

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. Your File/V/Réf.	05-99-0029
DATE	16 December 1999
TO/DEST.	Co-ordinator, Community Services Committee
FROM/EXP.	Medical Officer of Health Social Services Commissioner Special Advisor on Social Housing
SUBJECT/OBJET	FUNDING FOR THE HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES TEAM

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve the allocation of \$300,000 from the Community Services envelope to provide on-going funding for the continued operations of the Homelessness Initiatives Team.

BACKGROUND

The Province has designated the Region as the Consolidated Service System Manager (CMSM) for homelessness. In addition, the Province made available \$733,000 in on-going funding for homelessness initiatives. Regional Council approved the recommendations in the Community Action Plan for Homelessness in July, 1999 and added \$1 million in one-time funding to make a total of \$1.733 million available for agencies in the community who are providing housing and support services for the homeless. The Province recently increased Homelessness Initiatives Funding for Ottawa-Carleton by an additional \$117,617 in one-time funds. It has also determined that up to 15% of hostel funding could be redirected to alternate programs, in order to reduce the continued increase in hostel usage. The combination of these initiatives will involve implementation of 22 recommendations and an estimated 35 additional projects providing services to the homeless.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

In order to continue development of a co-ordinated service system for homelessness, we made available resources from our departments to fund 5 staff on an interim basis during the latter months of 1999. Three staff were funded from Social Services, one from Health and one from Social Housing.

Ultimately, the on-going operations for homelessness will be determined through the work of Deloitte Touche, who are carrying out a review of all the Region's Human Services functions. However, it is apparent that the Region will have responsibility for this issue in the long term and it is appropriate that funding be established now so that this operational requirement can be carried out.

Staff are required to undertake the following functions:

1. Service System Management

- Maintain an inventory of existing services for the homeless, and continue to respond to gaps and priorities based on need.
- Facilitate the co-ordination of services among agencies.
- Develop contracts, based on outcomes, with service providers funded through the Homelessness Initiatives Fund, monitor results and disburse funding.
- Enhance the capacity of the community to provide services and housing for the homeless.
- Report to Regional Council and the Province on activities, costs and outcomes.

2. Housing Projects

- Monitor, oversee and fund new housing projects, emanating from the Homelessness Initiatives Funding.
- Advocate for lands and properties from other levels of government.
- Oversee housing support projects designed to reduce reliance on shelter services.
- Monitor and fund projects designed to prevent evictions from existing housing.

3. Health Projects

- Implement projects related to convalescent, palliative and long-term care, and drug and alcohol abuse by the homeless.
- Facilitate development of an interagency/hospital network to meet the health needs of the homeless.
- Co-ordinate primary care services.

4. Social Services/Advocacy

- Ensure co-ordination and effective monitoring of outreach programs to provide support to those living on the street and to actively assist them to move to shelters or permanent housing.
- Continue to advocate on behalf of the homeless for funding from senior levels of government and the private sector.
- Support implementation of the Public/Private Task Force on Homelessness to encourage the private sector to take a more active role in dealing with homelessness.

CONCLUSION

The provision of \$300,000 would allow for the continuation of 5 staff to work on the implementation of homelessness initiatives. A full report providing an update on progress in implementing the Community Action Plan will be presented to Regional Council in February, 2000.

Signed by

Signed by

Signed by

Robert Cushman

Richard Stewart

Joyce Potter