



	REPORT No.: 2020-24
MEETING DATE: MAY 12, 2020	DATE PREPARED: MAY 12, 2020
SUBJECT: REACHING HOME RURAL AND REMOTE COVID-19 FUNDING	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2020-24 (Integrated Social Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board), authorize the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka for the delivery of the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote COVID-19 Funding program;

AND THAT any necessary By-law be presented to the Board for consideration.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information regarding the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote COVID-19 Funding program, and to seek authorization to sign the Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka

BACKGROUND

TBDSSAB is currently engaged with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka in the Reaching Home Rural and Remote Homelessness Initiative, establishing the funding partnership in 2018. Through the first two years of operating this program, TBDSSAB received \$45,000 each year and was able to assist 26 households in the District of Thunder Bay (excluding the City of Thunder Bay) to obtain housing or remain housed through the provision of funding and supports. These households are in the following communities: Marathon, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay, Oliver Paipoonge, Territory Without Municipal Organization, Greenstone, and Nipigon.

In April 2020, this funding arrangement was proposed to extend for two additional years (April 2020 through March 2022), and the Board approved this agreement (Resolution No. 20/34). Funding available in each of these years is \$60,000.

On April 22, 2020, TBDSSAB received an email from the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka announcing the Reaching Home Rural and Remote Communities COVID-19 Funding stream, seeking expressions of interest from across the province. This fund was

established to address the impacts of COVID-19 among people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness, in rural and remote areas, and to provide additional support to the homelessness-serving sector.

In response to this, TBDSSAB prepared an Expression of Interest, with the focus of reaching out with relief for individuals and families who require additional supports due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the focus would be on gaining and maintaining shelter, and ensuring appropriate supports were available to ensure health and safety. This included gaining access to shelter, providing rent supports and initial housing set-up, and providing distancing where individuals require isolation due to the monitoring of symptoms or while awaiting COVID test results. Further, linkages with mental health and care providers would assist in this initiative. The provision of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies and materials, access to technology and communications, food supply, transportation and other related initiatives were also included in the expression of interest. A total of \$50,000 in funding was requested.

The Expressions of Interest was due to the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka by April 28, 2020.

COMMENTS

On May 12, 2020, TBDSSAB received an email notification that it was successful in the submission of the expression of interest and was approved for funding of \$44,563. All funds must be fully invested by March 31, 2021. There will be no opportunity to carry funding forward beyond March 31, 2021. This COVID-related funding must be kept separate from the Reaching Home Rural and Remote homeless initiative funding.

In order to receive funding, Service Managers are required to sign a Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka that sets out the roles and responsibilities of the parties and the accountability framework for the program, including the terms for funding and reporting requirements. The Contribution Agreement is being prepared by the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka and is required to be signed and returned to them by June 5, 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



As this is a 100% federally funded program, there would be no financial impact on TBDSSAB.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote COVID-19 funding program and Administration's recommendation to participate in the program. It is further concluded that the Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute all required agreements related to the program.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

None

PREPARED BY:	Crystal Simeoni, Manager Housing Programs The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
APPROVED / SIGNATURE:	
	Ken Ranta, Director, Integrated Social Services Division The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
SUBMITTED / SIGNATURE:	
	William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board