



	REPORT No.: 2021-35
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2021	DATE PREPARED: AUGUST 30, 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. Subsequent updates were provided at the May 20, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-23), the June 17, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-27) and at the July 15, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-31).

COMMENTS

The SSRF Phase 3 funding implementation began April 1, following the approval of the TBDSSAB 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. In the most recent CMHC Rental Market Report, it is stated

that across Canada, rental entities reported a 58.3% increase in rental arrears through 2020. Under the Phase 3 funding, it is anticipated that an additional 250 households may be supported by year end. Information on this support has been broadly shared with community partners, to identify those in need. The demand for this support has been greater than initially estimated, and some additional funding has been moved into this support from other less utilized areas. As of August 30, 175 households have been assisted with funding totalling \$471,949.

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. One initiative supported under this fund is the WiiChiiHehWayWin Outreach Program delivered by Matawa First Nations Management. This program aims to provide coordination and assistance in the areas of prevention, intervention and navigation of services on behalf of members of the nine Matawa First Nation communities, as well as other non-members requiring assistance. The program provides Outreach Services in the City of Thunder Bay for homeless and vulnerable members, and provides food, clothing, supports and access to health care and other treatment. Funding totaling \$100,000 has been provided to this initiative under SSRF Phase 3 to date. Outcomes from this program will be shared by Matawa once an analysis has been completed.

TBDSSAB continues to address the safety and support of tenants in TBDSSAB owned properties as well as those in non-profit owned properties supported through the community housing system. This includes the provision of cleaning services and supplies, additional security for screening and the provision of PPE. Through August 30, \$235,822 has been expended under Phase 3 funding for these uses.

From the beginning of the pandemic, additional stressors have been placed on the emergency shelter system. 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. There has been a decline in the demand for overflow emergency shelter space through the summer months, however this may change as the weather turns colder. A total of \$69,497 has been expended from SSRF Phase 3 in this area through August 30. St. Joseph's Care Group continues to fund the needs for an isolation shelter, utilizing funding from the Public Health Alliance of Canada.

As an update, the following chart outlines all the Social Services Relief Funding expended by TBDSSAB to date, including the current expenditure for SSRF Phase 3 as of August 30, 2021. The total SSRF Phase 3 allocation is \$2,422,782:

	SSRF Phase 1	SSRF Phase 2	SSRF Holdback	SSRF Phase 3 (YTD)	Total
Capital	-	1,158,138	1,781,300	-	2,939,438
Community Support Applications	216,784	58,910	-	151,651	427,345
Isolation Shelter	419,995	503,828	-	227,753	1,151,576
Overflow Shelter	116,019	111,981	-	69,497	297,497
Supports to Housing Providers	26,873	-	-	-	26,873
Rent Supports	98,698	173,592	-	471,949	744,239
TBayTel Phone Services	13,919	-	-	-	13,919
Communications & Technology	11,867	6,824	-	-	18,691
Security	172,393	115,228	-	187,955	475,576
Additional Cleaning and PPE	78,080	8,959	-	47,867	134,906
Administration	33,672	55,182	55,000	34,700	178,554
Subtotal	\$ 1,188,300	\$ 2,192,642	\$ 1,836,300	\$ 1,191,372	\$ 6,408,614
Recoveries					
Anishnawbe Mushkiki	-	(55,000)	-	-	(55,000)
Reaching Home	-	(24,319)	-	-	(24,319)
CHPI	-	(272,864)	-	-	(272,864)
Total	\$ 1,188,300	\$ 1,840,459	\$ 1,836,300	\$ 1,191,372	\$ 6,056,431

As the needs and pressures related to COVID continue to develop, the amounts identified in the Phase 3 plan may be adjusted. The objective is to best utilize the available funds in the most impactful manner.

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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