

**ADDENDUM TO
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
AUGUST 26, 2020**

RESOLUTIONS

15. Social Services Relief Funding Phase 2

Recommendation: THAT the Social Services Committee recommends that County Council agree in principle on the Business Case submission by staff to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Social Services Relief Phase 2 Funding.

Background

On April 1, 2020, the County received a letter from the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) informing of an investment of \$1,773,100 in 2020-21 under the Social Services Relief Fund to help support the most vulnerable in our communities as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. These funds have been distributed to a number of County-wide, community-based agencies to provide support where it is needed. All funding from this allocation has been committed.

On August 12, 2020, the County received a letter from Minister Clark, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Social Services Relief Phase 2 Funding. The County of Renfrew is eligible to receive an initial planning allocation of \$1,137,918, less 3% or \$34,137.54 for administration costs in 2020-21. Prior to receiving the funding, a business case is required to be submitted to MMAH outlining how the County of Renfrew will use the initial planning allocation. Business cases will be reviewed by an inter-ministerial working group that will make decisions on funding. This funding allocation is subject to change and re-allocation across other service areas based on COVID-19 and other public health emergencies. The business case template must be completed and submitted to MMAH by September 11, 2020.

Staff at the County of Renfrew are proposing the following considerations for the business case submission:

- That the Social Services Relief Phase 2 Funding be used to support vulnerable seniors, children and families in our communities to allow for greater resiliency, during COVID-19 and for future pandemic waves and emergencies.
- Supporting Seniors:
 - Provide funding in the amount of \$500,000 to *Renfrew and Area Seniors Home Support Inc* as the lead agency for Community Support Services (CSS)

to support all of Renfrew County through the CSS agencies in the following 4 areas:

- Senior's Centres Without Walls – telephone-based community program that allows people to connect in social, supportive and/or learning sessions. During periods of social isolation, remaining connected socially, and to have the opportunity to learn is critical for healthy outcomes for seniors and adults with disabilities. Making this program more robust and coordinated throughout Renfrew County would assist many seniors and adults with disabilities to be more resilient now and in the future.
 - Transportation – this critical service has seen a set-back during the COVID-19 crisis due to the reduction in volunteer drivers. Volunteer drivers are mostly seniors who fall under the high-risk category for COVID-19. Providing vehicles to those CSS agencies that do not have one, and paid drivers will enhance and expand meal delivery and medical transportation services.
 - IPADs – with most medical appointments being virtual and many seniors and disabled adults unable to see family and friends during the COVID-19 crisis, outfit each CSS agency with IPADs for lending use to seniors and disabled adults so that they can participate in a variety of virtual sessions from their home, where they can remain safe and healthy.
 - Enhanced Cleaning – as some services and/or programs are open, provide CSS service agencies with the needed health and safety measures to either begin or continue to provide programming and services for seniors and disabled adults.
- The CSS agencies are:
 - Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home Program Inc.,
 - Renfrew and Area Senior's Home Support Inc.,
 - Calabogie and Area Home Support
 - Eganville and District Seniors
 - Barry's Bay and Area Senior Citizens Home Support Services
 - Carefor Health and Community Services (Renfrew County)
 - North Renfrew Long Term Care Centre - Community Support Services
- **Supporting Children and Families in Social and Community Housing:**
 - Provide funding in the amount of \$603,780.46 to Renfrew County Housing Corporation to promote enhanced safety measures and safe physical distancing in social and community housing. Many families are unable to participate in safe physical distancing because of the way the buildings and backyards were originally designed. With COVID-19, measures to reduce common touch areas and installation of fencing on some properties that do not properly allow for social distancing for families will go a long way in ensuring that families and children can remain healthy while physically

distancing. Children need to be able to play and socialize, but in a safe and healthy manner.

- Where possible, install privacy fencing in family units where social distancing cannot be maintained due to the current yard set up, potentially affecting 65 family housing units.
- Where possible, install touchless entry systems in building entrances (including laundry and garbage rooms) to reduce touching of doors and handles, potentially affecting 22 buildings.
- Where possible, retro-fit building elevators with touchless Toe-To-Go (T2G) foot-activated elevator call buttons which allows activation of elevator by shoe, reducing the risk of transferring germs by creating a hands-free experience, potentially affecting 8 buildings.
- Where play-space exists, enhance the experience by providing proper fencing, adequate spacing of structures and enhanced cleaning, affecting up to 2 playgrounds.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

James Brose, Chair

And Committee Members: D. Grills, K. Love, C. Regier, J. Reinwald, D. Robinson