

# Community Services / Housing with Supports

## Statement of Purpose

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The Community Services / Housing with Supports program provides support for at-risk County residents who also have a need of financial assistance.

## Service Description

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The Housing with Supports program provides assistance to County residents who require residential care and assistance with daily living activities and are also in need of financial assistance. This program is provided through purchase of service agreements with twelve rest and retirement homes throughout Essex County, and provincial funding is administered by the City of Windsor Social Services department as a part of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). This program is a discretionary service for the County of Essex.

## Staffing Chart

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| Staffing  | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2016<br>Actual<br>(\$000) | 2017<br>Actual<br>(\$000) | 2018<br>Budget<br>(\$000) | 2018<br>Actual<br>(\$000) | 2019<br>Budget<br>(\$000) |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Full-Time | 2    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 124                       | 131                       | 222                       | 219                       | 224                       |
| Student   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 9                         | 9                         | 10                        | 6                         | 10                        |
| Total     | 3    | 3    | 4    | 4    | 133                       | 140                       | 232                       | 225                       | 234                       |

## Prior Year Performance

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The Provincially funded Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) provides flexible funding to address homelessness initiatives throughout the region. Program consolidation allows municipalities to use funding in a manner that is reflective of and reactive to the region's local needs, and the County is an active participant in the committees tasked with developing long-term work plans to address housing and homelessness needs.

The County contribution is projected to be slightly over budget as the recoveries were less than expected for the year, by approximately \$18,500. In an attempt to mitigate the shortfall, new admissions to the program were suspended starting in September 2018. As a result, the number of subsidized individuals has decreased from 226 to 219 and the program waitlist has increased to approximately 35 individuals waiting for subsidy.

## Proposed Budget – Current Year

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The Housing with Supports program is a significant component of the region's homelessness prevention strategy. As such, the type of client being served in this program has shifted substantially since the transition to the CHPI funding format. In addition, there has been a

## Community Services / Housing With Supports

dramatic shift in the County's service delivery model under this program. Client suitability used to be determined largely by the home owner, and County's role was to determine eligibility for ongoing financial support. Clients now frequently present with more complex needs, often without the necessary community supports for a successful transition. The County, therefore, has increased its role in determining the suitability of placement of clients within this program, as well as ensuring that an appropriate level of service is provided at all Homes.

In April 2018, a per diem increase was approved by the City of Windsor for Housing with Supports Providers within Windsor-Essex County. The per diem rate increased to \$53.09 per resident effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, and was approved to increase again on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, to a total of \$55.00 per day per resident. County Council also supported this increase. Subsequent to that approval, however, the City of Windsor has provided notification that the 2019 increase to the Housing with Supports allocation from the CHPI funding will not be sufficient to fully compensate for the approved increased per diem at existing service levels. While there has been no reduction to the total CHPI funding (and in fact, an increase is anticipated but not confirmed for 2019), demand for Emergency Shelter services (which are also funded by CHPI) have more than doubled over the past year. Certain 2018 CHPI initiatives were deferred and additional funding has been diverted to the Emergency Shelter program, but demand is not expected to wane in 2019. Discussions continue with the City of Windsor's Social Services Department to advocate for additional funding to cover the cost of the per diem increases to prevent an impact on service delivery. Council may need to consider further reductions to the number of subsidized beds if the funding for 2019 is not increased. Thus far, the City of Windsor has committed to providing the program \$1,789,360 in CHPI funding for the 2019 Budget. Based on projected per diem costs required to continue operating at a level of 226 subsidized individuals, this will result in a per diem funding shortfall of \$87,630.

In addition, transportation costs for individuals supported by the Housing with Supports Program and needing to get to medical appointments continues to be a challenge. Individuals over the age of 65 do not qualify for medical transportation funds provided by Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), therefore, the cost is often absorbed by family members or the Housing with Support Provider. In some cases, when there are no alternatives available to cover transportation costs, assistance through discretionary funding from the County's contribution to the Housing with Supports program has been utilized. The program, however, has not always been able to financially assist subsidized residents due to demand exceeding the limited funds allocated for discretionary purposes. The 2019 Budget reflects an increase in discretionary funds to \$5000 to be able to assist more subsidized residents with the cost of transportation to medical appointments, as well as medications not covered by OHIP, dental procedures and other medical items not otherwise funded.

The 2019 Budget provides for a County contribution of \$520,190. This represents an increase of \$105,180 over the 2018 contribution, predominantly to compensate for the estimated \$87,630 shortfall anticipated from the City Social Services CHPI contribution, but also due to anticipated reductions in recoveries.

# Community Services / Housing With Supports

## Levels of Service (Chart)

### Housing with Supports Increased Cost for Levels of Service 2012 - 2019

Gross  
Cost of  
Service

# Beds

