



	REPORT No.: 2019-38
MEETING DATE: JULY 18, 2019	DATE PREPARED: JULY 15, 2019
SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL REINVESTMENT FUND	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2019-38 (Client Services Division), we the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, discontinue the Community Social Reinvestment Program effective December 31, 2019;

AND THAT recipient organizations that have any unspent Community Social Reinvestment Program funds as at December 31, 2019 are allowed to utilize those funds by June 30, 2020;

AND THAT current recipient organizations be advised of the Board's decision.

REPORT SUMMARY

To present the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with a recommendation regarding the continuation of the Community Social Reinvestment Fund (CSRFP).

BACKGROUND

CSRFP is not defined as a mandated program under the DSSAB Act or the Ontario Works Act. Through Report No. 2016-29 (Community Social Reinvestment Program – Continuation of the Program for 2018), the Board approved the continuation of CSRFP, levying member municipalities up to the 2016 OMPF eligible amount and directed Administration to seek double majority consent from member municipalities to levy additional funds, bringing the total CSRFP budget up to the historical funding level of \$655,400 (also adjusted annually for inflation).

Subsequent to Report No. 2016-29, the Province undertook a comprehensive review of the DSSAB Act. TBDSSAB had provided input during the first review process that included a request for clarity regarding whether DSSABs could deliver non-mandated programs. Therefore, before seeking double majority consent for future CSRP funding levels, Administration was awaiting the results of the DSSAB Act review, looking for guidance from the Province on whether or not DSSABs can provide non-mandated services even where double majority consent has been provided by its member municipalities.

The then Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) advised in a letter dated December 21, 2018 that she did not accept the findings of the consultant hired by the Ministry to perform the DSSAB Act review and that another review would be conducted. However, the new review is confined to the following:

- Exploring ways to ensure that alternate cost apportionment formulas reflect the collective responsibility of all municipalities for the provision of services to residents in a District;
- Exploring an effective mechanism for resolving conflicts that arise with respect to the apportionment of costs; and
- Enhancing understanding of the role of DSSABs, Board functions and responsibilities and transparency of decision making and communication.

The 2019 CSRP Budget of \$562,300 is \$27,600 less than the prior year (\$589,900). In 2018, the CSRP Reserve Fund, which had been used to reduce the net cost to Municipalities and TWOMO, was completely depleted. Therefore, the 2019 CSRP Budget has been reduced to maintain the Municipal share in accordance with Report No. 2016-29.

The Board discussed whether to continue the CSRP for 2019 at its February 21, 2019 regular session meeting. It was determined that due to the timing of the 2019 budget process, the CSRP would be continued for 2019 at \$562,300, financed by the Levy Stabilization Reserve Fund rather than including that amount in the 2019 municipal Levy. Further, the Board directed Administration to notify recipient organizations that the program was under review for 2020 and that there was no assurance the program would continue beyond 2019; This notice was provided to all 2019 CSRP recipients. Administration was asked to provide a Report later in 2019.

An excerpt from that Resolution is provided here:

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has announced it is closely reviewing its expenditures including its grants to municipalities including the OMPF and notified further cuts in 2020 are possible in efforts to reduce the provincial deficit,

THAT the Board approves funding the cost of the 2019 Community Social Reinvestment Program using the Levy Stabilization Reserve Fund,

AND THAT the 2019 municipal levies be recalculated after the cost of the 2019 Community Social Reinvestment Program is removed,

AND THAT organizations receiving funding from the Community Social Reinvestment Program be cautioned that the funding for non-mandated programs may not be provided in 2020.

COMMENTS

Administration requested that MCCSS officials identify whether CSRP is mandatory and if not, could TBDSSAB deliver a non-mandatory program, even if it were to receive double-majority consent from its member municipalities. Although Administration has received assurances that the matter is being reviewed, a response has not been received to date.

The 2006 Interim DSSAB Guidelines includes language regarding services to be delivered.

GUIDELINE #1: ROLE OF THE DSSAB BOARD, CHAIR, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Role of the DSSAB board is to provide overall governance responsibility in order to be accountable for and to carry out the duties of the board, including:

- to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of all of the member municipalities and Territories Without Municipal Organization (TWOMOs);
- to develop and abide by the policies and programs of the board;
- to determine which services the board provides;
- to ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of the board;
- to maintain the financial integrity of the board;
- to carry out the duties of the board under the *District Social Services Administration Boards Act*, the *Ontario Works Act 1997*, the *Day Nurseries Act*, the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000*, the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the related Regulations or any other Act as required, and including the legislation of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care where applicable
- designating a spokesperson, when required, regarding the actions and plans of the board;
- to ensure open communication channels with provincial government ministries, specifically MCCSS, MMAH and MOHLTC through fostering positive working relationships.

The first shaded point above indicates that the Board determines which services it will provide. The second shaded point refers to specific Acts under which programs and services are delivered. Although the first point seems to allow DSSABs to determine what it will provide, the second might limit those services to those outlined in the referenced legislation.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) notional funding envelope for the Ontario 2020/21 fiscal year is expected to increase by 9%, or, \$279,192. Funding to food security programs is allowable under CHPI guidelines. \$371,700 or 66% of the approved 2019 CSRP projects are for food security programs.

Therefore, Administration is providing the following options for consideration by the Board.

OPTION 1:

Continue to operate CSRP in 2020, levying member municipalities up to the 2016 OMPF eligible amount (\$537,300).

Under this option \$537,300 would require financing each year. It would not be advisable to fund CSRP from the Levy Stabilization Reserve Fund as the balance of that reserve fund is not sufficient to sustain CSRP and to be available to fund unusual fluctuations in the municipal levy.

OPTION 2:

Discontinue CSRP completely effective January 1, 2020. Organizations that currently receive CSRP for food security programs will be advised that there may be CHPI funding available beginning April 1, 2020.

Since food security is an eligible use of funds under CHPI, although applicants would need to meet specific criteria and achieve specified outcomes to maintain funding, it would be appropriate to consider funding it under CHPI rather than through a non-mandated program. An allocation for this funding would be determined through the CHPI budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



There are no immediate financial implications to this Report. However, discontinuation of the CSRP effective January 1, 2020 would result in a lower net cost of \$537,300 than if the program were continued.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that TBDSSAB should discontinue the CSRP effective January 1, 2020 and provide notice to affected organizations.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

None.

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