Council Direction:
Not applicable.

Information:

This information report describes the Housing Services Division’s plan for determining the funding model, guidelines and implications for the homelessness system within the new provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) for 2014.

Phase One of the CHPI planning work met the immediate need of implementing the new Housing Stability Benefit to replace the loss of the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB).

Phase Two of the CHPI Planning Initiative has just begun and is described through the remainder of this report.

Background

In July 2012, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced that there would be a consolidation of five existing housing and homelessness programs into the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). Effective
January 1, 2013 the following housing and homelessness related programs were consolidated under a single funding envelope.

- **Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program**: Homelessness support services that assist households experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find and maintain stable housing.

- **Emergency Energy Fund**: Financial assistance to reduce the number of energy related emergencies.

- **Emergency Hostel Services**: Temporary overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

- **Domiciliary Hostel Program**: Permanent housing with limited supports to vulnerable adults.

- **Provincial Rent Bank**: Grants to low income residents who need assistance with their rent to avoid eviction.

CHPI is intended to help communities provide a coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people centred, outcome-focused and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce, and address homelessness.

The Province has established two key program outcomes for the CHPI, which will measure performance and ensure accountability:

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

Under the CHPI, the City of Hamilton will have the flexibility to use funding for any of the following four service categories:

1. **Emergency Shelter Solutions**: Services and supports that provide relief or protect households/people who are homeless or are in imminent risk of homelessness;

2. **Housing with Related Supports**: Operating funding for long-term and transitional housing, as well as supports related to the delivery of that housing;

3. **Other Services and Supports**: Supports are provided to assist vulnerable or at risk clients with immediate relief or support in obtaining housing; and,
4. **Homelessness Prevention**: services that assist households at risk of homelessness to retain their housing.

**Funding**

The City of Hamilton was allocated $15,493,100 in Provincial CHPI funding for the 2013 calendar year. It is important to note that homelessness services and programs are also supported through net levy funding and by the federal government.

On November 7, 2012, the General Issues Committee approved the net levy portion of existing housing and homelessness programs to a total of $3,351,080 be restated to CHPI effective January 1, 2013. This funding has been allocated to the new Housing Stability Benefit (HSB) that has replaced CSUMB.

Additionally, the federal government supports Hamilton through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding which ends on March 31, 2014. The CHPI review will take into account all of the funding sources and the impacts of that funding on Hamilton’s system of services. This three-year round of $12.6 million in HPS funding will end March 31, 2014.

**Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Review**

**Scope of Work**

The primary objective of the CHPI Planning Initiative is to determine how to allocate CHPI funding beyond 2013. This determination must be embedded in a broader analysis of homelessness system programming and how CHPI recommendations will impact the system. There are parts of the homelessness service system that are not stable and sustainable. An analysis will be conducted to look at how to maximize funding in the system with the goal of program stability and success in supporting people to become and stay housed. This means determining the right levels of funding and best ways to fund those programs.

This work will build on a number of important efforts including the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, the Blueprint for Emergency Shelter Services, Room for Potential – Domiciliary Hostel Program Review and others.

Consultation with internal and external stakeholders is critical to this review and planning effort. Stakeholders will have opportunities to provide their input and perspectives.

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**Vision**: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

**Values**: Honesty, Accountability, Innovation, Leadership, Respect, Excellence, Teamwork
The final component is evaluative. The purpose is to determine the relevance of various CHPI related programs to the overall homelessness system, to understand the relevant impacts of other government funding on the system in relation to CHPI and a series of program performance reviews.

Resources and Consultation

The Housing Services Division has committed a Project Team who will:

- Provide recommendations detailing funding allocations and implementation plans for Council;
- Review relevant literature, program data, existing internal planning work and the work of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan; and,
- Conduct a number of consultations including talking to other municipalities.

Two advisory committees will provide strategic direction and advice on this work, an internal committee comprised of Community Services staff and the Housing and Homelessness Planning Group consisting of community stakeholders.

Expected Deliverables

The CHPI Planning Initiative will result in recommendations to Council. In addition, other deliverables will be developed:

- A main report that comprehensively outlines the analysis and recommendations; and,
- A communications plan outlining strategies for communicating about the report and next steps, including presentations to community stakeholders and summaries of the main report for various stakeholder groups.

Timeline

A report with recommendations for funding allocations and implementation planning is anticipated in September 2013 for implementation in 2014.