

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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December 22, 2020

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

December 22, 2020

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

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Dear Nando Iannicca:

As you know, protecting the health and well-being of all Ontarians continues to be the government's number one priority. That is why on December 21, 2020, our government made the difficult decision to announce details about a Provincewide Shutdown effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26, 2020.

These temporary public health and workplace safety measures, made in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, will help stop the trend of high COVID-19 transmission in communities, preserve health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations and those who care for them, and save lives. These measures are in addition to several provincial investments made during the COVID-19 outbreak, including Ontario's \$510 million Social Services Relief Fund, which has been effective in supporting Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators to respond quickly, adapt services, and address the housing and economic impacts of COVID-19 in their communities.

However, we know that a key piece of the government's efforts to help ensure Ontarians stay safe during the COVID-19 outbreak is the ability for individuals to access publicly funded isolation facilities, and where needed, wraparound services following testing. The situation is particularly acute in high-priority communities that have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. These communities have been identified in the Ministry of Health's High Priority Communities Strategy and are characterized as having current and historically persistent high positivity and low testing rates for COVID-19, and larger numbers of low-income households.

To that end, on December 21, 2020 the government announced additional funding of up to **\$42 million** to select Service Managers to expedite the establishment of new isolation centres to help those from high-priority communities who can't isolate safely at home.

I am pleased to confirm that the Regional Municipality of Peel has been selected to receive funding under the Ontario Isolation Centres Initiative. This funding will help your community quickly expand isolation centre capacity by creating new facilities with the objective of reducing barriers to testing and help provide safe isolation for residents in high-priority communities who test positive for COVID-19.

Based on the public health information from the Ministry of Health and assessment of your service area, we expect the Regional Municipality of Peel requires up to an additional 840 hotel/motel beds for isolation to assist individuals from the following priority areas: Malton (L4T), Bramalea (L6P, L6R, L6T), Brampton (L6V, L6X, L6Y, L7A), South West Mississauga (L5C), East Mississauga (L4X, L4Z, L5B, L5R) and North West Mississauga (L5V). Based on experience to date with existing isolation centres, a benchmark cost of up to \$8,400 per room per month (30 days), has been used to determine your planning allocation of up to \$7,056,000 per month for the next 3 months, for a total planning allocation of \$21,168,000.

To access funding under the Ontario Isolation Centres Initiative, you are required to complete the enclosed Investment Plan, for ministry approval, describing your proposed funding strategy and return to the ministry **by December 29, 2020**. Please submit an Investment Plan at or below that cost per month. If the costs are above that benchmark, please provide a rationale. Your completed Investment Plan will help determine total costs for the period from December 21, 2020 to March 31, 2021, and should be completed in consultation with your local public health unit. Your local public health unit contact is Kate Bingham (kate.bingham@peelregion.ca).

You may submit your completed Investment Plan via e-mail to:

Jim Adams, Director of the Housing Programs Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
jim.e.adams@ontario.ca

With the pressing need to help stem the rising tide of COVID-19 infections across the province, action will need to be taken immediately. To help expedite delivery of this initiative, once the ministry has reviewed and communicated approval of your Investment Plan, a payment advance up to one-third of your estimated costs as reported in the Investment Plan will be initiated.

Program Details – Ontario Isolation Centres

Similar to the province's Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), funding under the Ontario Isolation Centres Initiative will flow through your Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) agreement. This will help ensure this investment is delivered as quickly as possible. Further details on this funding, including an amendment to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Program Guidelines, will be shared over the coming weeks.

Under this investment, funding will be provided to select Service Managers identified under the Ministry of Health's High Priority Communities Strategy. Funding will be used to establish or expand isolation centres with the objective of reducing barriers to testing and safe isolation. Where needed, funding may also be used for wraparound services after testing. This initiative is expected to help reduce the spread of the virus through increased rates of testing and increased use of isolation facilities by those who test positive and/or have been in close contact with those who have tested positive.

Eligible expenses allowable under this initiative include costs incurred for net new hotel/motel rooms for isolation and a range of wraparound services including:

- Meals (e.g., dietary and religious accommodations, access to in-room fridge and microwave for personal food items);
- Security (e.g., safe evacuation, incident management/reporting, other security protocols/processes);
- Transportation and parking facilities;
- Cleaning protocols and services (e.g., cleaning of facilities, laundry for residents, disposal of garbage);
- Other amenities (e.g., telephone and internet access to stay in contact with family/loved ones, TV service); and
- COVID-19 case management/other social services and health supports.

If your organization requires to provide services beyond this, please provide a detailed explanation and cost estimate in your investment plan.

Funding, as outlined in the eligible expenses above, is being provided solely for the purposes of establishment of new isolation centres to help those from high-priority communities who may need to isolate following testing. All program payments under this initiative, including the advance, made by the ministry will be reconciled against actuals reported. Funding that has been paid in excess of program need/actuals or not used for the above outlined purposes will be recovered by the ministry as per the CHPI Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA).

Along with the approval of the Investment Plan, the ministry will provide further program details in the coming weeks including a sign-back letter with detailed reporting expectations, this will include weekly reporting, cashflow schedule and other key information.

As always, I would like to thank you for all your work during these challenging times. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our municipal partners to assist all Ontarians during the COVID-19 outbreak and I look forward to working together to implement this important initiative.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Clark" clearly legible.

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosures

c. Janice Baker, Chief Administrative Officer
Aileen Baird, Director of Housing Services