



	REPORT No.: 2021-10
MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2021	DATE PREPARED: FEBRUARY 26, 2021
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE – MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS FUNDING UPDATE	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or Board) with information regarding the allocation of Mental Health and Addictions (MH&A) funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).

BACKGROUND

Ontario's Ministry of Health provided the MMAH with \$10 million in one-time mental health and addictions funding for 2020-21 to be allocated to select Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators under existing program agreements. For TBDSSAB, the funding is provided under the existing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program. This MH&A funding is offered as a one-time initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On January 13, 2021, TBDSSAB received notification from the MMAH announcing the allocation of \$1,040,046 in new funding to support a range of mental health and addictions-related supports and services. This flexible funding will help address the pandemic needs of vulnerable people living with mental health and/or addictions issues and may be used for eligible operating activities within our service area.

COMMENTS

Under the terms of this funding, TBDSSAB was required to sign and return the allocation letter confirming agreement with the requirements of the funding, and to also provide an investment plan on how the funding would be allocated.

TBDSSAB’s allocation under the mental health and addictions funding may be used for the following eligible operating costs to fund a range of mental health and addictions-related services and supports, including but not limited to:

- Mental health/illness and substance use supports and services, supports related to recovery (e.g., hiring mental health and addictions workers).
- Harm reduction and substance use assessment, support, treatment, and withdrawal services.
- Crisis intervention and prevention services.
- Dual diagnosis and fetal alcohol support.
- Medication assistance and medical care.
- Providing people with short-term mental health and addictions housing assistance (e.g., rent supplement or housing allowance) and mental health and addictions supports up to March 31, 2021.
- Purchasing technology/equipment needed to provide people with virtual mental health and/or addictions supports.

This funding is only provided for the 2020/21 Ministry fiscal year; however, the funding may be used to pay for eligible costs incurred from April 1, 2020.

Administration has reached out to community partners across the District to identify opportunities to benefit individuals in need of additional mental health and addictions supports. Administration reviewed each proposal against the eligibility criteria and has determined the following as successful for funding:

Mental Health and Addictions Funding Approved Applications		
Organization	Proposal	Amount
Salvation Army	Technology purchase to assist clients and staff with training and engagement	\$10,860
BISNO	Provision of social activities for individuals with acquired brain injury to address needs arising from COVID-19 restrictions and distancing	\$5,000
Geraldton District Hospital	Supporting interaction and engagement with individuals in crisis and diversion from hospital	\$79,000
Grace Place	Expansion of day shelter and navigation staff to assist in addressing COVID-19 distancing and protocols	\$15,536
Lakehead University	Software support and training for a new suicide prevention initiative for students	\$9,000
John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District	Recreational programming supplies and fitness room update; re-integration kits for clients to support safe practices, hygiene and life supports	\$33,325
Dilico Anishinabek Family Care	Land-based teaching program supplies, technology, medical supports, food/life	\$200,000

	stabilization supplies, COVID-19 safety expenses	
Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario	Emergency short term housing including essential item kits, essential furnishings, cleaning supplies, PPE, and rent deposit, along with supports	\$24,770
Matawa First Nations	Support for clients to maintain housing; street outreach and high-risk individuals support; mental health and addictions counselling and support; respite and crisis support; emergency supplies (PPE, food, hygiene, bedding, towels)	\$126,000
Thunder Bay Police Service	Access to remote areas in the City of Thunder Bay to conduct welfare checks with supports; provide cold weather clothing for vulnerable people released from custody	\$8,553
Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre	Support for traditional medicines and program materials for mental health and addictions supports; purchase of technology to support client connectivity and food supports for clients	\$30,000
NorWest Community Health Centre	Life Guard App to reduce Opioid-related overdoses, delivering regular reporting to the organization and provides remote management functionality for overdoses and includes a strong protocol for emergency services notification/alert.	\$70,000
NorWest Community Health Centre	A pilot project Care Bus staffed with peer workers and community health nurses to connect individuals to emergency shelters, warming centres, addiction and mental health services, harm reduction services and health supports in the community.	\$126,200
TBDSSAB - Lending Computers and Data	18 laptops (\$20,000) + 1 Year Data Packages (\$20,400) for lending	\$50,000
TBDSSAB - Pharmacy Support for Medication	Cover cost/co-pay of mental health and/or addictions medication as required	\$20,000
TBDSSAB - Renovate Hubs to Support MH&A	Trillium and Windsor resource centres (flooring, paint, furniture ordered)	\$12,000
TBDSSAB - Wellness Kits and Clothing	Food, clothing, and hygiene items for distribution to vulnerable populations through volunteer groups	\$4,000
TBDSSAB - Telecommunications Outreach	200 cell phones with 1-year data plan distributed to vulnerable population	\$184,000
TBDSSAB Administrative Allocation	3% of Allocated Amount	\$31,000
Total		\$1,039,244

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Mental Health and Addictions funding under CHPI is 100% provincially funded.

TBDSSAB has been notified that it is approved to receive \$1,040,046 to be spent on eligible operational activities.



TBDSSAB is eligible to use up to three per cent of the approved funding allocation for administration costs, totalling \$31,000.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the new mental health and addictions funding provided by the MMAH, and the eligible recipients and initiatives supported with this funding.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment #1 [Letter from MMAH dated January 13, 2021](#)

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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January 13, 2021

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

Dear Lucy Kloosterhuis:

I am writing to provide you with details regarding the \$10 million in new provincial funding announced on December 10, 2020, aimed at supporting a range of mental health and addictions-related supports and services across the province.

As you know, protecting the health and well-being of all Ontarians continues to be the government's number one priority. That is why my ministry has announced several investments since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak under the province's Social Services Relief Fund. This funding – worth \$510 million total – 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.

However, we know that our municipal and Indigenous partners continue to face extraordinary challenges and that additional assistance is needed, particularly to support those living with mental health and/or addictions issues. As a result, Ontario's Ministry of Health has provided my ministry with \$10 million in one-time mental health and addictions funding for 2020-21 to be allocated to select Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators under existing program agreements.

From this investment, I am pleased to announce that we have approved **\$1,040,046** in funding for the Thunder Bay DSSAB for 2020-21.

This flexible funding will help address the pandemic needs of vulnerable people living with mental health and/or addictions issues and may be used for eligible operating activities in your local area. Below are additional details regarding your allocation, including examples of eligible uses of funding.

Program Details – Mental Health and Addictions Funding

Similar to the province's Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), your allocation under the mental health and/or addictions funding will flow through your Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) agreement. This will help ensure the investment is delivered as quickly as possible and to provide maximum flexibility to address community needs. For this dedicated mental health and/or addictions funding only, the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Program Guidelines are hereby amended by adding the terms set out in Supplement A to this letter.

This amendment forms part of your Service Manager Service Agreement effective January 1, 2013 with Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing ("Service Agreement") and any breach of any of the terms of the amendment shall constitute an Event of Default under the Service Agreement. All other provisions of the Service Agreement remain in full force and effect.

Please note that this funding is in addition to your base 2020-21 CHPI allocation, which the Ministry previously communicated to you on April 17, 2019, and any funding received under the initial or second phase of the SSRF. There will be no change to the program administration or payment process for payments under CHPI.

To receive this funding, you are required to sign this letter confirming your agreement to the terms and conditions of the funding, complete the attached Investment Plan and return them to the Ministry. You may submit your signed confirmation and completed Investment Plan via e-mail to Housing.Program.mah@ontario.ca.

Given the pressing need to help support vulnerable residents living with mental health and/or addictions issues during the pandemic, all funding must be spent by March 31, 2021. To ensure adequate time to spend your allocation, please ensure my Ministry receives your sign-back letter and completed attached Investment Plan **as soon as possible**.

Upon receipt of your sign-back letter, the Ministry will proceed to process your payment.

As noted above, your allocation under the mental health and/or addictions funding may be used for the following eligible operating costs to fund a range of mental health and/or addictions-related services and supports, including but not limited to:

- Mental health/illness and substance use supports and services, supports related to recovery (e.g. hiring mental health and addictions workers);
- Harm reduction and substance use assessment, support, treatment and withdrawal services;
- Crisis intervention and prevention services;
- Dual diagnosis and fetal alcohol supports;
- Medication assistance and medical care;

- Providing people with short-term mental health and addictions housing assistance (e.g., rent supplement or housing allowance) and mental health and addictions supports up to March 31, 2021); and
- Purchase technology/equipment needed to provide people with virtual mental health and/or addictions supports.

