



	REPORT No.: 2021-31
MEETING DATE: JULY 15, 2021	DATE PREPARED: JUNE 16, 2021
SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES RELIEF FUND – PHASE 3 UPDATE	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with updated information regarding the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) Phase 3.

BACKGROUND

At the March 18, 2021 meeting, the Board was provided with initial information on the SSRF Phase 3, including the allocation to TBDSSAB of \$2,422,782 and the eligibility of projects and initiatives for these funds (Report No. 2021-11). The Board reviewed and approved the submission of an investment plan to MMAH, outlining the planned areas for expenditure (Resolution No. 21/20A).

An update on SSRF Phase 3 was provided to the Board at the April 15, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-17). In that report, Administration identified key areas of support targeted for the Phase 3 funding. These included rent and arrears support, emergency sheltering, and provision of additional temporary spaces as required, support for community housing providers to promote the safety and stability of those operators and tenants, and re-engaging community partners with the continuation of the Emergency Pandemic Fund, which promotes initiatives to address pandemic pressures directly between service providers and those they serve. A subsequent update was provided at the May 20, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-23), and again at the June 17, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-27).

COMMENTS

The SSRF Phase 3 funding implementation began April 1, following the approval of the investment plan by MMAH. A key area of support under the Phase 3 funding is rent supports to assist those impacted by the pandemic where rent and utility arrears may result in homelessness. Under the Phase 3 funding, it is anticipated that an additional

250 households may be supported by year end. As of June 28, 158 households have been assisted with funding totalling \$365,773.

TBDSSAB continues to provide support to community groups through the Emergency Pandemic Fund, an application-based initiative that looks to address the needs in all communities through supporting organizations in directly meeting the needs of the most vulnerable. Eligible expenses through the Emergency Pandemic Fund include shelter, food, transportation, supports, PPE, cleaning supplies and health and safety costs. This fund had been offered through prior phases of SSRF and was fully utilized. Through June 28, four applications have been received and approved under Phase 3, with a total expenditure of \$151,651.

Continued pressures are expected on the current emergency shelter system, as the pandemic has required operational changes. Reduced capacity to meet public health guidelines and the need to restrict access under static bed lists have resulted in the need for TBDSSAB to provide funding to overflow emergency shelters - temporary spaces provided to facilitate overnight shelter when access to emergency shelters is limited. Overflow emergency shelters utilize approved space offered and operated by community support organizations, as well as motel spaces as required. A total of \$69,497 has been expended from SSRF Phase 3 in this area through June 28.

The following chart outlines the budget and current expenditure for SSRF Phase 3 as of June 28, 2021:

	SSRF Phase 3	
	Allocation	Actuals YTD (Jun 28)
Rent Supports	473,475	365,773
Support to Community Groups	568,670	151,651
Overflow Shelter	295,000	69,497
Additional Cleaning	312,480	15,758
Testing	50,000	-
Personal Protective Equipment	100,000	26,406
Security	307,332	152,527
Administration	72,500	
Total	2,179,457	781,612

Moving forward, the needs and pressures related to COVID will continue to be monitored, and the amounts identified in the Initial Plan may be adjusted. Updates will be provided to the Board for information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The SSRF Phase 3 is a 100% provincially funded program. TBDSSAB will receive \$2,422,782 based on the approved SSRF Phase 3 Investment Plan submitted in March, for use through December 31, 2021.



TBDSSAB is eligible to use up to 3% of the approved funding allocation for administrative costs.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with updated information on the Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 funding received through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

None

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