



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Advocacy to Align Housing and Homelessness Funding Timeframes

POSITION PAPER

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AMO Annual Conference

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) urges the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to align Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) Investment Plans with the funding allocation timeframes.

Summary

TBDSSAB requests that the MMAH aligns HPP, OPHI and COCHI Investment Plans with the funding allocation time frames to reduce red tape, provide stability and certainty to service providers, reduce approval times to support retention of staff and longer-term planning for capital projects.

Background

The TBDSSAB acknowledges and is grateful for the substantial increase in its HPP allocation received from MMAH. These enhanced resources, coupled with the ability to use HPP for capital, will assist in ensuring that many homeless individuals have a pathway towards housing and those at risk of homelessness remain housed. TBDSSAB also acknowledges the important ongoing support from MMAH provided under OPHI and COCHI.

In order to meet the goals established through HPP, OPHI and COCHI the TBDSSAB partners with third-party service providers who provide support and services to those experiencing homelessness. Presently, with annual Investment Plans, the TBDSSAB is only able to commit annual funding to these organizations. As a result, it can often be

difficult to attract and retain quality staff as the positions they offer are on a contract basis due to the short-term funding commitments. In addition, the ability to select capital projects for the entire term

If Investment Plans were aligned with the funding allocation time frame, rather than requiring an annual plan to be prepared and approved, this would assist third party operators with staffing issues and provide the TBDSSAB with the tools to manage the system more appropriately including planning for capital projects given the longer-term approval of our Investment Plan by the MMAH.

It is understood that the notional allocations provided are subject to passing of the Ontario Budget each year, and that, should there be a change to an allocation as a result of a future Budget, an amendment to the plan would be required. There would also be language included in funding and contribution agreements with third-party recipients identifying that future year funding amounts are subject to the annual budget approval.

Therefore, TBDSSAB requests that MMAH aligns HPP, the OPHI and the COCHI Investment Plans with the 3-year funding allocations.