

Community Services / Housing with Supports

Statement of Purpose

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

Service Description

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

Staffing	2015	2016	2017	2018	2015 Actual (\$000)	2016 Actual (\$000)	2017 Budget (\$000)	2017 Actual (\$000)	2018 Budget (\$000)
Full-Time	2	2	3	3	70	124	175	143	222
Student	1	1	1	1	5	9	9	9	10
Total	3	3	4	4	76	133	184	152	232

Prior Year Performance

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 just under budget for 2017. Operational savings relate to delays in hiring of the new Coordinator (recruitment is underway in November), as well as unbudgeted recoveries received during the year. The amount of Provincial Subsidy (CHPI funding) received in 2017 is the same level approved and received in 2016, as requests for additional financial supports that were included in the 2017 budget were not approved.

Throughout the year, program staff have been working with the City of Windsor to develop harmonized regional standards for the Housing with Supports program. A final draft is being prepared for review by management and legal counsel, and is expected to be brought to County Council for review in early 2018.

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Proposed Budget – Current Year

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 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. The requirement for increased oversight and direct supervision was the reason Council approved additional resources for this department in 2017. The funding model for the new Coordinator position was amended during 2017. A small increase in CHPI funding, a restructuring of Administrative cost allocations, and the elimination of the external Counselling program will limit the increase in the overall County responsibility to \$15,620. Subsidized counselling will continue to be available to low-income County residents through Family Services Windsor Essex, with a limit to the number of sessions.

A multi year strategy to increase per diems for Housing with Supports was approved in 2014, and the final 1% increase was implemented April 1, 2016. The current rate of \$51.19 per day is comparable to rates paid throughout the province, and no further increases are being brought forward for the region at this time. This has created a very challenging financial situation for Home owners, who are finding it arduous to meet demands for increasing levels of support without an increase in the per diem. The pending legislative changes to Employment Standards, including proposed increases to minimum wage will cause hardship for this sector.

Some of the other challenging issues facing this sector are:

- Staff Training - Home owners have had to make significant investments in staff training to be able to address the complex physical and mental health care needs of new clients.
- Lack regional transportation – County Homes find it difficult to secure affordable, flexible transportation for clients who need to attend medical appointments. ODSP and OW recipients are eligible for mandatory medical travel and transportation, however seniors receiving OAS or CPP are not. Municipal discretionary dollars continue to be allocated to assist with transportation needs.
- Access to mental health resources – Access to resources continues to be a challenge in the County, especially for in-house counseling and support programs. Good options are few when a client's needs are greater than the Home can meet, but Hospitals are pressured to discharge.
- Lack of emergency shelters in the County – Home owners face pressure from the community to provide temporary housing for residents who do not want to move to the City when there are no motel beds available for emergency shelter in the County.

While the Housing with Supports program is discretionary, it is recommended that Council continue to support this vulnerable portion of the population with a 2018 County contribution of \$415,010 (increase over 2018 of \$15,620 or 3.9%)

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Increased Levels of Service (Chart)

Housing with Supports Increased Levels of Service 2011 - 2018

Gross
Cost of
Service

