

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
 Your File/V/Réf. 05-99-0004

DATE 13 October 1999

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Special Advisor on Social Housing

SUBJECT/OBJET **HOMELESSNESS FUNDING**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the appointment of the following members to a Selection Committee authorized to make decisions regarding the allocation of funding for the implementation of the Community Action Plan on Homelessness:

- **Councillor Alex Munter, Chair, Community Services Committee**
- **Barb Flynn, United Way of Ottawa-Carleton**
- **Jamie Burr, Federal Homelessness Secretariat**
- **Steve Shapiro, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
- **Bill Rooney, Manager, Initiatives to End Homelessness**
- **Bonnie Dinning, Manager, Health Department**
- **Diane Martin, Social Services Department**
- **Joyce Potter, Special Advisor on Social Housing**
- **one member of the Alliance to End Homelessness (who is not part of any proposal submission).**

BACKGROUND

On July 14, 1999, Regional Council approved the Community Action Plan on Homelessness and allocated \$1 million from the 1998 Social Housing budget surplus towards its implementation. Specific expenditures were to be subject to Committee and Council approval and are the subject of this report. In addition, on September 22, 1999, Council approved a demonstration project to offer selected regional properties for \$1 to non-profit housing providers to create housing affordable to persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This demonstration project is a key component of the Community Action Plan implementation.

DISCUSSION

On September 23, 1999, the Region issued a Proposal Call on Funding for Homelessness, which was made available to over 100 non-profit and community groups. This was followed by an Information Session on September 29, 1999 and an Application Preparation Workshop on October 20, 1999.

The Proposal Call combined five different funding envelopes:

- Regional Capital Grants: \$1.0 million to be granted on a one-time basis to increase the supply of affordable housing available through new construction, acquisition, conversion and renovation;
- Provincial Homelessness Initiatives Funding: \$500,000 to be granted on an ongoing basis for services and supports to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
- Provincial One-Time Homelessness Funding: \$233,000 to be granted each year on a one-time basis to allow for changing priorities and emerging needs or issues in supporting people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
- Rent Supplement Program units: an allocation of an estimated 20 units a year for the next three years, re-allocated from expiring provincial Rent Supplement Program units, to allow households to pay no more than the social assistance rent scale or 30 percent of their income for their housing unit;
- Regional properties: 7 regional properties to be made available on a demonstration project basis for \$1 to non-profit housing providers to create additional affordable housing.

Proponents may opt to apply for any or all of these funding sources, packaging together proposals which will meet the particular needs of their client groups. Applications must be received by November 15, 1999 and it is intended that funding decisions will be made by mid-December. In this way, it will be possible to see the impact of this funding over the winter and spring months.

In order to meet this timeframe, Community Services Committee and Council are asked to delegate approval authority for these funding decisions to the Selection Committee listed above.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A range of community and government partners are proposed as members of the Selection Committee. They have been consulted to ascertain their interest and have agreed to participate.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funds identified in this submission have been the subject of previous Council reports or are the responsibility of the provincial government.

CONCLUSION

Delegation of allocation decisions to a Selection Committee, as identified in this report, will permit the expeditious use of regional and provincial funds aimed at alleviating homelessness in Ottawa-Carleton.

*Approved by
Joyce M. Potter,*

JP/slp