number of households that can be supported through Rent Supplements can be increased. Capacity building for Rent Supplements is dependent on the availability of private landlords willing to enter into a Rent Supplement Agreement with the City of Brantford.</p> | <p>\$ 742,000</p> |
| <p>Expanding supportive housing programs:</p> | |
| <p>Investments in this area include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Well Brantford-Brant – Youth Program contract with St Leonard’s Community Services, Inc. • Rent Supplements for Live Well Brantford-Brant participants in the Youth and Adult programs • Funding for the Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine contract for the Live Well Brantford Brant Adult Program. • Operational funding for unit turnovers at 5 Marlene Ave. • Funding for supportive housing needs at 177 Colborne St. W. • Staffing requirements for supportive housing programs <p>Staff continues to explore opportunities to enhance the service delivery model and to expand the delivery of supportive housing programs to an increased number of households.</p> | <p>\$ 1,360,000</p> |
| <p>Capital</p> | |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Investment in supportive housing retrofits at Lucy Marco Place and 177 Colborne St. W. commercial space | \$ 399,730 |
| Transfer to Administration | \$ 350,970 |
| Total | \$7,019,400 |

10.0 Financial Implications

Effective February 3, 2023, the HPP funding allocation for the City of Brantford as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager for Housing and Homelessness for the City of Brantford and the County of Brant was \$5,179,300.

On March 23, 2023, the [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#) provided an additional \$202 million each year in the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program which will increase the annual HPP funding allocation for municipalities starting with the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.

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11.0 Climate and Environmental Implications

There are no climate or environmental implications associated with this report.

12.0 Conclusion

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is a provincial funding stream designed to support citizens that are homeless or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to obtain and/or retain housing and support services. This funding supports the work and programs delivered by the Housing and Homelessness Services Department.

The [2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Strong Ontario](#) announcement on March 23, 2023, provides an additional \$202 million annual investment each year in the Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program by the provincial government. With this announcement, funding allocations for the City of Brantford for Fiscal Years 2023-24, 2024-25, and

2025-26 will be \$7,019,400. This translates into an additional \$1.840M in funding for the City of Brantford as the Service Manager



Aaron Wallace, Acting General Manager
Community Services and Social Development

Prepared By:

Mary Musson, CD, BA (Hons), Dipl MM
Director, Housing and Homelessness Services

Attachments: NA

Copy to: NA

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required ☐ yes ☒ no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk ☐ yes ☒ no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? ☐ yes ☒ no