



## **BOARD REPORT**

**REPORT No.: 2022-14**

**MEETING DATE: MARCH 17, 2022**

**SUBJECT: REACHING HOME - RURAL AND REMOTE CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT with respect to Report No. 2022-14 (Integrated Social Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (the Board), authorize the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka for the delivery of the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote program;

AND THAT any necessary By-law be presented to the Board for consideration.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

To provide The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information regarding the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote program, and to seek authorization to sign a Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka for continued funding for April 2022 through March 2023.

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of the National Housing Strategy, the Government of Canada announced a total investment of \$2.2 billion for homelessness over 10 years. At that time, the federal government funded a program called the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a program that encouraged applications from organizations requesting funds to address homelessness in their communities. In Northern Ontario, the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka was selected to administer the program for rural and remote communities.

Under the HPS, several larger centres in Canada were targeted for funding, including the City of Thunder Bay. The Lakehead Social Planning Council is the Community Entity for HPS for the City of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre is the Community Entity for the Indigenous stream under HPS for the City of Thunder Bay.

In early 2018, TBDSSAB applied under the Ontario Rural and Remote component of the fund to focus efforts on communities throughout the District of Thunder Bay that were underserved by homelessness supports. A total of \$45,000 was awarded for the period of April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. These funds were used to assist the homeless with meeting initial household start-up expenses, including first and last months' rent, utility connections, furnishings, and other related expenses. Further, those at risk of homelessness were assisted with rent and utility arrears, winter firewood and similar expenses.

On April 1, 2019, this program was renamed Reaching Home. At the time of transition, no new application was required, and funding was renewed to TBDSSAB by the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka for 2019-20.

In early 2020, the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka sought new expressions of interest for 2-year funding under the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote program. TBDSSAB submitted a proposal to offer supports similar to those previously provided and on March 26, 2020 TBDSSAB was advised that the expression of interest was approved in the amount \$60,000 for the period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 and a further \$60,000 for the period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. Continued participation in this program was approved by the Board through Resolution No. 20/34.

## **COMMENTS**

The United Way of Simcoe Muskoka reached out to TBDSSAB to determine interest in continuing with the program for another 1-year term, April 2022 through March 2023. The amount of the funding and the deliverables remain unchanged from the previous agreement.

Through the past four years of operating this program, TBDSSAB has been able to assist 68 households in the District of Thunder Bay communities other than the City of Thunder Bay to obtain housing or remain housed through the provision of funding and supports. These households were located in the following communities: Marathon, Manitouwadge, Greenstone, Nipigon, Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Oliver Paipoonge, and the Territory Without Municipal Organization.

In order to receive funding, Service Managers are required to sign a Contribution Agreement with the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka that sets out the roles and responsibilities of the parties and the accountability framework for the program, including the terms for funding and reporting requirements. The Contribution Agreement has been prepared by the United Way of Simcoe Muskoka and is required to be signed and returned to them by April 30, 2022.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT**

This program supports the strategic plan vision of establishing flexible, inclusive services through the provision of relevant diverse housing supports. The program supports the success of the people we serve.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



The Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote program is a 100% federally funded program. There would be no impact on the TBDSSAB municipal levy.

## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the Reaching Home – Ontario Rural and Remote program and Administration's recommendation to continue participation in the program. It is further concluded that the Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute all required agreements related to the program.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

None

PREPARED BY:	Crystal Simeoni, Manager, Housing Programs
SIGNATURE	
APPROVED BY	Ken Ranta, Director, Integrated Social Services Division
SIGNATURE	
SUBMITTED BY:	William Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer