

Clause 12 in Report No. 2 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on February 18, 2016.

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Renewal of Contracted Services
Homelessness Prevention Program

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated January 21, 2016 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize an extension of the agreement between the Region and The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada for the Homelessness Prevention Program and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Rent and Energy Program for a further term expiring on December 31, 2016, as outlined in Attachment 1.
2. Council authorize an extension of the agreement between the Region and Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto for the Homelessness Prevention Program and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Rent and Energy Program for a further term expiring on December 31, 2016, as outlined in Attachment 1.
3. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute the agreements on behalf of the Region.
4. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to exercise each of four options to extend each agreement for additional one year extension terms, expiring on December 31, 2020, on the same terms, provided that the service providers have performed the services to the satisfaction of the Commissioner and the total cost is within the approved annual budget.

Renewal of Contracted Services -
Homelessness Prevention Program

5. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to re-allocate funding between service providers for the Homelessness Prevention Program, as necessary.

2. Purpose

This report seeks approval for the Region to extend its contracts with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada and Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto to provide the Homelessness Prevention Program. Council approval is required under the Purchasing Bylaw because the term of the proposed contracts, including extensions, is greater than five years.

3. Background

The Homelessness Prevention Program provides financial and support services to York Region residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Financial assistance may include rent and utility arrears, first and last month's rent, mortgage payment arrears and moving costs. In 2014, over 400 households were served in York Region.

York Region has been contracting with two service providers to deliver the Homelessness Prevention Program, The Salvation Army Northridge Community Church, since 2001, and Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto, since 2009.

The Salvation Army Northridge Community Church serves the northern part of York Region, and Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto serves the southern part of the part of York Region.

Over the years, the service providers have been providing services that consistently meet their contractual agreements to assist low to moderate income residents to obtain and maintain housing stability.

4. Analysis and Options

Council Approval is required to continue to issue funds to the Service Providers in 2016

Section 16.1 (a) of the Purchasing Bylaw requires Council approval where the term of a proposed contract is for a period of greater than five years or where the renewal of an extension of a contract would result in an aggregate term of greater than five years.

Renewal of Contracted Services - Homelessness Prevention Program

The agreements with the two service providers expired on December 31, 2015, and renewal of the 2016 contracts would result in exceeding the five year period, as outlined in the Purchasing Bylaw. To avoid a delay in the delivery of the Homelessness Prevention Program services, the Commissioner of Community and Health Services exercised the emergency purchase provisions set out in Section 8 of the Purchasing Bylaw and extended the agreements until February 29, 2016, in the amount of:

- Salvation Army Northridge Community Church – HPP, \$100,000
- Salvation Army Northridge Community Church – CHPI, \$100,000
- Jewish Family & Child – HPP, \$50,000
- Jewish Family & Child – CHPI, \$50,000

This report recommends extending the contracts for 2016 with the two service providers and the option to extend each contract for four additional one-year terms, expiring on December 31, 2020.

The Homelessness Prevention Program service delivery model is under review

An evaluation of the Homelessness Prevention Program service delivery model is currently underway. It was anticipated the review would be completed with recommended program changes prior to year-end to coincide with the terms of the service providers' agreements and this report to Council.

Review of the service delivery model requires additional time to ensure the program continues to meet the needs of the residents and to align with Community and Health Services' programs. The review is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2016.

Link to Council-Approved Plans

As part of the "2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan," the Homelessness Prevention Program supports the following objectives:

- Strengthens services for homeless people and those at risk of being homeless to find and keep housing through financial and support services, including enhancing wrap-around services to help address risk factors leading to housing loss.

5. Financial Implications

The 2016 approved budget for the Homelessness Prevention Program and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Rent and Energy Program totals \$1,270,000, as outlined in Attachment 1. The Provincial funding under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative accounts for \$420,000 of the budget annually, resulting in an allocation from the Regional tax levy in the amount of \$850,000 for Homelessness Prevention Program services.

Historically, the Homelessness Prevention Program was 100 per cent municipally funded. As the Province created new programs to support rent and energy needs of low income residents through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, these new funds were allocated through the Homelessness Prevention Program.

In 2015, the combined funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program was \$1,159,600, of which \$963,000 was allocated to direct service delivery to clients. The average amount of assistance provided to each household that accessed the program was approximately \$2,369.00.

The balance of the fund is to cover the costs of the service provider's staff to administer the program, including assessing eligibility, case management and referrals to support services. This amounts to approximately \$196,600 annually, plus a maximum increase for cost of living and other reasonable costs, subject to approval. The funding allocated to each service provider is driven by client need and budget requests. The funds may be reallocated based on demand for service.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Housing, employment and other support services are important in promoting household stability, quality of life and having residents who can actively contribute to York Region's economy and communities.

The Homelessness Prevention Program strengthens York Region's quality of life by helping vulnerable residents remain housed or obtain housing. This program helps to address the growing need of residents struggling to make ends meet due to the high cost of renting and home ownership in York Region.

7. Conclusion

Renewal of the service agreements with The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada and Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto will enable us to continue to provide financial and support services to York Region residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships at ext. 72090.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

January 21, 2016

Attachment (1)

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Homelessness Prevention Program Services - 12 Month Term

Service Provider	Program	Services Provided	Annual Budget	Approximate Annual Allocation, (Subject to Budget Increases)
Salvation Army Northridge Community Church	Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)	First and last months' rent, mortgage arrears, rent and utility arrears and urgent medical expenses	\$850,000	510,000
Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto				340,000
Salvation Army Northridge Community Church	Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) – Rent and Energy Program	Rent and Energy arrears	\$420,000	210,000
Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto				210,000
Total Annual Budget				* \$1,270,000

* \$300,000 has been allocated through the Emergency Service Provision for the period of January 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016.

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