



Report To:	DSB Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services Rhonda McCauley, Social Housing Program Supervisor
Date:	April 26, 2017
Re:	Home for Good Funding - Issue Report

Purpose

To advise the Board about a funding opportunity issued by the Ministry of Housing (MHO) to provide Service Managers with an opportunity to be selected as a recipient of Home for Good (HFG) funding in 2017-18 and 2018-19 by:

- Defining our supportive housing needs;
- Informing MHO about our ability to deliver housing assistance and support services; and
- Identifying potential community partners.

Background

Supportive housing is widely recognized as being a key component to assisting people living with complex physical and mental health challenges to achieve and maintain housing stability. When delivered appropriately, supportive housing is proven to prevent homelessness and to assist people with lived experience of homelessness, secure and maintain housing.

The Ministry of Housing is interested in supporting Service Managers to collaborate with other sector organizations (housing, health, community services, and children and youth sectors) to develop a coordinated supportive housing system with flexible approaches to meet people's changing needs, and to assist people to obtain and retain safe, affordable, and adequate housing with the appropriate level and type of support services. This program will assist MHO to make demonstrable progress on the government's goal to end chronic homelessness by 2025.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff already have developed a relationship with the Canadian Mental Health Association and the NE-LHIN as well as the Indigenous Agencies through a variety of committees at various levels.

Purpose

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB already has identified a need for Mental Health supports for residents residing in DSB Social Housing properties in the LaCloche and Manitoulin areas.

As a result of this, a partnership with CMHA and the NE-LHIN has been formed to address the need in the LaCloche area with a pilot project over the past 12 months. CMHA currently provides Transitional Community Support services in the LaCloche area by meeting individuals in their homes or in the community who are at risk of losing their housing or starting to feel unwell and needing additional support services. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB staff would like to expand these support services to the Social Housing residents on Manitoulin Island.

Supportive Housing Definition

As defined in the Ontario Supportive Housing Policy Framework, supportive housing refers to a combination of housing assistance and support services that enable people in need to live as independently as possible in their community.

To the extent possible, support services should be customized with the needs of the individual in mind. The aim of these supports is to promote housing stability, and each person's ability to live independently.

This definition is intended to capture several forms of housing assistance (such as rent supplements and housing allowances) and housing types (such as scattered units, dedicated supportive housing buildings with independent living units, and congregate care models). For further clarity, these could also exist within the context of social housing and other forms of government-assisted housing as well as private market housing. A few examples of support services include counselling, personal support, case management, income support and applying for financial assistance, assistance with dispensing medication, and life skills training (e.g., purchasing food / meal preparation, and money management).

Under this program, individuals in need must receive both support services and housing assistance including those in social housing and other forms of government-assisted housing at the time of entering the program. However, as individuals' needs change, the level of housing assistance and supports may be adjusted as appropriate.

Program Funding and Timelines

The operating funding available to Service Managers for HFG in 2017-18 and 2018-19 is approximately \$25 million and \$50 million, respectively.

It is the Province's intention to provide those Service Managers selected for initial program delivery with operating funding on an ongoing basis, beyond the initial two-year period (subject to annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfilment of accountability requirements). Depending on the results of the first two years, the Province may consider

expanding the program to additional communities with the incremental funding available in the third year (2019-20).

Outcomes

The foreseen outcomes for the project are:

- Improved access to housing assistance;
- Improved access to other supports to meet individual goals;
- Increased housing stability;
- Increased sense of inclusion and community connection; and
- Improved physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

The intent and purpose of this program is for the Transitional Community Support Worker to meet tenants and provide short term supports and housing stabilization through linking individuals to community resources. The Transitional Community Support Worker will be available to residents when the need arises.

The original pilot project for LaCloche began in January 2016 and the intent of putting this proposal for funding forward is to seek available funding from the MHO to assist the Social Housing Tenants who fall within one or more of the provincial priority homeless areas.

As per the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness, [A Place to Call Home: Report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness](#), chronic homelessness refers to people, often with disabling conditions (e.g., chronic physical or mental illness, or substance abuse problems), who are currently homeless and have been homeless for six months or more in the past year (i.e., have spent more than 180 cumulative nights in a shelter or place not fit for human habitation). Service Managers are encouraged to prioritize recipients who are chronically homeless, and those who have endured the most difficulty in obtaining and retaining housing in the past.

