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## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** March 22, 2023  
**To:** Social Services Sub-committee  
**From:** Shannon Archer, Business and Integration Manager  
Kehlar Hillyer, Housing Policy and Program Coordinator  
Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services  
**Report #:** SOC23-010  
**Attachments:** None

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**Title:** 2023-24 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs

**Objective:** To provide an update on the community housing and homelessness prevention program allocations received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH).

**Background:** On February 3, 2023, the City of Stratford, as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for the City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and County of Perth, was notified of the planning funding allocations for the period of April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, for the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI), Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) and Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) initiatives.

The City of Stratford's planning allocation for the 2023-24 fiscal year, with comparison to the actual funding for the 2022-23 fiscal year is shown in the table below.

Fiscal Year	COCHI	OPHI	COHB	HPP	Total
2023-24	\$597,400	\$359,000	\$150,700	\$3,027,300	\$4,134,400
2022-23	\$540,003	\$356,100	\$196,600	\$3,027,300	\$4,120,003

## **Analysis:**

### **Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)**

To support Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy, COCHI was launched in the 2019-20 fiscal year. COCHI funding is provided under the National Housing Strategy and represents a reinvestment of federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. It provides an opportunity for Service Managers and housing providers to address the challenges associated with social housing projects reaching the end of their operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity and provided flexible funding for social housing affordability support, repair and/or new supply.

### **Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)**

In addition to COCHI, the Ministry also launched OPHI under the *Community Housing Renewal Strategy* for the fiscal term of 2019-20. OPHI provides significant flexibility to address local priorities in the areas of housing supply and affordability, including new affordable rental construction, community housing repair, rental assistance, tenant supports and affordable homeownership.

### **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)**

COHB is a joint federal/provincial housing allowance program under the National Housing Strategy launched in April 2020.

The purpose of COHB is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable, housing benefit payment directly to eligible households in housing need that are on, or are eligible to be on, a social housing waiting list. The benefit is also available to households residing in community housing who are demonstrating need.

### **Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)**

April 1, 2022, HPP was launched as a provincially funded program that supports Ontario's 47 municipal Service Managers to provide affordable housing and support services for people at risk of experiencing homelessness. The objective of the program is to support Service Managers with preventing, addressing, and reducing homelessness which includes chronic homelessness.

It combines three previous programs and is intended to be streamlined and flexible so that Service Managers can target where community need is greatest and can be most impactful.

## **Financial Implications:**

### **Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

The current planning allocations have been reflected in the 2023 proposed Operating Budget and are captured in the following areas:

- Homelessness – both administration and initiatives
- Housing – both administration and affordable housing

Therefore, there are no anticipated variances expected from the draft budget as presented.

## **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

### **Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships**

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

### **Developing our Resources**

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment. We are shifting resources and service provisions from managing to ending homelessness with a focus on chronic homelessness.

### **Widening our Economic Opportunities**

Strengthening Stratford's economy by creating safe, suitable housing for residents of Stratford. Once suitable housing is secured, residents will have the freedom to reintegrate as part of the economy supporting a variety of industries.

## **Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

### **Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

### **Equity and Local Economy**

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "2023-24 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs" (SOC23-010), be received for information.**

### **Prepared by:**

Kehlar Hillyer, Policy & Program Coordinator  
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### **Recommended by:**

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services  
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer