



	<b>REPORT No.: 2022-01</b>
<b>MEETING DATE: JANUARY 13, 2022</b>	<b>DATE PREPARED: DECEMBER 22, 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES RELIEF FUND UPDATE</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

For information only.

**REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with an update regarding the TBDSSAB's spending under the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF).

**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 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, outlining the planned areas for expenditure (Resolution No. 21/20A).

An initial report 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), the July 15, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-31), the September 16, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-35), the October 21, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-50), the November 18, 2021 meeting (Report No.: 2021-56) and at the December 16, 2021 Meeting (Report No.: 2021-63).

**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. Under the Phase 3 funding, it was anticipated that 250 households may be supported by year end. Information on this support has been broadly shared with community partners, to assist in identifying those in need. The demand for this support has been greater than initially estimated, and some additional funding has been moved into this support area from other less utilized areas. As of December 22, 315 households have been assisted with funding totalling \$814,710.

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, community outreach, food, transportation, supports, PPE, cleaning supplies and health and safety costs. Through December 22, 17 applications totalling \$511,908 have been approved.

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 December 22, \$342,586 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 limited demand for overflow emergency shelter space through the past several months. TBDSSAB supported the creation of 6 new shelter spaces for women, which helps to address the need. A total of \$73,222 has been expended from SSRF Phase 3 in this area through December 22. St. Joseph's Care Group continues to fund the needs for an isolation shelter in Thunder Bay, utilizing funding from the Public Health Alliance of Canada.

As an update, the following chart outlines all the SSRF expended by TBDSSAB to date, including the current expenditure for SSRF Phase 3 as of December 22, 2021. The total SSRF Phase 3 allocation is \$2,422,782.

	SSRF Phase 1	SSRF Phase 2	SSRF Phase 3 (YTD)	Total
Capital	-	2,939,438	-	2,939,438
Community Support Applications	216,784	58,910	511,908	787,602
Isolation Hotel	419,995	503,828	227,753	1,151,576
Overflow Hotel	116,019	111,981	73,222	301,222
Supports to Housing Providers	26,873	-	-	26,873
Rent Supports	98,698	173,592	814,710	1,087,000
Communications and Technology	25,786	6,824	-	32,610
Security	172,393	115,228	261,341	548,962
Additional Cleaning and PPE	78,080	8,959	81,245	168,284
Administration	33,672	55,182	59,105	202,959
<b>Expenditure Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,188,300</b>	<b>\$4,028,942</b>	<b>\$2,029,284</b>	<b>\$7,246,526</b>
<b>Recoveries</b>				
Anishnawbe Mushkiki	-	(55,000)	-	(55,000)
Reaching Home	-	(24,319)	-	(24,319)
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative	-	(272,864)	-	(272,864)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,188,300</b>	<b>\$3,676,759</b>	<b>\$2,029,284</b>	<b>\$6,894,343</b>

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 is a 100% provincially funded program, although recoveries from other sources were necessary during Phase 2. TBDSSAB received \$2,422,782 based on the approved SSRF Phase 3 Investment Plan submitted in March, for use through December 31, 2021. These funds are expected to be fully expended by 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 SSRF funding received from the MMAH.

**REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED**

None

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