
REPORT TITLE: Contract Extension – Our Place Peel Emergency Youth Shelter

FROM: Janice Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the contract (Document 2019-344N) previously awarded to Our Place Peel in the amount of \$2,593,524.00 for a two year contract term for the Youth Emergency Shelter Beds and Outreach Services, be extended for an additional 12-month term for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in the estimated total amount of \$1,411,680.00, excluding applicable taxes, for a revised total contract amount of \$4,005,204.00, in accordance with Procurement By-Law 30-2018, as amended;

And further, that approval be granted to extend the contract with Our Place Peel for the Youth Emergency Shelter Beds and Outreach Services for seven optional 12-month terms, subject to the satisfactory performance, approved budget, and continued need for the service;

And further, that the Commissioner of Human Services be authorized to sign the subject contract extensions on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Human Services and on legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor;

And further, that the Director of Housing Services and Director of Procurement be authorized to further increase the amounts in the subject contract during any of the extension terms in accordance with the terms of the contract to cover additional costs associated with the operation of the Youth Emergency Shelter facility, to the limit of the approved budget, on business terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Human Services.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- There are two emergency youth shelters operating in the Region of Peel, Brampton Queen Street Youth Shelter and Our Place Peel, both of which frequently operate at capacity.
- The current contract with Our Place Peel ends on June 30, 2021.
- No other suitable youth emergency bed service providers are currently available in the Region of Peel.
- Given that Our Place Peel is the only provider of youth emergency beds in Peel, apart from the Region of Peel, staff is seeking Council approval to extend the existing contract subject to satisfactory performance, budget and need.
- More specifically, staff is seeking Council approval to extend the current contract for one year, with seven optional 12-month extensions.
- Costs for the additional one-year term are \$1,411,680, bringing the total contract budget to \$4,005,204.

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- There are sufficient funds in the 2021 Housing Support budget to cover the contract costs for the first year. Any incremental cost increases after 2021 will be included in future Housing Support budgets.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Region of Peel's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan and the Action Plan Towards Ending Youth Homelessness both highlight the need to provide emergency shelter beds for at-risk youth as a first step in addressing youth homelessness. At present, there are 60 emergency shelter beds available for youth, 40 at the Brampton Queen Street Youth Shelter and 20 at Our Place Peel located in Mississauga, both of which frequently operate at capacity.

The Brampton Queen Street Youth Shelter was opened in 2017 as a temporary location in response to a growing demand for emergency shelter services for youth. The Region of Peel is accountable for the program and maintains the lease for the facility, contracting out program operations to the Salvation Army.

Our Place Peel, which was established in 1985, owns and operates their facility in Mississauga, under the direction of its own Board of Directors. In addition to providing emergency shelter, Our Place Peel operates an outreach program that provides supports to youth in the Region of Peel regardless of their housing status. The Region of Peel funds these programs using Regional and Provincial funds. The Provincial funds are from the Community Homelessness Prevention program (CHPI). CHPI is administered under a service agreement with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

2. Our Place Peel Contract Extension

In 2018 staff issued a Request for Expression of Interest document (2018-434EI) to the market, seeking providers of youth shelter beds in Peel. Our Place Peel was the sole respondent and the Region of Peel entered a direct negotiation with Our Place Peel to provide 20 emergency shelter beds and outreach supports to youth.

In May 2019, Council approved resolution 2019-527, to extend Our Place Peel's current contract for an additional two years. In addition to extending the current contract, recommendations were made to convert Our Place Peel's 6 transitional beds to emergency shelter beds for youth ages 16 - 24. This change in service provision helped address an identified service gap in the community.

Our Place Peel has demonstrated that they continue to provide critical emergency housing and support services to Peel's most vulnerable youth to a high standard.

Most recently, data from January 1, 2020 to December 30, 2020, shows that Our Place Peel had 214 shelter visits, with a total of 4824 stays, and an average length of stay of 32 days. Our Place Peel was able to assist 45 youths with their goals of securing permanent housing of choice, utilizing a Housing First framework.

In addition to assisting 45 youth to secure housing, Our Place Peel has evolved their programming and supports to meet the complex needs of youth by:

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- Providing youth with intensive supports, crisis counselling and early intervention to reduce homelessness;
- Meeting the diverse needs of youth that require targeted programming;
- Ensuring that service delivery aligns with the Region's strategic planning;
- Assisting clients in securing their choice in housing as soon as possible; and,
- Focusing on prevention and family reunification.

Given that Our Place Peel is the only provider of youth emergency beds in Peel, apart from the Region of Peel, staff is seeking Council approval to extend the existing contract for another 12 month term with the option to extend the contract up to seven (7) 12-month terms, commencing July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028 subject to satisfactory performance, budget and need. The request for the additional seven (7) optional 12-month contract terms will ensure that Our Place Peel, a well-established and successful provider of homeless youth shelter beds and outreach services in Peel, will be able to partner with the Region for the entirety of Peel's 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan, if required.

By extending the contract, Our Place Peel will have the funding stability required to produce successful outcomes.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Emergency shelters are an essential resource that provide vulnerable youth with a safe, supportive place to stay. Staff is requesting an extension to the current Our Place Peel contract to avoid service interruption and to prevent further exacerbation of gaps in service provision.

To ensure that the services provided by Our Place Peel yields positive outcomes, an annual program review will be completed by the Region of Peel. Upon successful performance, staff will exercise an additional approved term as per the recommendations of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current two-year contract with Our Place Peel for the Youth Emergency Shelter Beds and Outreach Services of \$2,593,524.00 is being extended for an additional 12-month term for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, in the estimated total amount of \$1,411,680.00 exclusive of applicable taxes, for a revised total contract amount of \$4,005,204.00. The contract will be for a period of one year, with seven optional 12-month extensions subject to an annual price adjustment.

The increase for the 2021-2022 term includes a Cost of Living Adjustment which will ensure that Our Place Peel adheres to their pay equity obligations as set out in their collective agreement. The increase also includes an additional full-time staff complement included in the contract price at Our Place Peel, for the purpose of providing diversion and case management services to youth that aligns with the Action Plan Toward Ending Youth Homelessness in Peel.

There are sufficient funds in the 2021 Housing Support budget to fund the contract increase for the first year. Any incremental cost increases will be included in future Housing Support budgets. Homelessness programming is funded by both the Province of Ontario and Region of Peel and current expenses are apportioned at approximately 60/40 provincial/regional.

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CONCLUSION

Our Place Peel provides essential resources for youth who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness. Through this report, staff is requesting an extension to the contract to ensure these essential supports continue to be available for youth in need of emergency shelter in Peel.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Aileen Baird, Director Housing Services, aileen.baird@peelregion.ca

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner, Division Director, Financial Support Unit, Legal Services and Procurement.