

Appendix I

COVID-19 Funding for the Most Vulnerable – Responding to the Immediate Needs of the Community

Details of Eligible Expenses under the Funding Allocations

Reaching Home

Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada. The special directives for the emergency fund indicate that the funding is to continue to focus on programs that serve the homeless or those at imminent risk of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the directives allow for more flexibility and additional eligible expenses. These include, but are not limited to:

- Housing Services that keep people housed to limit the spread of the virus
- Shelter diversion programs; including funding for temporary housing or expanded shelter services
- Health and medical services provided to the homeless as part of the COVID-19 response
- Delivery of services to meet basic needs (e.g. grocery cards, personal hygiene products, gift cards, cleaning supplies, transportation vouchers, access to laundry facilities, clothing, footwear and blankets)
- Capital Investments/Acquisition costs for new temporary housing or renovations to existing facilities to increase ability for physical distancing

Funding from the emergency Reaching Home allocation may be used for eligible expenses that began as of April 1, 2020. The Region of Peel is entitled to up to 15% of the total funding allocation for administration costs.

Social Services Relief Fund

The provincial Social Services Relief Fund was developed to help communities respond to the increased and changing demands for services to the vulnerable, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund is very flexible to enable Service Managers to meet local needs. Examples of eligible expenses under this funding stream include:

- Hiring additional staff for critical services for both the homelessness and housing sectors
- Funding to deliver enhanced and expanded critical services for vulnerable populations
- Funding to promote physical distancing and self-isolation to keep vulnerable people safe and healthy
- Enhancing rent banks that are already in operation
- Non-medical staffing increases
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for critical services
- Use of motels/hotels for shelter overflow
- Transportation costs to transport vulnerable individuals to and from medical appointments and facilities
- Enhanced cleaning services for facilities serving the homeless population