



Administrative Report

Office of the Manager, Community Services

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jeanie Diamond-Francis
Manager, Community Services

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Subject: Homelessness Programs Funding Agreement

Report #: 2024-0515-LCS-R18-JDF

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Support (the "**Report**") is to seek County Council's authorization for the Warden and the Deputy Clerk to execute a fresh agreement with Family Services Windsor Essex ("**FSWE**") to deliver Homelessness Programs (as defined below) in the County.

This is in support of County Council's previous direction that the County accept provincial funding from the City of Windsor (the "**City**") to allow the County to directly administer and oversee the Homelessness Programs in the County.

Background

On June 1, 2022, County Council approved funding to operate the Essex County Homelessness Hub (the "**Homelessness Hub**") for a two-year pilot project to address a gap in services in the County. On August 1, 2022, the County entered into an Agreement with FSWE to be the Service Provider operating the Homelessness Hub. Since that time, FSWE has provided exceptional service and developed a unique program to meet the needs of individuals requiring housing-related support services and residing in the County. Prior to the Homelessness Hub being operated by FSWE, residents of the County who were experiencing homelessness, or who were at risk of experiencing homelessness, would have to find a way to access services in the City.

Further, at the April 17, 2024 meeting of County Council, County Council approved the recommendation for the County to enter into a Designated

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Service Provider and Funding Agreement with the City to receive provincial Homelessness Prevention Program ("**HPP**") funding and oversee, among other things, the operation of the Homelessness Hub, the Emergency Shelter Program, and to fund FSWE hiring an Outreach Worker designated solely for the delivery of outreach services in the County (the "**Homelessness Programs**").

Discussion

FSWE has demonstrated the ability to develop and implement the programs required for the Homelessness Hub, and to operate it on a day to day basis on behalf of the County. In addition, they have been a great partner to collaborate with and have followed the terms of their existing Agreement while having flexibility in their service delivery to meet the needs of the individuals attending the Homelessness Hub.

Further, FSWE is already the service provider tasked with delivering regional outreach services. They will have one full time worker designated to working solely in the County and located at the Essex County Homelessness Hub. Given their previous experience, they are the best positioned to continue delivering outreach services to County residents.

To date the Emergency Shelter Program for the County was operated by the City out of hotel rooms in Leamington. The Emergency Shelter Program was being supported by a different service provider in the City, with workers not being readily available to attend to the needs of the individuals being placed in hotel rooms in the County, and with many intakes being completed over the telephone. With the service delivery being shifted to FSWE, there will be support staff available to complete in-person intakes and to provide in-person support when needed.

Finally, having FSWE deliver all of the County Homelessness Programs described above, there will be fluidity and seamless service delivery for individuals requiring housing support in the County. By reaching out to or being referred to the Homelessness Hub, individuals will have access to staff that can support them with a continuum of services.

Following County Council authorizing execution of the Designated Service Provider and Funding Agreement with the City, the County Solicitor negotiated a fresh Agreement with FSWE, to enable them to operate the Homelessness Programs on behalf of the County. Attached to this Report as **Appendix A** is a copy of the draft fresh Agreement that County Administration recommends be entered into with FSWE.

Financial Implications

The funding to deliver the County Homelessness Programs described in this Report will be received by the County from HPP funding provided by the Province through the City as the Regional Consolidated Service Manager.

It is anticipated that sufficient funding has been allocated to the Homelessness Programs and that there will be no direct financial impact on the County in excess of the HPP funding being provided.

Consultations

Consultations were held with the following individuals:

- David Sundin, Interim Director, Legislative and Community Services, and County Solicitor
- Barb Iacono, Housing Program Director, Family Services Windsor-Essex

Recommendation

That Essex County Council authorize the Warden and the Interim Clerk to execute an Agreement between the Corporation of the County of Essex and Family Services Windsor Essex in substantially the same form as appended hereto as Appendix A.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanie Diamond-Francis

Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Manager, Community Services

Concurred With,

David Sundin

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., County Solicitor/Interim Director, Legislative and Community Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Draft Agreement with FSWE