



Administrative Report

Office of the Director of Council & Community Services/Clerk

To: Warden McNamara and Members of County Council

**From: Jeanie Diamond-Francis
Community Services Manager**

Date: Wednesday, April 07, 2021

Subject: Housing with Supports Service Provider

Report #: 2021-0407-CCS-R05-JDF

Purpose

To seek County Council authorization to enter into an Agreement to provide housing with supports care, with a new Housing with Supports.

Background

The Housing with Supports program provides assistance to County residents who require financial assistance, residential care and assistance with daily living activities. This program is provided through purchase of service agreements with nine 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.

The Building Bridges Erie Shores Program is a congregate living facility with the capacity to provide Housing with Supports to ten (10) youth between the ages of fourteen (14) and twenty-four (24). Their mission is to have every youth feel valued, respected, supported and to have the ability and opportunity to reach their potential. The organization assists in meeting this vision by providing temporary housing, one-on-one support, advocacy, system navigation in addition to meeting their basic needs. Youth are

encouraged to set goals and they receive support to prepare them for independent living. To date, this program has not received Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) provincial funding administered by the City of Windsor and relies heavily on donations and fundraising to support their operations.

Discussion

Building Bridges Erie Shores ("The Bridge") is located at 310 Sherk Street in Leamington. They are a not-for-profit organization that currently provides temporary supported housing to a maximum of ten (10) youth in a congregate living setting.

In response to inquiries from the Executive Director of the Bridge, County Administration approached the City of Windsor Housing and Children's Services Administration, as the Consolidated Municipal Services Delivery Manager and manager of the CHPI funds for the region, about allowing some flexibility in the existing Housing with Supports program to allow the County to allocate some of the County's existing Housing with Supports program funding to support the Building Bridges Erie Shores Program for youth.

County Administration has held several meetings with the Building Bridges Erie Shores Executive Director to modify the Housing with Supports Program Service Agreement and inspection form to be applicable to their program. The Building Bridges Erie Shores program philosophy focusses on promoting independence and preparing youth to be successful with education, employment and independent living. Their program's eligibility criteria also varies from the traditional Housing with Supports Providers as they serve youth aged fourteen (14) to twenty-four (24). Therefore, in consultation with the County's Legal Counsel, the Service Agreement was amended and both parties agreed to change the age and medical need eligibility criteria.

Furthermore, a site inspection was completed by the Housing with Supports team and both parties agreed that only a few Housing with Supports Standards would not be applicable to this program. The principal goal of the Housing with Supports Program is to provide support, care and financial assistance to individuals requiring supportive housing. Therefore, the Housing with Supports Team is very excited to expand their scope of work and support the youth in the Building Bridges Erie Shores Program.

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Housing with Supports New Service Agreement

Financial Implications

The addition of this new Service Provider will not impact the approved Housing with Supports program budget. During the 2020 year, the County terminated Housing with Supports Service Agreements with three (3) service providers, therefore, there are currently subsidized beds that can be allocated to this program.

Recommendation

That County Council adopt By-law #2021-13, authorizing the Warden and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Building Bridges Erie Shores to provide subsidized housing with supports care.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeanie Diamond-Francis

Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Community Services Manager

Concurred With,

Mary Birch

Mary Birch, Director of Council & Community Services / Clerk

Concurred With,

Mike Galloway

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix No.	Title of Appendix
Appendix	Housing with Supports Purchase of Service Agreement