Please note that this funding is only being provided for the 2020-21 fiscal year and Service Managers are responsible for any program expenses not covered by the Funding.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the Ministry will implement By-Name Lists across Ontario in 2021 to help connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and supports. Service Managers in many Ontario communities are implementing By-Name Lists to provide real-time data about people experiencing homelessness in their communities. By-Name Lists provide information that can be used to prioritize and connect people to the right housing services and supports in their area, to coordinate access to services and to track local homelessness and changes over time. The Ministry will work collaboratively with stakeholders, experts and Service Managers on the implementation of a By-Name List approach so that future requirements are focused on achieving the best and most cost-effective outcomes.

As always, I would like to thank you for all your work during these challenging times. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist our most vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 outbreak and I look forward to continuing our work together as we serve the people of Ontario.

Yours truly,



Steve Clark
Minister

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

The Service Manager hereby agrees to the terms of this letter agreement, including the attached Supplement A.

Service Manager: The District of Thunder Bay Social
Services Administration Board

Name: Lucy Kloostertuis

Signature: 

Title: Board Chair

Date:

Name: William Bradica

Signature: 

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 15, 2021

I/We have authority to bind the organization.

Supplement "A"

Amendment to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Program Guidelines (April 2017), under the Service Manager Service Agreement effective January 1, 2013 (Service Agreement).

The CHPI Program Guidelines are modified by adding to them the provisions set out below which apply solely with respect to funding provided under the Mental Health and Addictions Funding (the "Funding") for the fiscal year 2020-21 notwithstanding that CHPI funding will continue to be governed by the Guidelines without the application of these provisions. The program shall remain in effect until July 31, 2021. Unless incorporated in this amendment, the provisions of the CHPI Program Guidelines shall not apply to the program.

1. Eligible Use of Funding

The Funding may be used to pay for eligible costs as reflected in the letter to which this Supplement A is attached incurred on or after April 1, 2020. Each Service Manager may use up to three (3) per cent of the Funding towards program administration. The budget for the initiative shall allocate the entire amount of Funding provided hereunder to these eligible costs and administration costs.

2. Payments

The full Funding allocation for each Service Manager shall be paid to such Service Manager following receipt by MMAH of (i) the executed sign-back letter to which this Supplement A is attached and (ii) the required completed Investment Plan.

3. Reporting and Performance Indicators

Each Service Manager shall report on each transfer payment recipient's progress towards meeting this initiative's objectives and any issues or events that arise that could have an impact on the initiative and/or funds provided, in the form and as requested by the Ministry.

Each Service Manager will be required to report on the following performance indicators for the year-end report:

- a) Number of households assisted that include a member with mental health and addictions issues;
- b) Number of households at risk of homelessness that include a member with mental health and addictions issues receiving services and supports directly related to housing stability (e.g., eviction prevention services, assistance with rental and energy arrears);

- c) Number of households experiencing homelessness that include a member with mental health and addictions issues receiving services and supports that contribute directly to a positive change in housing status (e.g., assistance to obtain housing);
- d) Number of households receiving services and supports related to mental health and/or addictions (e.g., community and hospital based mental health services, supports related to substance use and recovery); and
- e) Number of new staff members hired to support households with mental health and/or addictions issues.

4. Reallocation

The ministry reserves the right to reallocate Funding at its sole discretion.

5. Reconciliation

Each Service Manager shall require an audited report from each transfer payment recipient on the use of the Funding provided to it indicating whether all of the Funding has been spent on eligible program expenses and whether any of the Funding remains unspent by March 31, 2021. Each Service Manager shall recover any such unspent Funding from the transfer payment recipient. Each Service Manager shall subsequently refund all such monies to the Ministry of Finance which shall be a debt owing to the Crown in right of Ontario.

APPENDIX A

Investment Plan

Please see attached.