



	REPORT No.: 2020-49
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2020	DATE PREPARED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2020
SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES RELIEF FUND PHASE 2	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information regarding the business case submission for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2.

BACKGROUND

On August 12, 2020, TBDSSAB received notice that the province was initiating the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2 to allow the continuation of support for current efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and to address new priority challenges.

SSRF Phase 2 includes an operating component and new capital project components. The objectives of the SSRF Phase 2 funding are to:

1. Mitigate ongoing risk for vulnerable people, especially in congregate settings
2. Encourage long-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post-COVID-19
3. Enhance rent assistance provided to households in rent arrears due to COVID-19.

Under the SSRF Phase 2 announcement, TBDSSAB is eligible to receive an initial planning allocation of \$1,840,459.

Prior to receiving SSRF Phase 2 funds, TBDSSAB was required to submit a business case to MMAH. The business case process outlines the areas of priority for investment of the Phase 2 funding. Information on the SSRF Phase 2 was provided to the Board at the September 17, 2020 Board meeting (Report No.: 2020-35).

COMMENTS

Due to the MMAH deadline for submission being September 11, 2020, the business case was submitted following review and approval by the CAO. The business case will be reviewed by an inter-ministerial working group, which will make recommendations on funding decisions. Following the review process, TBDSSAB will be notified of the approved SSRF Phase 2 funding allocation. It is anticipated that this approval will be received by mid-October. The results will be presented to the Board at its November 2020 meeting.

The areas of supports eligible under SSRF Phase 2 reflect the same areas as the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program. Following is a summary of the areas of funding requested under the business case:

Activity	Funding Requested	# of Households Assisted	# of Units Created or Renovated
Emergency Shelter Solutions	\$250,000	80 unique	n/a
Services and Supports	\$70,245	3,700	n/a
Homelessness Prevention	\$110,000	300-500	n/a
Homelessness Prevention – Rent Relief	\$200,000	50-75	
Capital Component – Upgrade to Existing Facilities	\$1,155,000	2,900	84
Administrative Fees	\$55,214		
Total	\$1,840,459		

In addition to the initial planning allocation outlined by MMAH, there is the potential to access additional funds that the Ministry is holding, pending a review of the provincial needs and pandemic pressures. Following clarification received from Ministry officials that additional funding beyond the planning allocation could be requested Administration updated the business case. Therefore, the revised business case submission, identified additional areas where funding would have a positive impact on the district. Following is a summary of the areas where additional funding is being requested in the business case:

Activity	Funding Requested	# of Households Assisted	# of Units Created or Renovated
Emergency Shelter Solutions	\$110,000	50 unique	n/a
Services and Supports	\$110,000	5,500	n/a
Homelessness Prevention	\$110,000	300-500	n/a
Homelessness Prevention – Rent Relief	\$150,000	80-150	
Capital Component – Upgrade to Existing Facilities	\$3,443,000	5,150	26
Administrative Fees	\$116,490		
Total	\$4,039,490		

TBDSSAB’s business case recommended continued operational funding to address community pressures related to the isolation of individuals who require separation from the general population due to possible exposure to the virus while monitoring symptoms, as well as continuing to assist community organizations with providing housing and related supports to individuals and households. The purchase of PPE, cleaning supplies and materials to support physical distancing are also included in the business case.

For the capital projects permitted under SSRF Phase 2, TBDSSAB recommended several projects with community partners that would provide for improvements to the existing emergency shelter and transitional shelter system, as well as the construction of new long-term housing options.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 is a 100% provincially funded program.

TBDSSAB has been notified that it is eligible to receive up to \$1,840,459, however the final allocation amount will be based on the review of the business case submission.



TBDSSAB is eligible to use up to three per cent of the approved funding allocation for administration costs.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the business case submission for the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 and Administration’s current and possible supports offered throughout the District of Thunder Bay.

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