
REPORT TITLE: Home for Good Funding Extension

FROM: Janice Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Housing Services be granted authority to accept funding in the amount of \$2,666,347 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ministry) for the Region of Peel’s continued participation in the Home for Good program until March 31, 2023;

And further, that the Director of Housing Services be authorized to submit the required Take-Up Plan for the Home for Good program and any updates required to the Take-Up Plan for approval outlining the types of supports to be made available and the forecasted operating expenditures;

And further, that the Commissioner of Human Services be approved to extend the term of current service agreements and to execute renewal agreements with the following agencies to allocate funding in these amounts for 2022-2023:

- **“Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)” (for the Peel Youth Village project) in the amount of \$427,072;**
- **“Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)” (Home for Good Coordination) in the amount of \$730,016;**
- **“John Howard Society of Peel-Halton-Dufferin” in the amount of \$229,789;**
- **“Our Place (Peel)” in the amount of \$132,372;**
- **“Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin Branch” in the amount of \$100,000;**

And further, that the Commissioner of Human Services be authorized to use and distribute the residual Ministry funding amount of \$1,047,098, to include an amount of \$266,635 for program administration; \$559,933 for housing allowances to program participants; and, \$220,530 to be further disbursed to any of the above noted Home for Good agencies, as well as “The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada”, for housing and support services for program participants.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Home for Good is a provincially funded program that supports the goal of ending chronic homelessness and is targeted to the four provincial priority areas including chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, Indigenous homelessness and homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems.**

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- The first funding allocation for the Home for Good Program was received in late 2017. In February 2020, Regional Council approved the continuation of the program (Resolution 2020-79).
 - The Region of Peel has been notified that Home for Good funding will be extended for an additional year (2022-23) at the current annual budget of \$2,666,347.
 - Staff is seeking Council approval to continue the Home for Good in Peel program and extend agreements with existing partners until March 21, 2023.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

Home for Good is a homelessness-focused program that provides funding for housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations within the four provincial priority homelessness areas of chronic homelessness, youth homelessness, Indigenous homelessness and homelessness following transitions from provincially funded institutions and service systems. As a result of a competitive process, the program's collaborative is made up of five community agency organizations which deliver the program in the Region of Peel. The program structure has remained unchanged from the launch to present state. Home for Good has been operating in the Region of Peel since 2018.

In December 2017, Council approved three years of funding as follows: \$720,569 in 2017-18, \$2,638,505 in 2018-19, and \$2,666,347 in 2019-20 (Resolution 2017-986). In February 2020 Council approved two years of funding as follows: \$2,666,347 in 2020-21, and \$2,666,347 in 2021-22 (Resolution No. 2020-79).

The Region was notified by the Ministry of Affairs and Housing that funding is approved for the same level as the last two years and extended until March 31, 2023. Through this report, staff is seeking Council approval to continue the Home for Good program and extend agreements with the existing partners until March 31, 2023.

2. Home for Good in Peel

The program is made up of two components: the Home for Good collaborative, and Expansion of Aftercare Services at Peel Youth Village. The program operates under the Housing First philosophy.

a) Home for Good Collaborative Outcomes

From April 2020 to March 2021, the program has supported 151 clients. Of those 151 clients, 102 (67 per cent) have been housed. Of those 102 clients, 99 (97 per cent) have maintained their housing. Clients housed through the program require ongoing support and interventions provided by intensive case managers within the collaborative to maintain successful tenancies. Clients have high acuity and complex barriers which can lead to rehousing into different units.

b) Peel Youth Village Aftercare Services Outcomes

From April 2020 to March 2021, the Aftercare Services have supported 31 youth with housing replacements. In this fiscal year, 15 (48 per cent) of these youth have been able to maintain stable housing.

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3. Approval to Continue Program and Extend Agreements

The current funding agreements with agencies are set to expire March 31, 2022, and Council authority is required to extend these agreements. Staff is seeking Council approval to extend service agreements with all Home for Good partner agencies as follows:

a) Home for Good Collaborative

- Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP) in the amount of \$730,016. This funding will be used to provide coordination for the Home for Good collaborative as well as the provision of housing supports, mental health supports, substance use supports, and peer supports;
- John Howard Society of Peel-Halton-Dufferin in the amount \$229,789 to provide two Intensive Case Managers and one Housing Support Worker with a focus of assisting individuals transitioning out of correctional institutions;
- Our Place (Peel) in the amount of \$132,372 to provide housing and support services for Youth ages 16-24 years;
- The Canadian Mental Health Association Peel Dufferin Branch in the amount of \$100,000 to support those who are homeless and on the street.

b) Peel Youth Village Aftercare Services

Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP) in the amount of \$427,072. This funding will be used to continue aftercare services for qualifying youth who are transitioning out of Peel Youth Village.

c) Use of Residual Funds

The remaining budget of \$1,047,098 includes an amount of \$266,635 for internal program administration; \$559,933 for housing allowances to program participants; and, \$220,530 be further disbursed to any of the above noted Home for Good agencies, as well as The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada, for housing and support services for program participants. Staff will utilize these amounts to support the Region's role in the program, as well as for direct support of specific program participants.

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Home for Good supports some of Peel's most vulnerable and chronically homeless residents. Should the existing funding agreements not be extended, the program would cease to operate, and participants would be at significant risk of losing their housing and returning to homelessness. This would negatively impact the Region's goal of eliminating chronic homelessness.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Region of Peel has been notionally allocated \$2,666,347 in Home for Good operating funding over a one-year fiscal period (2022-2023). There is 10 per cent or \$266,635 available to the Region for administration costs, with the remaining \$2,399,712 available for program funding. The Operating Component of the notional funding allocation is ongoing, subject to actual take-up, annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfillment of accountability

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requirements. The 2022 Housing Support budget reflects \$2,666,347 in gross expenditure and revenue, with no net impact to the Region.

CONCLUSION

The Home for Good program provides housing assistance and support services to individuals and families with complex mental and physical health challenges within the four provincial priority areas. Through this report, staff is seeking Council approval to continue the Home for Good program and extend agreements with existing partners until March 31, 2023.

Authored By: Sarah Au, Housing Program Analyst