

## **Potential Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two Projects**

**Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two projects will promote resiliency in the event of future pandemic waves, support the demand for increased, enhanced, new and innovative services and benefit the broader service system**

Projects eligible for funding were required to focus on solutions that would best support sustainable housing and COVID-19 mitigation. The operating funding must be spent by March 31, 2021 and capital projects must be completed and all capital funding must be spent by December 31, 2021. **As negotiations with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and service providers are still ongoing a full list of projects has not been finalized. The following are some of the planned projects:**

- Extending operation of the Self-Isolation and Transitional Shelters
- Adding pods or partitions in the Region's Emergency Housing, Regionally licensed Housing with Supports facilities, and in seasonal shelters to support safe health practices and promote physical distancing
- Renovating and retrofitting existing buildings that provide homelessness services to create self-contained bedrooms and washrooms, or self-contained apartments
- Creating long term housing-based solutions to reduce homelessness, such as constructing modular housing projects to provide permanent housing
- Supporting the increased number of residents who are at risk of becoming homeless by helping them remain housed, diverting them from using more expensive services such as hospital emergency departments
- Adding capacity to mental health support systems
- Providing additional financial assistance to Social Assistance clients on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program for rent arrears to help them remain housed and afford food costs
- Providing enhanced wraparound support services, at emergency facilities in partnership with Community Paramedics
- Investing in organizations that provide support services for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19 (e.g. racialized populations, youth, seniors, domestic violence and human trafficking survivors, and LGBT2SQ) to more effectively meet their unique needs