

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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July 24, 2012

Mr. Fern Dominelli
Chief Administrative Officer
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board

Dear Mr. Dominelli:

I am writing to inform you about the introduction of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and to provide details about the first year's funding allocation for the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board under this program.

A commitment to housing and homelessness program consolidation was one of the outcomes from the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. Consolidating housing and homelessness-related programs is a key part of Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) to transform the housing system and put people first. Under LTAHS, the Province committed to consolidate the following housing and homelessness related programs:

- Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program;
- Emergency Energy Fund;
- Emergency Hostel Services;
- Domiciliary Hostel Program; and,
- Provincial Rent Bank.

Beginning January 1, 2013, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will assume financial and administrative responsibility of the new consolidated program. The Province has been working closely over the past year with a group of Service Manager representatives, selected by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto, on the development of the new program. The input from this group has been invaluable to shaping the CHPI.

The vision for the new program is a better coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centered, outcome-focused and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce and address homelessness. Over time, this approach will shift the focus of services from reactive responses to homelessness to more proactive and permanent solutions focused on the following two key outcomes:

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

Under the CHPI, Service Managers will have increased flexibility to use the consolidated funding in any of the following service categories:

1. Emergency Shelter Solutions (e.g. emergency shelter and/or safe bed);
2. Housing and Related Supports (e.g. permanent housing, rental allowance);
3. Services and Supports (e.g. street and housing outreach, food banks, housing search); and,
4. Homelessness Prevention (e.g. rent support/eviction prevention).

All programs and services that are eligible under the current homelessness-related programs will continue to be eligible under the new program. Furthermore, many additional programming options will now be possible as a result of enhanced program flexibility.

The new approach to provincial homelessness program funding will combine funding from the five existing homelessness-related programs listed above into a single funding envelope. Service Managers will have greater flexibility to use this funding to address local homelessness-related priorities and to better meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative is a 100% provincially funded investment that amounts to approximately \$246 million for 2013-14. This includes the current level of funding associated with the five existing programs and the scheduled upload of the Emergency Hostel Services portion of Ontario Works – consistent with our commitment under the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. This amount also includes 50 per cent of provincial expenditures from the former Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) and the scheduled upload related to CSUMB.

The Ministry will consult with Service Manager representatives through a Technical Advisory Group, composed of Service Manager Representatives selected by AMO and the City of Toronto, for input on the following elements of the consolidated program:

- Performance indicators and metrics;
- Guidelines for the newly consolidated program; and,
- Investment Plan/Service Contract templates.

Further details on the program design, guidelines and reporting requirements will be provided to each Service Manager upon completion of the work of the Technical Advisory Group – scheduled for early Fall 2012.

Details of the First Year's Funding Allocations

Funding will be issued in quarterly instalments. The first instalment will be issued in January 2013. For planning purposes, the allocation for the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board in January 2013 will be \$ 37,258, and for April 2013 to March 2014 will be \$ 158,431. We will provide you with the final figures for these allocations by September 10, 2012.

The allocation for each Service Manager is based on a combination of current funding and needs-based funding as follows:

1. Base Funding: This part of the envelope consists of current funding for the five programs being consolidated. Allocations are based on a combination of:
 - o What each Service Manager currently receives under four of the programs (Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program, Emergency Energy Fund, Domiciliary Hostel Program, Provincial Rent Bank); and,
 - o Each Service Manager's most recent three-year average of expenditures for Emergency Hostel Services (to account for changes in demand for these services over time).
2. Needs-Based Funding: This part of the envelope consists of the reinvestment from the CSUMB program (removed from social assistance and reallocated to the consolidated program) and the scheduled upload of Ontario Works financial assistance for both Emergency Hostel Services and CSUMB.
 - o Funding is allocated according to each Service Manager's share of households in Deep Core Housing Need (a Statistics Canada measure that identifies households who spend over 50 per cent of their gross income on housing and, or, also have issues related to suitability and adequacy).

The new CHPI represents a significant change for both Service Managers and the Province and is an important step toward transforming Ontario's housing and homeless system. We also recognize that the current five programs may be delivered within different departments across Service Managers. We appreciate your assistance in ensuring this information is shared as most appropriate.

We are committed to working with Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards in the development of a more people-centered housing and homelessness system and will work with staff of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board to facilitate an effective transition to the new program while maintaining stability for clients. In the coming days, you will receive an invitation to a webcast presentation that will provide more detail on the program design and allocation model of the CHPI. We ask that you share this invitation with the appropriate staff members in your organization and, if applicable, inform us of any particular staff member that can act as a main contact for the new program.

We look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions. Please contact Cindy Couillard, Team Lead by telephone at 705-564-6808, or by e-mail at cindy.couillard@ontario.ca for more information.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Janet Hope
Assistant Deputy Minister
Housing Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

cc. Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services, donna.moroso@msdsb.net
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