

Funding provided to Services Board for community homelessness prevention initiative

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The Recorder

ESPANOLA—The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) received some good news from the province in the form of one-time funding to support the Transition to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program.

“The funding is being provided toward the Community Start Up program for boards such as ours, as the province is eliminating their part in the program as of January 1, 2013,” said Fern Dominelli, chief administrative officer (CAO) of the DSB, last week.

“The province is providing one-time grant funds, which will in our case buy us another year to get things in order,” said Mr. Dominelli. “In our case we are short in funding to this program of \$171,000 and we are receiving in the order of \$132,000 in one-time funding from the province.”

...community homelessness prevention

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In a letter from David Carter-Whitney, assistant deputy minister Social Policy Development Division with the Ministry of Community and Social Services dated December 27, 2012, states, "the government announced changes today that affect municipal delivery partners."

"In order to support municipalities in transitioning to the new consolidated Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), the government has committed to providing municipal service managers with one-time grant funding of \$42 million. The additional funding, which will be provided by MCSS, will assist eligible municipalities as they develop and implement their CHPI plans. Funds will be allocated to assist vulnerable Ontarians, including social assistance recipients, to transition to CHPI as plans are developed, between January 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014," explained Mr. Carter-Whitney.

"The funding will be allocated amongst municipal service managers based on each municipality's change in total funding for housing and homelessness supports in 2013-2014," wrote Mr. Carter-Whitney. "This means those municipalities that will see a funding increase in 2013-2014

will not receive any of the one-time grant funding."

"As the funding is intended to complement CHPI allocation funding, municipal service managers will have the flexibility to use the funds for a range of CHPI housing and homelessness-related supports, based on local priorities," wrote Mr. Carter-Whitney.

For the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, Mr. Carter-Whitney outlined the total 2011-2012 funding (five consolidated programs and CSUMB) at \$357,387, with the 2013-2014 CHIP allocation amounting to \$185,493, leaving a difference of \$171,894 in 2013-2014 CHPI allocation and total 2011-2012 funding. The one time grant allocation is for \$132,429.

"It is good news, it buys us another year of getting our program in place," Mr. Dominelli told the Recorder. "At the end of the day we don't currently have the money to run this program, and this funding will not solve everything, but it is welcome news and buys us more time." He said the DSB would provide funding under the program, individually, based on the needs of clients it has within the DSB area.