MHO requires Service Managers' initiatives under HFG to:

- Focus on assisting those across the four provincial homelessness priority areas who have had significant challenges including complex service / health needs accessing and maintaining housing;
- Support appropriate community-level collaboration or partnerships during the development of the program's design, implementation and administration stages (e.g., connections to LHINs, MCSS / MCYS regional offices, mental health and substance use service providers, developmental services providers and other services as needed);
- Be consistent with the provincial Supportive Housing Policy Framework, and Best Practice Guide;
- Encourage locally-relevant solutions that better meet peoples' needs in a holistic manner;

- Address needs that change over time (e.g., continuing to support at-risk youth once they leave transitional supportive housing, life transitions and aging); and;
- Participate in an evaluation component requirement of the program, including tracking success in housing people with diverse characteristics (e.g., developmental disability, mental health and addictions, acquired brain injury, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, etc.).

Our proposal

The proposal is based on a pilot undertaken by Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB in Partnership with CMHA in 2016. The original pilot project intent was to support individuals in Social Housing maintain their tenancies by providing support in areas that could result in homelessness.

The key areas of focus were to; reduce the number of evictions, reduce the number of resident complaints, reduce Paramedic Services calls, reduce unit turnover, reduce episodes of hoarding, infestations, increase referrals to support services, employment supports, and education.

The initial goal was to identify residents who may require additional supports to maintain a successful tenancy and avoid homelessness. Over the period of the initial pilot, the program has evolved to further meet the needs of the residents, as it was identified that many residents had multiple needs to be addressed. However, the geography of the Service Manager meant that in order to best serve the residents, the service area originally intended needed to be reduced as the travelling time took away from the ability of the support worker to provide effective servicing of a clientele that was often fearful of the help being offered. Hence, now that the Pilot has completed but remains ongoing, and the results viewed, addition of a second TCSW on Manitoulin Island in collaboration with Indigenous Partners would support the Indigenous Population of off-reserve tenants housed in this area, while maintaining important cultural competencies required to serve this resident population. The addition of a support worker in this capacity will support all 4 priority target groups as well as persons with developmental disabilities, youth, and persons with mental health issues. Additionally, the program will morph as needed to ensure that resident needs are being met by partnering with local Police Services, Community Mobilization Teams, and Community Provider Networks to reduce Homelessness in our Communities.

We are currently having weekly Community Paramedicine Workshops in 2 locations on Manitoulin Island, which has proven to be very effective in reducing the number of Emergency calls for service in a short period of time. Further, it has been noted that having these workshops has brought out residents that were formerly considered shut-ins, and also has facilitated with relationship building for harder to reach tenants for the TCSW through the more open and safe environment.

Our application includes a funding proposal totalling \$100,000 for the first year and \$104,000 for the second year.

Capital Component Program

The HFG Expression of Interest document states that Service Managers are also able to request capital funding to create new supportive housing. The capital project must also deliver an associated operating funding component otherwise it will not be approved. The capital funding available to Service Managers for HFG in 2017-18 and 2018-19 is approximately \$60 million for each year. Service Managers are required to have “construction-ready” projects with confirmed proponents and necessary approvals in place to apply for this component and construction must be complete by April 2018.

Although, in the absence of a construction-ready project, proponents can submit an HFG proposal. This proposal must clarify the nature of the capital construction intended to be procured (e.g., through RFP or other scenario). Due to the constraints of the timelines for the Expression of Interest, it is not possible to develop an HFG proposal based on the requirements.

Recommendation:

The DSB staff recommend that the Board direct staff to determine an approach and possible cost estimate for a needs analysis to quantify the demand for new rental housing and supportive housing across the DSB jurisdiction.

The DSB staff also recommend that the Board approve the submission for a funding proposal totalling \$100,000 for the first year and \$104,000 for the second year, to develop a coordinated supportive housing system with flexible approaches to meet people’s changing needs, and to assist people to obtain and retain safe, affordable, and adequate housing with the appropriate level and type of support services.