

Subject: Per Diem Rate Increase for Housing with Supports (Former Domiciliary Hostel Program) City Wide

Reference:

Date to Council: 4/04/2018
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Clerk's File #:

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

Recommendation:

THAT the Community Development and Health Commissioner **BE AUTHORIZED** to increase the per diem rate for licensed Housing with Support Homes, currently funded under the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and under formal agreement with the City of Windsor, up to \$53.09 effective April 1, 2018 and up to \$55.00 effective April 1, 2019 such that the increase in cost does not exceed the CHPI funding allocation and the City's budgeted contribution to the program; and further

THAT the increase to the per diem rate up to \$53.09 effective April 1, 2018 and up to \$55.00 effective April 1, 2019 also apply to Housing with Support Homes in the County of Essex under an agreement with the County of Essex, such that the increase in cost does not exceed the Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding allocation and the County's budgeted contribution to the program; and further

THAT Council Resolution M282-2014, which established the previous per diem rate for licensed Housing with Support Homes, **BE RESCINDED**.

Executive Summary:

N/A

Background:

The City of Windsor maintains an agreement with ten (10) Housing with Support Homes and the County of Essex maintains agreements with twelve (12) Housing with Support Homes which provide permanent housing (board/lodging) and supervised care to

persons with disabilities (including mental health and developmental disabilities), with ages ranging from young adults to seniors. Individuals may qualify for subsidized care in the Housing with Support Homes if they meet the three primary criteria:

1. Medical need for supervised living;
2. Financial need (i.e. low-income level); and
3. Appropriateness of placement (i.e. Do not require long-term care, group homes or halfway houses).

The average number of subsidized residents in 2017 was 328 in the City and 229 in the County. These subsidies and other housing and homelessness programs such as, emergency shelters, the Housing First program which aims at ending chronic homelessness and the Housing Stability Plan (i.e. rent assistance, utility assistance and essential housing goods assistance) are funded through the province's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and municipal contributions as approved in the budgets of both the City and County.

The City and County currently provide subsidies to Housing with Support Homes based on a maximum per diem rate of up to \$51.19 per resident per day. Residents of these homes contribute to the cost of their lodging at different rates depending on their income source and income amount. Therefore the amount of subsidy paid on behalf of qualified residents varies, but does not exceed the maximum per diem rate.

The Housing with Support Homes have incurred increased costs (e.g. food costs, utilities, salaries, benefits, insurance etc.) which are becoming increasingly difficult to manage within existing budgets and the current per diem funding amount. An increase in the per diem rate would allow Housing with Support Homes to meet the increased budgetary pressures and continue to deliver affordable, safe and sustainable housing with supports as needed in Windsor and Essex County.

Discussion:

Since 2013, the City of Windsor has been in receipt of CHPI funding which has two key outcomes:

1. That people experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing; and
2. That people at risk of homelessness remained housed.

The Housing with Supports Homes program in Windsor and Essex County helps ensure that people at risk of homelessness remain housed.

In addition to this, the 10 Year Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Plan, which began implementation in 2014, has determined the priorities required in the community over the next ten years to address the housing and homelessness needs of the

community. Approval of this recommendation would achieve Strategy 4.8 of the plan by re-evaluating per diem rates for Housing with Supports Homes.

In June 2014, Council approved incremental per diem increases that ranged from \$49.20 in 2013-2014 to \$51.19 in 2016-2017. The cost to operate Housing with Support Homes continues to increase. In order to meet local needs and to ensure that individuals are provided with the necessary supports for daily living and maintain their quality of life, an increase to the per diem rate is necessary. This would ensure that Housing with Support programs have satisfactory funding to provide supports and services to the vulnerable individuals that they serve.

Risk Analysis:

If the per diem rate for Housing with Support Homes is not increased, this may affect the financial viability of these homes and potentially decrease the availability of affordable, safe and appropriate housing for persons in need of housing supports. This risk to the community can be mitigated by approving the per diem rate increase as recommended.

The growing housing needs in the community continue to exert pressure on the CHPI budget. In the future, the municipality may need to consider increasing their funding contribution or make changes to housing and homelessness programs, which could include reducing the number of beds funded through the Housing with Supports program, to manage within allocated funding. Such a reduction would mean that the needs of many individuals requiring this service would not be met.

Financial Matters:

For 2018-2019, the Provincial contribution to CHPI will increase by \$537,578 to bring the total Provincial contribution to \$10,166,257. The municipality also contributes \$1,204,306 (\$843,298 from the City and \$361,008 from the County) for a total CHPI budget of \$11,370,563. In 2019-2020, the Provincial contribution for CHPI will increase by another \$537,495.

It is recommended that effective April 1, 2018 the per diem rates be increased by up to \$1.90 to a maximum per diem rate of \$53.09 and then effective April 1, 2019, the per diem rate would be increased by an additional \$1.91 to a maximum per diem rate of \$55.00.

Based on current utilization trends, the \$1.90 per diem increase in 2018-2019 is projected to cost \$388,000 and the \$1.91 per diem increase in 2019-2020 is expected to cost an additional \$390,000. These increases will be managed within the overall existing CHPI budget, including the additional Provincial funding announced for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. See Table 1 for an overview.

Table 1 – Overview of Recommended Per Diem Increase

Effective Dates	Increase to the Per Diem Rate	Maximum Per Diem Rate	Estimated Cost Increase
April 1, 2018	\$1.90	\$53.09	\$388,000
April 1, 2019	\$1.91	\$55.00	\$390,000

Consultations:

Nancy Jaekel – Financial Planning Administrator

Linda Higgins – Manager of Inter-Governmental Subsidies & Financial Administration

Conclusion:

An increase in the maximum per diem rate for the Housing with Supports programs will enable the homes' administrators to manage increased costs and continue to serve individuals that are vulnerable and would be at risk of homelessness without this funding and services being in place.

The per diem increase also supports the outcomes of the province's CHPI program and the strategies of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan in Windsor Essex.

Planning Act Matters:

N/A

Approvals:

Name	Title
Jennifer Tanner	Manager, Homelessness and Housing Supports
Dawn Bosco Acting for Debbie Cercone	Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services
Bruno Ierullo Acting for Jelena Payne	Community Development and Health Commissioner, Corporate Leader - Social Development and Health
Tony Ardovini	On behalf of Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer, Corporate Leader – Finance and Technology
Joe Mancina Acting for Onorio Colucci	Chief Administrative Officer

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Salvation Army Windsor and Rehabilitation Centre	355 Church, Windsor, ON N8X 3E6	Kelly_rideout@can.salvationarmy.com
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Appendices: