
REPORT TITLE: **Reaching Home Update**

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2022-23 and 2023-24 Housing Support gross expenditures and revenues be increased by \$9,254,071 and \$9,130,195 respectively, as a result of the additional Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy federal funding.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Regional Municipality of Peel is the designated Community Entity or fund administrator for Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy.
- The Region of Peel was allocated an additional \$10,223,115 in Reaching Home base funding for the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- This funding was allocated to six community agencies and the Region of Peel for eligible projects that enhance shelter spaces and create much needed permanent, affordable housing for some of our most vulnerable residents from Peel’s Coordinated Access system and By-Name List.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Regional Municipality of Peel is the designated Community Entity or fund administrator for Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (‘Reaching Home’) in Peel (Regional Council Report 2019-03-28; Resolution 2019-237). Reaching Home is a federal program that supports the goals of the National Housing Strategy.

This report provides Regional Council with an update on the distribution of additional Reaching Home funds communicated to Council in October 2021 (Resolution 2021-1037). This report also advises Council of our 2022-2024 Reaching Home Allocation.

2. 2021-2022 Reaching Home Capital Funding Allocation

In April 2021 Service Canada informed the Region of Peel of an additional \$10,223,115 of one-time funding for fiscal year 2021-22, to complement our Reaching Home base and COVID-19 funding (see appendix I for all funding received from the federal government through Reaching Home).

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The additional funding was required to be spent by March 31, 2022; therefore, the decision was made to use it for community capital projects, one-time programming costs and internal programming. This decision supports our obligations as a Community Entity under Reaching Home, to reduce chronic homelessness by 50 per cent by fiscal year 2027/2028.

a) Application and Review Process

To allocate the additional funds, the Region of Peel, in coordination with the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board (CAB) released a capital projects application to the community through the Region of Peel's website, Twitter and through various community planning tables such as the Peel Alliance to End Homelessness, Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee, and the United Way of Greater Toronto. The capital funding application outlined eligibility requirements (see Appendix II), guidelines for funding, eligible and ineligible activities, supporting documents required and CAB priorities.

The CAB is the local organizing committee that advises on how Reaching Home funding is allocated. Members of the CAB have extensive knowledge of the key systems and issues that affect homelessness. To ensure diverse representation, the CAB application is posted on the regional website year-round. Applications are reviewed by existing CAB members and to date no applications have been denied. A full list of the current CAB members is outlined in appendix III.

A total of nine (9) applications from six (6) community agencies were received for capital funding. All capital funding applications went through two stages of review and a final approval process.

b) Projects Selected for Funding

Approved capital projects were selected based on their project's sustainability and confirmation of ongoing operational costs. Approved projects are listed in the table below.

A list of all applications be found in appendix IV.

Approved Capital Projects		
Agency	Description	Amount
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Toronto	Permanent Housing Units	\$5,307,067.24
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Toronto	Women's Shelter Renovations	\$87,098.00*
Services and Housing In the Province (SHIP)	Permanent Housing Units	\$3,650,000.00
Embrave Agency to End Violence	Renovations to Victim of Violence Shelter, with addition of one new (1) shelter bed	\$127,800.00*
Our Place Peel	Renovations to Youth Shelter in Mississauga, with addition of two (2) new shelter beds	\$236,233.00

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Approved Capital Projects		
Agency	Description	Amount
St. Leonard’s Place Peel	Out of the Cold Program (Brampton)	\$184,831.52*
West Edge Community Church	Out of the Cold Program (Mississauga)	\$105,085.24*
Region of Peel	Shelter Support and Costs for Wilkinson Road Shelter feasibility	\$525,000.00*
Total		\$10,223,115.00

* Agency receiving additional funding from Reaching Home Base Funding

This funding was administered in the third and fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021-22 based on the authorities granted to staff in the Council report dated March 28, 2019 (Resolution 2019-237), in which the Commissioner of Human Services is authorized to execute the Service Canada Reaching Home transfer payment agreement and has the delegated authority to approve the use of the funding for service provision by community agencies in accordance with federal funding obligations and on legal terms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor to for the federal funding term to 2024 or as may be extended by Service Canada.

3. 2022-2024 Reaching Home Funding Increase

On March 3, 2022, Service Canada notified the Region of Peel of an amendment to the Reaching Home base funding agreements that will increase the incremental funding allocation to Reaching Home Designated Communities. The Region’s incremental allocations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 have been increased by \$9,254,071 and \$9,130,195, respectively. This funding is intended to help communities extend their response to COVID-19 for those experiencing homelessness and to meet local homelessness-related needs and priorities. Service Canada will host information sessions with Community Entities in March 2022 to provide additional information on this funding. Staff will inform Council about how the funding was allocated in a future report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no net budget impacts related to this report. This report provides an update on the Region of Peel’s Federal Reaching Home additional funding allocation for fiscal year 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

CONCLUSION

The Regional Municipality of Peel is the designated Community Entity or fund administrator for Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy (“Reaching Home”) in Peel.

The Region of Peel received an additional one-time allocation of \$10,223,115 for fiscal year 2021-22. Capital projects selected for this additional funding support the Region of Peel and community agencies in enhancing shelter spaces and creating much needed permanent, affordable housing units for some of our most vulnerable residents from Peel’s Coordinated

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Access system and By-Name List. The projects support the work of Peel's Housing and Homelessness Plan 2018-2028 and are aligned with the Reaching Home targets of reducing chronic homelessness by 50 per cent by the 2027/2028 fiscal year.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Reaching Home Funding Received

Appendix II – Eligibility Requirements for Capital Investments

Appendix III – Reaching Home Community Advisory Board Members

Appendix IV – Reaching Home Capital Application Review with CAB Recommendations

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