



## BOARD REPORT

REPORT No.: 2024-18

MEETING DATE: APRIL 18, 2024

SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM – INVESTMENT PLAN 2024-25

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### RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2024-18 (Integrated Social Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, approve the Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for 2024-25 as presented and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit the plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

AND THAT the Board authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer to execute any Agreements and other documents related thereto;

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 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and to present the 2024-25 Investment Plan for approval.

### BACKGROUND

The HPP aims to address chronic homelessness across the province and provide greater flexibility to support a wide range of homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities. The funding will provide housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations and support households to remain stably housed over time. There is also flexibility to fund capital projects and provide longer-term rental assistance as appropriate.

### COMMENTS

The proposed 2024-25 Investment Plan established for the HPP provides a focus on continuing the ongoing provision of supports and services to address homelessness

needs that have been identified in each community and have become more prevalent in recent years. The Investment Plan also includes a significant investment in capital projects to expand the transitional and supportive housing options for the District of Thunder Bay.

Outlined in the guidelines for the HPP are a set of performance indicators that have been developed to monitor and track progress on the achievement of program outcomes, including the ultimate goal of measuring a reduction in homelessness and chronic homelessness. For each performance indicator identified, data elements will be tracked and analyzed by Administration and reported to MMAH annually in the Service Manager year-end report. Defined performance measures are in place and form part of the annual funding agreements with service and delivery partners.

The proposed Investment Plan identifies the recommendations for service category expenditures under the HPP based on the review and analysis by Administration in considering existing needs, pressures, programs, and new initiatives. Following is a comparison of the HPP Investment Plan for 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 by service category:

<b>Service Category</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<b>Operating</b>		
Community Outreach and Support Services	\$2,723,567	\$2,883,275
Emergency Shelter Solutions	\$1,927,653	\$1,603,030
Housing Assistance	\$1,583,300	\$1,831,400
Supportive Housing	\$1,112,400	\$586,400
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$7,346,920</b>	<b>\$6,904,105</b>
<b>Capital</b>		
Supportive Housing	\$8,374,630	\$8,857,445
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>\$8,374,630</b>	<b>\$8,857,445</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Administration Fees	\$827,450	\$787,450
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$16,549,000</b>	<b>\$16,549,000</b>

To prepare for potential funding opportunities for capital projects, TBDSSAB engaged in an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in both 2022 and 2023 to seek potential projects for future consideration. A number of submissions were received, with varying viability and eligibility considerations. Administration reviews all submissions to determine the readiness of the project, total cost and cost per unit, potential proponent contribution, financial proforma completeness and the overall ability of the proposed project to address affordable housing needs throughout the district.

Though not all proposed projects meet the criteria for funding under the HPP, Administration is working with proponents to identify capital investments for the 2024-25 funding year. Details of these projects will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval in a future Closed Session report.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

This program supports the TBDSSAB Strategic Plan practical vision of providing safe, affordable, agency-supported housing that everyone deserves.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HPP is a 100% provincially funded program. TBDSSAB has been notified that it will receive \$16,549,000 upon approval of the HPP Investment Plan for the April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 funding year.

TBDSSAB is eligible to use up to 5% of the approved funding allocation for administration costs. The allowable administration costs for the Ministry fiscal 2024-25 is \$827,450.



## CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the Homelessness Prevention Program and the proposed Investment Plan allocations for 2024-25.

It is recommended that the Board authorize the CAO to submit the final HPP Investment Plan to MMAH once the template is available, and to execute all other required agreements related to the program and make all necessary submissions to meet program guidelines and timeframes.

## REFERENCE MATERIALS

Attachment #1 [Letter from the Honourable Steve Clark, MMAH, dated March 24, 2023](#)

PREPARED BY:	Aaron Park, Manager, Housing and Homelessness Programs
SIGNATURE	
APPROVED BY	Ken Ranta, Director, Integrated Social Services Division
SIGNATURE	
SUBMITTED BY:	William (Bill) Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre  
777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



March 24, 2023

Ken Boshcoff  
Board Chair  
Thunder Bay DSSAB  
231 May Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B5

Dear Ken Boshcoff:

**Re: Funding Allocation Updates for the Homelessness Prevention Program –  
2023-24 to 2025-26**

I am pleased and excited to be writing to you today with important details regarding your funding allocations for the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) for the next three years. I hope that the multi-year planning allocations will help you plan services and delivery approaches over the longer-term.

Please note that we are providing these details for planning purposes at this point and **the Ministry requires that all information set out in this letter regarding the Homelessness Prevention Program be held confidential until publicly announced by the province in the coming weeks.** The province will have sole responsibility for the initial public communication regarding the HPP funding described in this letter.

Our government is investing an additional **\$202 million** annually under the HPP and Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP) beginning in 2023-24. This ongoing investment in supportive housing and homelessness prevention services will help vulnerable Ontarians and demonstrates our commitment to serving the needs of diverse communities across Ontario. With this significant commitment, my ministry will be investing a total of over \$695 million per year to provide housing services to those most in need.

This new funding builds on the government's investment of nearly \$4.4 billion over the past three years to grow and enhance community and supportive housing, respond to COVID-19 and help address the needs of vulnerable people. We expect that this additional funding will help get shovels in the ground on new supportive housing, which is widely considered a key element in preventing and addressing homelessness. This

funding will also help you address increasing pressures in the emergency shelter sector including the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness and shelter capacity issues.

Meanwhile, we continue to advocate with the federal government to receive our fair share of federal homelessness funding. Currently, Ontario is underfunded by about \$90 million for homelessness over the term of the National Housing Strategy compared to its share of households in core housing need nationally, which is the highest in the country.

### **HPP Funding Allocations – Thunder Bay DSSAB**

<b>Program Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Allocation Amounts</b>
2022-23 (for reference)	\$5,567,400
2023-24 (confirmed)	\$16,549,000*
2024-25 (planned)	\$16,549,000
2025-26 (planned)	\$16,549,000

**Note:** \*The funding allocation amount for 2023-24 replaces the previous HPP allocation communicated through the Minister’s letter dated February 3, 2023.

These allocations are based on a new funding allocation model that responds to the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario (OAGO) Value For Money Audit of Homelessness (2021) and feedback from consultations with Service Managers (SMs) and sector partners.

The allocation model has been refreshed to use indicators that better reflect the current need for homelessness services and supportive housing in each community compared to the previous model. The outdated historical spending indicator has been replaced with measures of homelessness and supportive housing and all indicators have been updated to use the latest available data.

As you are aware, SMs have the flexibility to choose how to best use the provincial funding for programs and services that address and prevent homelessness in your communities including rent supplements, homeless shelters and supportive housing.

To receive your HPP funding, you are required to complete and submit an Investment Plan (IP) to demonstrate how your funding allocation would be used to achieve the objectives of the program and to project program outcomes. You can access the IP template and upload the completed IP in TPON. Further instructions on this will be provided by the Ministry’s Housing Service Desk.

Please submit your IP in TPON by May 1, 2023. The Ministry has extended this timeline from the April 15 deadline found in the HPP Program Guidelines to allow for sufficient time to plan program related activities for 2023-24.

The HPP requires all SMs to maintain a By-Name List that meets provincial standards. By-Name Lists help SMs understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness in their communities, track changes in service needs over time, and prioritize and coordinate housing services and supports. **The By-Name List 2022 requirements under the HPP which were announced in April 2022 and are to be implemented by April 1, 2023**, build on earlier requirements, and support the goals of addressing and reducing homelessness. These new requirements include a more extensive set of data points and broader coverage and comprehensiveness that will help SMs connect more people to the services and supports they need.

To help support risk management, preparedness, and service capacity planning by the Ministry, **beginning in fiscal 2023-24, SMs will be required to update/verify, on a semi-annual basis, facility-level information about emergency shelters and congregate living supportive housing facilities, which are either wholly or in-part funded by MMAH.**

This information request is based on information previously collected from SMs as part of the COVID-19 risk management survey reporting and includes information such as facility name, address, and capacity. SMs must review and verify the facility-level information twice in each fiscal year, in July and January, to help account for seasonal changes in capacity and to align with regular Q1 and Q3 reporting deadlines (July 15th and January 15th) under HPP. Prior to the first reporting deadline, the ministry will share with each SM an Excel file containing pre-populated information and further instructions. Once reviewed and updated by SMs, the Excel file can be submitted to the ministry as an attachment using the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) system.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist vulnerable people in your communities and I look forward to continuing our work together as we move forward with delivery of this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. William Bradica, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jessica Vail, Team Lead, Municipal Services Office