



	REPORT No.: 2020-55
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2020	DATE PREPARED: OCTOBER 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 approval for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 2.

BACKGROUND

On August 12, 2020, TBDSSAB received notice that the province was initiating the 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 a new capital project component. 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 was notified that an initial planning allocation of \$1,840,459 was available.

Prior to receiving SSRF Phase 2 funds, TBDSSAB was required to submit a business case to MMAH. The business case process outlined 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) and again at the October 15, 2020 Board meeting (Report No.: 2020-49).

COMMENTS

Following the review process, TBDSSAB was notified on October 26, 2020 of the approved SSRF Phase 2 funding allocation. The approval was for the full initial planning allocation of \$1,840,459.

Following is a summary of the areas of funding requested under the approved 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 funding approved 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. The TBDSSAB business case submission identified areas where additional funding would have a positive impact. Following is a summary of the areas where additional funding was 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		

According to MMAH, decisions on how to allocate funding for additional requests will be determined over the coming weeks and months based on emerging public health needs and progress to date as indicated through required program reporting. MMAH will target the remaining investments where they are most required, as the public health situation continues to evolve. Service Managers will be notified when decisions are made to allocate this remaining funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

TBDSSAB has been notified that it is approved to receive \$1,840,459, with the capital project funding requiring staged reporting and milestone attainment.



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 approved business case submission for the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 2 and Administration’s plan for the investment of the funding.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1 [Letter from MMAH dated October 26, 2020](#)

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

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October 26, 2020

Lucy Kloosterhuis
Board Chair, Thunder Bay DSSAB
231 May Street South
Thunder Bay ON P7E 1B5

Dear Lucy Kloosterhuis:

**Re: Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) – Phase 2
Service Manager Business Case Approval**

As you know, this summer, my ministry announced \$362 million in new provincial and federal funding under a second phase of the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) to help protect vulnerable people from COVID-19. The Social Services Relief Fund has been effective in supporting Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators to respond quickly, adapt services, and address the housing and economic impacts of COVID-19 in their communities. The additional investment of SSRF Phase Two can help Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators continue to protect homeless shelter staff and residents, expand rent support programming and create longer-term housing solutions.

This brings the government's total Social Services Relief Fund investment provided to Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators to \$510 million.

This is part of our commitment of up to \$4 billion for municipalities across the province under the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement. This funding will help municipalities protect the health and well-being of the people of Ontario while delivering critical public services, such as public transit and shelters, as the province continues down the path of renewal, growth and economic recovery.

Prior to receiving SSRF Phase 2 funds, you were asked to submit a business case to the Ministry. The business case process provided an opportunity for you to outline how your initial planning allocation would be used and assisted the Ministry in ensuring that funds were being directed to the communities most in need. The business cases were reviewed by the Ministry, as well as an inter-ministerial working group, which made recommendations on funding decisions.

The Ministry has now completed its review of your business case, and I am pleased to confirm that we have **approved** your plan in accordance with a total planning allocation of **\$1,840,459** for the fiscal year 2020-21.

I want to acknowledge that, in addition to the capital and operating plans being approved with this letter, many Service Managers have submitted as part of their business cases additional capital proposals (i.e., additional proposals where submitted in response to Question 12 in the business cases). Where applicable, the Province encourages Service Managers to consider submitting these additional capital proposals under the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative to maximize the potential benefits to Ontario's housing as well as the good work done by Service Managers as part of this process.

As communicated to you in August 2020, to ensure SSRF Phase 2 funding is targeted to where it is needed most, the Ministry has held back a portion of the total SSRF Phase 2 funding from the initial planning allocations. Decisions on how to allocate this hold back will be determined over the coming weeks and months based on emerging public health needs and progress to date as indicated through required program reporting. This will allow us to target these remaining investments where they are most required, as the public health situation continues to evolve. Service Managers will be notified when decisions are made to allocate this remaining funding.

SSRF Phase 2 Funding and Reporting

Now that your business case has been approved, we will provide an initial payment of up to 75 per cent of operating funding based on the projections made in your approved business case. This payment will be processed shortly.

Funding for capital projects will be dispersed based on project submissions and the funding schedule outlined in the Program Guidelines. For each capital project, you must complete and submit a Project Information Form through the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) system for Ministry approval.

Please note that you are required to submit an interim report by **December 15, 2020** on your use of SSRF Phase 2 funds and projected spending. A subsequent operating payment will be made following the submission and approval of this report and attestation.

As part of the quarterly reporting requirements, you will also be required to report actual expenditures for the previous financial quarter and revised projections for subsequent quarters by the relevant spending category by **January 31, 2021**. For your year-end reports, you will also be required to report on data collected on specific performance indicators.

Please note that all SSRF Phase 2 reports must be submitted through the TPON system, in accordance with the program guidelines.

Thank you again for your tireless work supporting Ontario's most vulnerable residents during this challenging time. I appreciate your continued commitment to ensuring that the province's significant investments through SSRF are directed to where they are needed most, and I look forward to continuing our work together as we serve the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c. William Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer
Ken Renta, Director, Integrated Social Services