



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services and Rhonda McCauley, Social Housing Program Supervisor
Date:	October 25, 2017
Re:	Home for Good - Issue Report

### **Purpose:**

Further to the [Home for Good Funding - Issue Report](#) approved by the Board in April 2017, the Ministry of Housing has denied the DSB funding request indicating there was an overwhelming response and limited available funding.

The Minister of Housing reassess the Homes for Good (HFG) expression of interest proposal. The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB requests that the Ministry allocate the matching funding amount of \$42,000 with 4 rent supplements of \$360 per month that is required to partner with the North-East Local Health Integration Network (NE-LHIN) committed partnership funding for mental health supports for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and that the project proposal be considered by the Ministry for funding considerations as a priority ahead of future proposal submissions.

### **Background:**

The Province released a new supportive housing program, Homes for Good as part of their 2016 Budget commitment to end chronic homelessness by 2025.

This program allocated \$25 million in 2017/18 and \$50 million in 2018/19, with an intention to provide ongoing operating funding beyond 2019, to be made available to the 47 Municipal Service System Managers based on a competitive selection process.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) prepared an [expression of interest](#) to the Home for Good Program in May 2017 requesting funding in the amount of \$161,200 for 2017-2018 and \$165,200 for 2018-2019. The request was 2-part aimed at reducing Homelessness in the catchment as follows:

- To expand the successful Transitional Community Support Program (TCSW) to the Manitoulin Island region to support Social Housing Residents retain successful tenancies in collaboration with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and the NE-LHIN.
- Subsidize 4 Rent Supplement units which the LHIN would match with 4 other funded rent supplement units.

Both parts were in collaboration with other supportive agencies which is a key component of funding within the program stream.

The Ministry of Housing denied the funding request in a [letter](#) dated September 11, 2017 due to overwhelming response and limited available funding.

The most important component of this expression of interest was a joint funding commitment for mental health services by the North East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and the Canadian Mental Health Association Sudbury/Manitoulin, which is a critical need in this area.

**Purpose:**

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has previously identified a need for Mental Health supports for residents residing in DSB Social Housing properties

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 18 months. Evidence has shown the effectiveness of this support program as outlined in the [final report](#) presented to the Board in May 2017.

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 would like to expand these support services to the Social Housing residents on Manitoulin Island.

The Home for Good Funding Expression of Interest Proposal submitted in May 2017 requested funding for 4 rent supplement units and 0.5 Full-time Employee (FTE) with the LHIN matching this to another 4 rent supplement units and the other half of the FTE position. The original funding proposal for Year 1 was \$161,200 and for Year 2 was \$165,200 however the DSB is requesting the minimum of \$42,000 for 0.5 FTE and \$17,000 for 4 rent supplement units at \$360 each per month. The NE-LHIN is very much still willing to match this funding.

**Conclusion:**

Notwithstanding the disappointment in being denied the funding for this proposal, the notion that funding could be denied for documented programs that have proven to reduce the impact of homelessness in these communities on many levels is concerning.

The collaboration of three Community Organizations, equally invested in the proposed funding request is a key component of the funding requirements of the Homes for Good Funding.