
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Reaching Home Funding Update 2022-2023**

FROM: Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

OBJECTIVE

To provide an update on the projects being funded through the federal Reaching Home program for the year 2022-2023.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Region of Peel is the designated Community Entity or fund administrator for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy ('Reaching Home') in Peel.
 - Total Reaching Home funding amount for fiscal year 2022-2023 is \$12,945,388 which includes a \$1,260,192 carry over amount from fiscal year 2021-2022.
 - For the period of April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, this funding was used to extend 14 previously approved projects for another year, while adding five new projects that will increase permanent housing units in the Region of Peel and support community need for additional housing services.
 - The funded projects align with the Reaching Home eligibility criteria and support the Transform Service strategy in Peel's 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan.
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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 No. 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 Reaching Home funds for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 that was previously communicated to Council in October 2021 (Resolution No. 2021-1037). Total amount of funding for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 is \$12,945,388 which includes a \$1,260,192 carry over amount from 2021-2022.

This funding was administered based on the authorities granted to staff in the Council report dated March 28, 2019 (Resolution 2019-237).

This report also notifies Council that effective April 1, 2023, federal oversight of Reaching Home funding will be moving from Service Canada to Infrastructure Canada to align with housing infrastructure and housing delivery.

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2. Funding Application and Selection Process

For the fiscal year 2022-2023, the Region of Peel received \$12,945,388 in Reaching Home funding from the federal government. Overall, \$7,867,805 was allocated to sustain previously approved projects. To allocate the remaining \$5,077,583, the Region of Peel, in coordination with the Reaching Home Community Advisory Board (CAB) released a support services and 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 application outlined eligibility requirements (see Appendix I), 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 individuals that have applied have been denied. A full list of the current CAB members is outlined in Appendix II.

A total of 13 applications from eight community agencies were received with two applications from new community agencies. A total of seven capital funding applications were received. All applications went through two stages of review, first with the Region of Peel Finance Department and second a thorough review with CAB members. All capital funding applications were also reviewed by Housing Development staff for project viability and compliance. From the available funds, \$4,541,146 was allocated to new projects and \$536,437 was allocated to budget pressures created by increased need in the community.

a) Projects Selected for Funding

Approved projects were selected based on project sustainability, viability, compliance with Reaching Home directives and confirmation of ongoing operational costs. Two capital projects were selected. This will result in eight new net units to support eight households experiencing homelessness. The households will be selected through the Region's by-name list as per Reaching Home Directives.

Three program applications were also approved, which increased the budget and service levels for existing funded agencies. An additional project was selected to enhance supports services for women's homelessness support services. Full details of all applications can be found in Appendix III. All 2022-2023 approved projects are listed in the table below.

Approved Projects		
Agency	Program/Project Details	Budget Amount
New Projects 2022-2023		
City of Mississauga	Open Window Hub – meal and housing support	\$22,488
Clarkson Community Church	In From the Cold	\$197,650
EFRY Hope and Help for Women	Permanent Housing Units, Women's Shelter Supports and Vehicle	\$1,477,571

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Regeneration Outreach Community	ID Clinic	\$63,436
Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP)	Permanent Housing Units	\$2,780,000
Extended Projects 2022-2023		
Canadian Mental Health Association	Housing Outreach Program	\$150,000
Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto	Housing Support Program	\$507,380*
Our Place Peel	Housing Support Program	\$160,000
Pathway Non-Profit Community Developments	Community Support Program	\$58,260
Punjabi Community Health Services	Housing Support Program	\$266,548
Regeneration Outreach Community	Meal and Housing Support Program	\$303,671
Restoration and Empowerment for Social Transition (R.E.S.T.) Centre	Youth Housing Support Program	\$365,367*
Region of Peel	Coordinated Access	\$257,094
Region of Peel	Peel Family Shelter Relocation	\$2,000,000
Region of Peel	Overflow Shelters	\$1,418,107
Region of Peel	Administration	\$893,603
Salvation Army	Housing Support Program	\$438,316*
St. Leonard's Place Peel	In From the Heat	\$60,705
St. Leonard's Place Peel	Out of the Cold	\$265,000
Carry Over Projects from 2021-2022		
EFRY Hope and Help for Women	Permanent Housing Units	\$194,716
EFRY Hope and Help for Women	Permanent Housing Units	\$177,929
Embrace	Shelter Renovations	\$28,187
Region of Peel	Administration	\$52
Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP)	Permanent Housing Units	\$859,307
Total		\$12,945,388

*includes increase approved through application process

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

All Reaching Home funded projects for the year 2022-2023 must be fully spent by March 2023, with no option as in previous years to carry funds over into the next fiscal year. Staff has ensured that all Reaching Home funding will be fully spent. The 2023-2024 fiscal year is the last of the Reaching Home funding agreement. Should Reaching Home not be renewed, or funding allocation be reduced, services to the homeless are at risk. Housing Services will report to council at a later date regarding the 2023-2024 expenditure and next steps for Reaching Home.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as the additional federal funding for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy was communicated to Council in March 2022 (Resolution Number 2022-179), reflected in the 2022-2023 Housing budget.

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. 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 Reaching Home funds for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

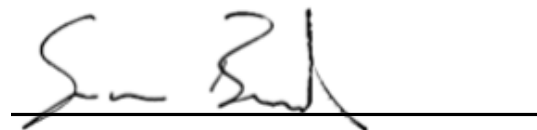
The support services provided by community agencies that are funded with the Reaching Home program will continue to support households within the Region of Peel to get and keep housing. The capital investments will add much needed new affordable housing stock and will support the goals of both the Region of Peel's Peel Housing and Homelessness Plan and the Government's National Housing Strategy, to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50 per cent by 2027-28

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Eligibility Requirements for Support Services and Capital Investments

Appendix II – Reaching Home Community Advisory Board (CAB) Members

Appendix III – Reaching Home Application Review with CAB Recommendations



Sean Baird, Commissioner of Human Services

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