



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Homelessness Prevention Funding

POSITION PAPER

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Prepared by:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Prepared for:

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Brief

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) appreciates and acknowledges the Home for Good (HFG), Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), and Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) funding allocations received this year and requests that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing combine the HFG and CHPI allocations and increase the combined amount to \$5,440,093 and allow for capital projects to be funded through CHPI.

Summary

The Emergency Shelters in the District of Thunder Bay have been over 100% capacity for the previous 5 years relying on overflow spaces to meet the demand for their services. The Emergency Shelters are funded through CHPI and despite the successful implementation of the Home for Good program, Emergency Shelter usage has stubbornly remained above 100% capacity. In order to build upon the success of the HFG program and reduce Emergency Shelter usage, the TBDSSAB requests that the MMAH combine the HFG and CHPI allocations and increase the combined funding amount to from \$4,812,590 to \$5,440,093. Further, it is requested that the MMAH allow capital projects to be funded through this combined program.

Background

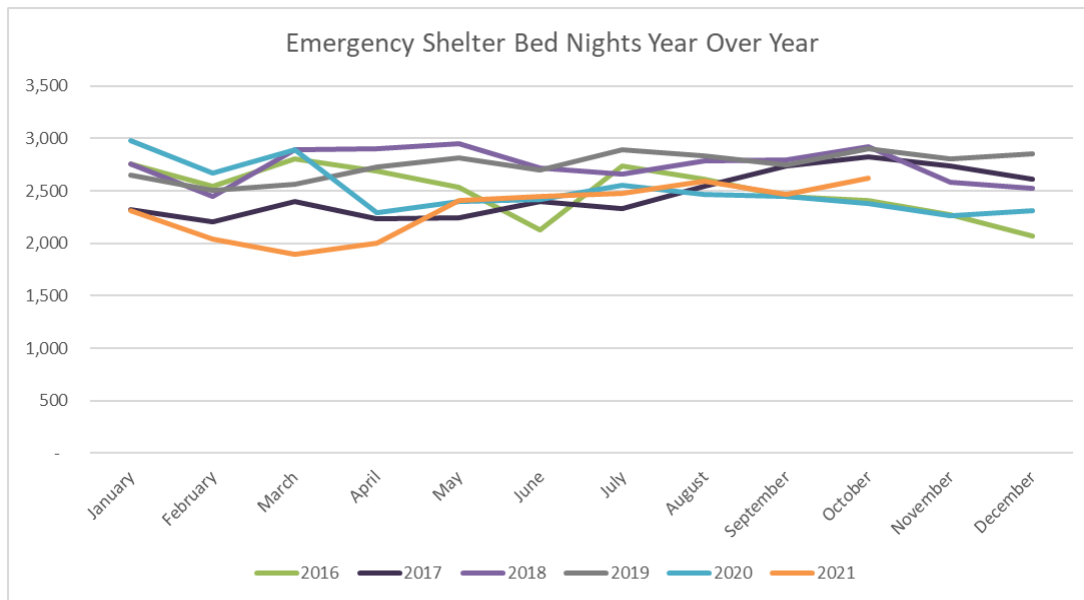
Through the HFG funding allocation, the TBDSSAB created a system to house homeless individuals and families with appropriate supports by utilizing a special category on the Community Housing waitlist called the High Needs Homeless (HNH).

The system works by the TBDSSAB Transition Outreach Support Workers (TOSW) attending the Emergency Shelters to assist the homeless to complete the Community Housing application as well as completing an initial Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool assessment to determine their support needs.

Once completed, and if determined eligible, the individual or family is placed on the HNH waitlist and a support referral is made to one of the HFG funded support agencies. TBDSSAB has established partnerships with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and St. Joseph's Care Group to deliver support services. The HFG support workers, in partnership with the TOSW, work to stabilize their support needs and work to secure stable housing. Once an individual is established at the top of the HNH waitlist they may receive a unit within the Community Housing stock, a rent supplement unit or may receive a portable benefit funded through the HFG program. In circumstances where an individual is determined to need more time to adjust to independent living, they will be referred to the Lodge on Dawson, a transitional housing environment that was established through the capital component of the HFG funding.

The HFG program has been tremendously successful. In 2020, the HFG funding supported 176 households. Of this total, 92 individuals received both housing assistance and support services with HFG funding. This has resulted in housing chronic emergency shelter users into transitional or more permanent housing.

Despite the successful implementation of the HFG program, Emergency Shelter usage has remained above 100% capacity in the District of Thunder Bay, due to new users accessing the system.



Currently there are 80 individuals on the High Needs Homeless waitlist for HFG supports. With an increase in CHPI/HFG funding, the TBDSSAB will be able to support an additional 45-50 chronic homeless individuals and families, helping to achieve the province’s stated goal of addressing chronic homelessness.

Through the SSRF capital funding, more than \$2.9 million was invested in the District of Thunder Bay to address the needs of establishing and maintaining safe shelter for those most in need. Allowing more funding for capital through CHPI would provide for increased transitional housing capacity, eventually leading to a reduced need operationally for emergency shelters as TBDSSAB addresses more permanent measures for the chronically homeless.

Further, providing additional CHPI funding and allowing capital expenditures permit TBDSSAB to leverage federal funding programs like the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) to create more local transitional/supportive housing solutions. The RHI was initiated this past year, but there was not a significant availability of funds for Service Managers in smaller areas, and without sufficient capital to create capacity in transitional and permanent housing, the homeless issue will continue.

Therefore, TBDSSAB requests that the MMAH combine the HFG and CHPI allocations and increase the combined amount to \$5,440,093, and allow for capital projects to be funded through CHPI.