

Appendix I - Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy - Phase 2 Funding Allocations Peel's Allocation Letter

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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August 17, 2023

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, 5th Floor, Suite A
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

Dear Nando Iannicca:

Re: 2023-24 and 2024-25 Confirmed Funding Allocations for Provincially-Delivered National Housing Strategy Initiatives

I am pleased to provide you an update on the roll out of the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) programs. This update reflects the historic and continued investments our government is continuing to make to support Service Managers and municipalities and help more Ontarians find a home that meets their needs and budgets.

Unfortunately, even though the fiscal year has already begun, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has not yet agreed to the final details of a renewed Action Plan under the National Housing Strategy (NHS) for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

In the interim, to ensure stability and continuity of the housing programs upon which so many Ontarians depend, the Ministry is proceeding with implementation consistent with past practice and based on the planning allocations provided to all Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators in February of this year.

Your confirmed 2023-24 and planned 2024-25 (where applicable) NHS allocations are attached to this letter as Appendix "A" and remain unchanged from the allocations communicated to you in February of this year.

COCHI-OPHI

Please find enclosed the new Transfer Payment Agreement template, the updated Program Guidelines, and Investment Plan template. The key changes to the COCHI and OPHI program design elements effective for 2023-24 are summarized in the "What's New" section of the Program Guidelines.

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Your Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) will be made available via the Transfer Payments Ontario (TPON) system for signature by the authorized signatory(ies). To ensure Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators are well-positioned to move forward with implementation in the 2023-24 year and to facilitate the flow of funding, we are requesting that the signed COCHI and OPHI program Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) and completed Investment Plan be returned to the Ministry via TPON as soon as possible.

COHB

I want to be clear from the outset that the total federal/provincial funding available under the COHB program has consistently increased from \$48.1 million in 2021-22 to \$96.8 million in 2022-23 to \$148.6 million in 2023-24 – an increase of more than \$100 million over the last two years. COHB funding is continuing to grow by \$51.8M between 2022-23 and 2023-24 – an increase of over 53%.

This total COHB funding is required to continue supporting existing households in addition to supporting the new households added for this fiscal year.

Planning allocations reflect the expansion of the COHB program this year, to support additional new households in the program. Province-wide, we anticipate over 3,700 new households will be enrolled into the program this year. This is on top of the ~17,500 households already participating in the COHB program.

Moreover, to address rapid increases in rent across the province, the Ministry has updated the COHB monthly payment calculation effective July 1, 2023 to increase benefit amounts for many households. The update to the COHB calculation takes into account the actual shelter costs (rent and utilities) paid by participants. This is based on what we have heard from you, our Service Manager partners, in delivering this program. To reiterate, this update to the benefit calculation will result in higher benefit amounts for many households.

The new COHB benefit formula will result in increased payments for a significant portion of existing and new participants and hence the planning allocations to Service Managers for new applicants to the program reflect the greater proportion of the funding required to support existing program participants. The enclosed Program Guidelines include the new calculation and have also been updated to reflect the availability of an online application process.

These important changes to the COHB program require amendments to the associated Transfer Payment Agreement which can be found in Appendix F. We are requesting that you submit the signed Appendix F in TPON as soon as possible.

My expectation is that you continue to administer NHS housing programs as usual, and that there is no interruption to housing services and supports. I trust this letter provides

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the certainty you need to proceed. If you have any questions, please contact your ministry staff contacts at your regional Municipal Services Office.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist vulnerable people in your communities, and I look forward to continuing our work together as we move forward on these important changes.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosures

- c. Gary Kent, Chief Administrative Officer
- Aileen Baird, Director of Housing Services
- Ian Russell, Team Lead, Municipal Services Office