



## **Administrative Report**

### **Office of the Manager, Community Services**

**To:** Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

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

**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022

**Subject:** Housing with Supports New Service Provider

**Report #:** 2022-0216-CS-R01-JDF

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#### **Purpose**

To seek County Council authorization to enter into an Agreement to provide housing with supports care, with a new housing provider located in Stoney Point.

#### **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 ten rest and retirement homes throughout Essex County, and provincial funding is administered by the City of Windsor's 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 Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program is a congregate living facility with the capacity to provide Housing with Supports to thirty-two (32) individuals twenty-five years and older. Residents will be encouraged to set goals and will receive support and guidance to meet their goals. In addition, staff will be trained in the areas of mental health and addictions to be better able to support the complex needs of their residents.

Furthermore, this innovative program will aim to house individuals that are

on the By-Names Prioritized List and that are currently experiencing some form of chronic homelessness.

## **Discussion**

The Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program is located in Stoney Point. The home has a total capacity of approximately thirty-two (32) residents and the County of Essex Administration is prepared to allocate twenty (20) subsidies as part of the Housing with Supports Program. The City of Windsor has stated that although they greatly support the establishment of this innovative program in the County, they are not able to allocate additional funding to support this program. County Administration, therefore, has allocated the 20 subsidies for 2022 from within the existing yearly CHPI funding, provided to the County by the City Social Services department.

The Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program will be operated by ALSO (Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario), a well-established service provider in Windsor-Essex County, dedicated to improving the lives of individuals living with a disability. The ALSO group will be operating three (3) Collaborative Supportive Housing Programs, two of which will be located in the City of Windsor and one in the County of Essex. All three programs are new to our community and are designed to fill service gaps in the housing continuum providing individuals the opportunity to receive supports to meet their goals of potential independent living.

County Administration has held several meetings with the ALSO Senior Leadership group to assess whether their model of care will fall within the scope of the traditional Housing with Supports Program. The Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program's philosophy focusses on promoting independence and preparing individuals to be successful with a transition to independent living. Their program's eligibility criteria also varies from the traditional Housing with Supports Providers as they serve individuals aged twenty-five (25) years and older. Therefore, in consultation with the County's Legal Counsel, the Service Agreement was amended, and both parties agreed to change the age criteria. The principal goal, however, 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 Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program.

## **Financial Implications**

The addition of this new Service Provider will not impact the approved 2022 Housing with Supports program budget. The twenty (20) subsidies that will be allocated to this program were included in the 2022 Housing with Supports budget.

## **Consultations**

Several consultations have taken place regarding this new program. Meetings were held with the City of Windsor and with the leadership team from ALSO (Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario) to ensure that the proposed program would fit within the scope of the Housing with Supports Program. In addition, consultations took place with David Sundin, County of Essex Solicitor, who assisted in drafting the Service Agreement with the new Service Provider.

Finally, several consultations took place with Mary Birch, Council and Community Services Director, throughout the planning and engagement process regarding this new initiative.

## **Recommendation**

That County Council adopt By-law 2022-04, authorizing the Warden and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario to provide subsidized housing with supports care through the Chez-Nous Collaborative Supportive Housing Program .

## **Approvals**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeanie Diamond-Francis*

Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services

Concurred With,

*Mary Birch*

Mary Birch, Director, Council & Community Services/Clerk

Concurred With,

*Mike Galloway*

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
Appendix I	Housing with Supports Agreement