



Office of the Commissioner  
Community and Health Services Department

## MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: December 15, 2020

Re: Additional Provincial Social Services Relief Funding

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**In [December 2020](#), Committee of the Whole approved recommendations to expedite rapid construction of a modular housing project and convert space to transitional housing at 20898 Dalton Road in the Town of Georgina; the Sutton Youth Shelter Site**

The projects would be 100% funded by the Province through the Social Services Relief Fund – Phase 2 allocation. This memo provides information about additional Social Services Relief funding the province intends to allocate and suggests amendments to the December 3, 2020 report to include additional housing projects. The matter is time sensitive as the province requires the same spending deadlines for this further allocation that apply to the Social Services Relief Fund – Phase 2 Allocation:

- Operating funding must be spent by March 31, 2021
- Capital funding must be spent by December 31, 2021

**Amendments to recommendations in the report “Social Services Relief Fund – Phase Two Authority for Capital Agreements” are requested to permit implementation of the additional capital projects**

Program deadlines limit staff’s ability to bring reports to Council to request approvals; therefore, the report recommends authorizing staff to undertake various activities towards maximizing the capital funding opportunities. As the additional funding was committed and confirmed after Committee of the Whole considered the report “Social Services Relief Fund – Phase Two Authority for Capital Agreements”, it is necessary to amend that report to include the additional

capital projects. The original recommendations in the report are shown below, and suggested amendments are noted in bold italics:

1. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to award direct purchase contracts to expedite the rapid construction of Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two funded projects, at a total cost not to exceed funding amounts.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute all necessary documents required under the program.
3. Council approve *moving forward with* developments on Housing York Inc. *properties as required for Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two projects.*
4. *The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to adjust funding, and direct any additional funding, as required to maximize use of funds.*
5. *Council approve 2021 interim Capital Spending Authority of up to \$7,415,000 for Social Services Relief Fund Capital Projects, fully funded from Provincial Funding.*

### **The Region anticipates an additional \$8,134,700 in Social Services Relief Funding**

On December 14, 2020, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing indicated there will be additional Social Services Relief Fund - Phase Two funding allocated to the Region. The allocation letter, received on December 15, indicates an additional \$8,134,700 in funding for the Provincial fiscal year 2020 to 2021, which can be allocated to capital and operating project costs. This Social Services Relief Fund funding will be in addition to the \$4,981,700 received in March, and the \$8,419,414 confirmed by the Province on October 26, 2020, also for the Provincial fiscal year 2020 to 2021.

Based on the previous Social Services Relief Fund allocations and discussions with Ministry staff, this funding will be required to be used to meet the following provincial objectives:

1. Mitigate ongoing risk for vulnerable people, especially in congregate-care settings
2. Encourage longer-term housing-based solutions to homelessness post-COVID-19
3. Enhance rent assistance provided to households in rent arrears due to COVID-19

To make best use of the funds within the program timelines, \$1,834,700 will be directed to further support operational and community agency capital needs consistent with the initiatives outlined in the [December 2020](#) memo to Council entitled Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two. The remainder will be used for capital projects, as described below.

## **Additional capital projects are proposed to maximize the additional Social Service Relief Fund allocation within the time available**

Social Services Relief Fund Phase Two permitted allocation of funds to capital projects, provided those projects could be completed by the end of 2021. The [December 2020](#) report Social Services Relief Fund – Phase Two Authority for Capital Agreements, outlines details of the funding. \$6.3 million from the additional funding is proposed to be directed to the projects included on Private Attachment 1 and Private Attachment 2. The locations and details are included in Private Attachments because the Ministry requires that details of any capital projects must be kept confidential until they are announced publicly by the Ministry. Private Attachment 1 and Private Attachment 2 to this memorandum will be considered in private session pursuant to section 239(2)(k) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, because it relates to an instruction to be applied to the negotiations carried on by the Region regarding the additional social services relief funding.

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Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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Bruce Macgregor  
Chief Administrative Officer

Private Attachments (2)

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