Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

This report is to advise Emergency and Community Services Committee that the Social Housing and Homelessness Division is undertaking a review of the community homelessness prevention and alleviation programs funded through the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program (CHPP). The formal review process began March, 2010. The resulting findings and recommendations will be reported back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on September 8, 2010. The objective of the review is to develop recommendations for CHPP funding priorities for the 2011 fiscal year and beyond.

The Social Housing and Homelessness Division staff will conduct the review and all costs will be covered within the existing CHPP administration funding.

Prior to January 2005, the Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS) funded homelessness activities in Hamilton under five programs:
- Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Fund (PHIF)
- Supports to Daily Living Fund (SDL)
In January 2005, MCSS announced the CHPP program whereby the five previous programs were rolled into one. This development allowed the City as the Service System Manager to support the full range of programming in the area of homelessness prevention.

The local homelessness service delivery system in Hamilton has evolved considerably since the programs listed above were originally funded and initiated. For example:

- There has been an infusion of federal homelessness funding
- Hamilton has developed a strategic plan to address homelessness, and
- The men’s emergency shelter system is undergoing a transformation as part of the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services.

It is timely for the City to review the CHPP programs within the context of the current homelessness service system.

In 2008, the City’s Housing Division undertook a high level review of CHPP. A framework for homelessness prevention was developed that defined and described primary, emergency and secondary intervention strategies. For example, a rent bank program is a primary intervention, an emergency intervention is a shelter service, and a secondary intervention is a supported housing or outreach program. Consultation with key stakeholders informed implementation of the annual CHPP Service Plans and the development of two to three year contracts with the service providers funded through CHPP.

**Current CHPP Allocations**

The total CHPP funding provided by the Province in 2009 was $1,356,895 (100% provincial). The 2010 CHPP funding is being negotiated with MCSS as part of the Homelessness Service Contract. In 2010, $101,115 (net levy) is budgeted to cover costs related to the administration of the CHPP funds. Although up to 10% of the provincial CHPP funding may be utilized for the administration of the program, it was approved by Council (Report SSC06007 Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program March 31, 2006) that costs for the administration of the program would continue to be covered through the net levy to allow the investment of the full amount in community homelessness programs.

The Emergency Shelters serving men, women and youth are currently allocated $720,278 of the annual CHPP funding which is used to fund personal supports services.

The balance of the CHPP funding, $585,558, is invested in community homelessness prevention and alleviation programs. Because the emergency shelter system was
reviewed in 2008, this program review will focus on these programs. The CHPP-funded activities and services will be reviewed in the following agencies:

**Hamilton Housing Help Centre (HHC)**

HHC assists individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to maintain and access housing. Their current CHPP allocation is $282,426 which allows HHC to provide four programs which include information and client education, advocacy, access to financial assistance and direct personal supports.

**Off the Streets into Shelter (OSIS)**

OSIS is part of the Mental Health Outreach Program which is operated by the Family Health Division of Public Health Services. The Mental Health Outreach program is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The current annual CHPP allocation for OSIS is $133,066. The primary activity of OSIS is to provide outreach services at various shelters and on the streets to connect homeless individuals with income support and social and health services. Another focus of OSIS is to provide an educational component for the community and build service capacity within the homelessness service system. This has been achieved by providing leadership at the Shelter Health Network, by providing referral cards for a number of agencies and services, and by coordinating shelter tours for service providers.

**The Bridge Program**

The Bridge: From Prison to Community is an agency that assists men who are facing homelessness upon release from incarceration. Their current annual CHPP allocation is $5,634. The CHPP allocation contributes to the provision of case management for the residents living in three short term and three transitional housing rooms provided by the agency. The Bridge also provides discharge planning for men who are being released from federal and provincial correctional institutions.

**Out of the Cold Program**

The Hamilton Out of the Cold Program Coalition is a group that operates from eight different downtown churches to provide warm meals and, in some locations, overnight stays Monday to Friday. The current annual CHPP allocation is $11,110 which covers a portion of the cost of meals. The service is offered November to March and is staffed by volunteers.

**St. Matthew’s House Transitional Housing Program (Supports to Daily Living Program)**

This program provides eight shared affordable housing units in two locations to single males, ages 19 to 60 years, providing case management and personal supports.
Outreach services are provided to 12 additional tenants living in a building owned and managed by Hamilton East Kiwanis Housing. The current annualized CHPP allocation is $153,322 and provides funding for case management and maintenance staff as well as program supplies.

The goals of the review are to:

- Determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the funded programs in achieving the provincial mandate for CHPP,
- Assess the ability of the service providers to reach established goals and achieve outcomes as reported in their program service plans,
- Assess the effectiveness of the current CHPP outcomes and performance indicators in preparation for future service contracting,
- Assess whether the programs continue to fit with Hamilton’s strategic plan to address homelessness: Everyone Has a Home, The Hamilton Emergency Shelter Blueprint as well as the province’s mandate for the CHPP program.

The community agencies were consulted in shaping the 2008 review as well as in the development of the 2010 Program Review. It is expected that there will be full cooperation from the agencies and program staff in completing the review.