

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.  
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DATE 10 October 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Special Advisor on Social Housing

SUBJECT/OBJET **FUNDING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS**

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### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the appointment of a Selection Committee with authority to make decisions regarding the allocations of funding for implementation of the Community Action Plan on Homelessness, Update 2000. The Selection Committee would be comprised of the following:**

- **Two members of Regional Council.**
- **Honourable Claudette Bradshaw or her delegate from HRDC.**
- **Ministry of Health representative.**
- **Ministry of Community and Social Services representative.**
- **Private sector representative.**
- **Two nominees from the Alliance to End Homelessness.**
- **Two homeless individuals.**
- **Representative from Kagita Mikam, an aboriginal organization.**
- **Three staff from the Homelessness Initiatives Team.**
- **Barb Flint , Homelessness Initiatives Team as Chair.**

### **BACKGROUND**

In 1999, Regional Council delegated authority to a Selection Committee to approve projects funded through provincial and regional Homelessness Initiatives. These projects were announced by Regional Council in January 2000 and included a total of 20 initiatives in three broad categories: new housing projects, support services, and outreach and prevention. The Selection Committee had representatives

of municipal, provincial and federal governments, the private sector, voluntary agencies and the homeless community.

In April 2000, a Progress Report on “Creating Community Solutions: An Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in Ottawa-Carleton”, was received by Regional Council. The Progress Report provided a summary of the projects which had received funding through the 1999 Proposal Call, as well as an update on the homelessness situation. In August 2000, as a result of a wide community consultation, the update of “Creating Community Solutions: An Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness” in Ottawa-Carleton, was submitted to, and approved by, Regional Council.

## DISCUSSION

This year, in addition to funding available through provincial and regional sources, the federal government is making \$5.7 million in funding available for homelessness services in the community. The Region has applied to be the “Community Entity”, with responsibility for allocating and distributing this funding on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada. The funding is provided on an annual basis for up to three years and the first year’s funding expires on March 31, 2001.

On September 8, 2000, the Region issued a Request for Proposals for Funding to Prevent and End Homelessness, which was made available to over 100 non-profit and community groups. This was followed by two Information Sessions on September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and a Proposal Writing Workshop on September 27, 2000.

The Request for Proposals for **Funding to Prevent and End Homelessness** combined five different funding envelopes:

- up to \$1.15 million from **The Region of Ottawa-Carleton** to support the building of new housing or conversion/renovation of older buildings;
- up to \$350,000 from the **Province of Ontario** in one-time grants for innovative prevention, outreach and support services;
- up to \$5.7 million from the **Federal Government** in one, two or up to three year grants for prevention, outreach and support programs and capital projects exclusive of permanent housing
- up to 250 rent supplement allocations through the **Rent Supplement Program**. (The agreements would run for a three-year period); and
- up to 4 properties available for \$1, to non-profit housing providers, to create affordable housing for persons who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless through the **Housing First, Demonstration Project**.

Applicants may apply for any or all of three funding sources. Proposals must be received by **October 20, 2000**.

There is urgency to implement projects for the homeless, both because of the critical nature of the problem and because federal funding for this year expires at the end of March, 2001. The Selection Committee would be in a position to make funding decisions by mid December.

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, as was done in 1999. The Selection Committee was selected to represent the various levels of government and the community who are involved with homelessness.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A range of community and government partners are proposed as members of the Selection Committee. The Alliance to End Homelessness will be specifically invited to nominate two community agency representatives and two homeless individuals to sit on the Committee.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

#### CONCLUSION

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

*Approved by  
Joyce M. Potter*

BF/slp