

To: Members of Regional Council **Date:** August 13th, 2020

From: Stephen VanOfwegen, CFO & Commissioner of Finance **Subject:** Safe Restart Agreement Funding - Update

CC: Executive Leadership Team **Our File:**

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August 13, 2020

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Background

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the public health and economic landscape at a global, national, provincial, regional and local municipal level. This pandemic has required a whole of government and whole of society response. The Region of Peel, like all municipalities, has been significantly financially impacted by the pandemic.

Safe Restart Funding

The Province and Federal governments are providing funding to address Peel’s COVID pressures under the *Safe Restart* program. On August 12, 2020, the Region received confirmation from the Province regarding its funding allocation which is expected to be received in September:

- \$27,335,100 to assist with COVID-19 costs and pressures; Phase I funding is an allocation based on population; Phase II will be application based – Peel will submit an application appropriately for additional funds to cover remaining pressures
- \$553,213 to assist with COVID municipal transit pressures e.g. TransHelp; and,
- \$9,747,382 in Social Services and Relief Funding (SSRF) is anticipated for use as set out in the Community Homelessness and Prevention Initiative guidelines.
 - This is an initial planning allocation for 2020-21. The objectives of the SSRF Phase 2 funding are to:
 - Mitigate ongoing risk for vulnerable people, especially in congregate settings;
 - Encourage long-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post-COVID-19; and,
 - Enhance rent assistance provided to households in rent arrears due to COVID-19.

Fiscal Impact

On July 23rd, 2020 through the 2020 Triannual Financial Performance Report to Regional Council, the Region projected a 2020 operating deficit of \$44.7 million primarily due to COVID-19 costs. The announced funding will partially offset Peel’s currently projected COVID pressures.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Recovery & Advocacy Efforts

To enable economic and fiscal recovery, the Region identified short-, medium- and long-term advocacy strategies. This was shared with Regional Council on June 11th, through the presentation on the Update and Management of the Financial Impact of COVID 19.

Peel's short-term advocacy has been focused on immediate, additional funding for incremental municipal operating costs and lost revenues resulting from COVID-19, as well as infrastructure funding to stimulate economic recovery.

As more details become available, we will report to Regional Council in September with the full impact of this funding announcement on Regional programs and services.

We thank Regional Council for their ongoing commitment and advocacy to enable Peel's economic and fiscal recovery.