



Report to: Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board

From: Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services
Renée Brunet, Ontario Works Program Supervisor

Date: November 24, 2016

Re: Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) – Issue Report

Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the DSB Board with an update on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative allocation for the next three years, as well as an outline on how the DSB staff plan to allocate the money throughout the district.

Policy

The Healthy Communities Fund (HCF) aims to prevent, address and reduce homelessness by improving access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing that is linked to flexible support services based on peoples' needs. The HCF is a result of the consolidation of funding from five provincial homelessness-related programs.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's Healthy Communities Fund is comprised of four separate service components:

1. Emergency Shelter Solutions
2. Housing with Related Supports
3. Other Services and Supports
4. Homelessness Prevention

The four service categories capture services and activities designed to meet the needs of households who are:

- Currently homeless; or
- At risk or in imminent risk of homelessness.

Funding

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a 100% provincially funded.

As part of the 2016 Ontario Budget announcement, the province reallocated \$42 million which was added to the CHPI program.

On October 4, 2016, Assistant Deputy Minister, Janet Hope sent the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB a [letter](#) announcing the DSB's 2017-18 and 2018-19 allocations under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative. The DSB's current 2016-17 allocation is **\$324,000**.

- For 2017-18 the CHPI allocation is **\$471,920** which is 46% more than the 2016-17 allocation.
- In 2018-19, the CHPI allocation goes up again to **\$619,268** which is another 31% more than 2017-18's allocation.

On November 2, 2016, Minister Chris Ballard announced at the National Conference on Ending Homelessness that \$15 million is being added to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative in 2019-20. These new investments mean that the province will be providing approximately \$971 million in CHPI funding to Service Managers over the next three fiscal years.

On the same day, the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB received a [letter](#) announcing the DSB's 2019-20 allocations under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative.

- For 2019-20, the CHPI allocation will be **\$766,183** which is another 24% high than the 2018-19 allocation.

This represents an overall increase of 136% over a 3-year period. At this point the DSB has not been advised if these are ongoing allocations or one-time enhancements for a 3-year period.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB's CHPI funding allocations are contingent on provincial budget approvals.

The CHPI allocation is based on a revised CHPI funding approach that is informed by the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness, a commitment to using evidence based approaches, and to achieving two CHPI program outcomes which are:

- People experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing; and
- People at risk of homelessness remain housed.

For the population experiencing homelessness, historic program spending continues to be used as an indicator as it best reflects the existing service system to address the needs of those who are homeless.

For the population who are at-risk of homelessness, two components are used:

- The continued use of Deep Core Housing Need to capture the general risk of homelessness; and
- The use of new indicators to capture the at-risk population based on three of the provincial homelessness priorities: chronic homelessness, youth and indigenous people

As per the CHPI Program Guidelines, Service Managers are required to submit an annual CHPI Investment Plan outlining how they plan to use their CHPI allocation for the upcoming year. The plans are due to the Ministry by February 15, 2017.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB’s CHPI investment plan is detailed below for the last 2 years:

	2015/16		2016/17	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual(mid-Year)
Emergency Shelter Solutions	\$120,000	\$112,060	\$50,000	\$75,000
Housing with Related Supports	\$53,000	\$67,847	\$105,000	\$87,786
Services and Supports	\$12,000	\$7,624	\$10,000	\$9,178
Homelessness Prevention	\$139,000	\$136,469	\$159,000	\$152,036
TOTAL	\$324,000	\$324,000	\$324,000	\$324,000

Proposed Investment Plan for 2017-18:

	Investment Plan
Emergency Shelter Solutions	\$92,000
Housing with Related Supports	\$225,736
Services and Supports	\$10,000
Homelessness Prevention	\$144,184
TOTAL	\$471,920

Conclusion

Staff are proposing to allocate additional funding to the housing with related supports area as this is the category that allows the DSB to approve portable housing allowances through the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program. This will allow the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB to assist approximately 60 applicants on the Social Housing Waitlist with a portable housing allowance of approximately \$205 per month. This will reduce the Social Housing Waitlist while allowing families to continue to reside in their existing rental unit. The additional portable housing allowance through the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program will be monitored closely to ensure allocations are not exceeded.

The CHPI funding allocations are contingent on provincial budget approvals. The Province will notify the DSB if there are any changes to the CHPI allocations annually.