



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
AGENDA

PHSSC 7-2024

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting

Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

To view live stream meeting proceedings visit: niagararegion.ca/government/council

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT</u>	
3. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
4. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
5. <u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
6. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u>	
6.1 <u>COM 21-2024</u>	3 - 40
Approval of 2024 Community Services Program Audits	
6.2 <u>COM 22-2024</u>	41 - 54
Niagara Prosperity Initiative Grant Process	
7. <u>CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u>	
7.1 <u>COM-C 10-2024</u>	55 - 57
Homelessness Services "Niagara Counts" Point-in-Time (PiT) Count 2024	

Correspondence from Niagara Regional Housing Respecting Social Non-Profit Housing Mortgage Renewal for September 1, 2024

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. CLOSED SESSION

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

12. ADJOURNMENT

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Subject: Approval of 2024 Community Services Program Audits

Report to: Public Health and Social Services Committee

Report date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Recommendations

1. That the draft audited annual reconciliation return for the Community Support Services Program (Appendix 1 to Report COM 21-2024) for the period ended March 31, 2024, **BE APPROVED**;
2. That the draft audited schedule of Revenue and Expenses for the Reaching Home Program (Appendix 2 to Report COM 21-2024) for the year ended March 31, 2024, **BE APPROVED**;
3. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to coordinate with the auditor to finalize the statements as presented; and
4. That Report COM 21-2024 **BE FORWARDED** to the Region’s Audit Committee for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the audited annual reconciliation return (“ARR”) and the schedule of revenue and expenses (“financial schedule”) for the respective programs in accordance with the federal and provincial funding requirements.
- Ontario Health West and the Ministry of Long-Term Care determined that Community Support Services Program was required to change the audit from the calendar year-end to March 31st fiscal year. As a result, the draft annual reconciliation return for the Community Support Services Program (Appendix 1 to Report COM 21-2024) is for the 15-month period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.
- The Ministry deadlines for the Community Support Services and Reaching Home funding programs are June 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024, respectively. To accommodate the timing of the committee reporting schedule and year-end adjustment, arrangements have been made with the Ontario Health West and the Ministry of Long-Term Care to allow for submission of the Community Support Services Program by July 31, 2023.

- As per the Financial Reporting and Forecasting Policy (C-F-020), other financial statements or schedules performed for ministry funding purposes, will be recommended for approval to Council by the Standing Committee with oversight of the program. Upon approval by Council, the department Commissioner, or delegated authority, and the Treasurer will be authorized to sign the auditor's representation letter to obtain the auditor's signed report. The approved statements will then be forwarded to the Audit Committee for information.

Financial Considerations

The ARR of the Community Support Services program (also referred to as Seniors Community Programs) and the financial schedule for the Reaching Home program have been prepared in compliance with the guidelines and policies stipulated by the corresponding ministry. A draft copy of the ARR for the Community Support Services program is attached as Appendix 1 to Report COM 21-2024 and a draft copy of the financial schedule for the Reaching Home program is attached as Appendix 2 to Report COM 21-2024.

The ARR and the financial schedule are prepared specifically for the purposes of meeting the requirements outlined in the service agreements with the funding ministries. These reports are a provincial/federal requirement as noted in the audit report for the programs. The financial schedules are prepared to assist The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) in complying with the guidelines. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose.

Analysis

The ARR and the financial schedule were audited by Niagara Region's external auditors, Deloitte. The auditors have indicated that, based on their review, nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that this information is not, in all material aspects, in accordance with the requirements identified.

The recommendation for approval of audited schedules performed for ministry funding purposes rest with the Committee to which the department is responsible for the funding reports. Upon approval by Committee and Council, the department's Commissioner and Treasurer will be authorized to sign the auditor's representation letter to obtain the auditor's signed report. These schedules are then forwarded to the Audit Committee for information.

Below is a summary of the results of the audited schedules. These financial schedules are subject to minor wording changes once the schedules are finalized:

- Community Support Service – This program has a surplus of \$426,942 (4.3% of total program funding) for the 15-month period ending March 31, 2024. These funds will be returned to Ontario Health by way of a reduction in future payments to Niagara Region. The program surplus is mainly due to the timing of funding announcements, which limited the ability to plan for and spend funds within the reporting period, as outlined below.

In April 2024, Ontario Health West and the Ministry of Long-Term Care instructed Niagara Region to align financial reporting dates for this program to align with the provincial reporting period by shifting from calendar year reporting (January-December) to fiscal year reporting (April-March). As a result of this mandatory reporting change, the financial schedules contain 15 months of financial data (January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024). In March 2024, Niagara Region received \$139,743 of one-time funding that it is unable to spend given the direction to shift reporting practices came after the operating period had closed.

Also contributing to the surplus was a timing discrepancy for funding received for a new program under this agreement. In February 2023 Niagara Region was approved for one-time funding to operate a new recuperative care unit for individuals who are homeless and 18+ that require a level of care upon discharge from hospital that the shelter system cannot provide. Objective is to provide short term (6 to 8 weeks) support and housing assistance such that individuals can be housed or return to shelter at the end of the program. Funding for this program was flowed by Ontario Health in advance of the program opening, and timing of efforts to hire staff and open the site resulted in excess funding at the onset of the program of \$228,056. Since that initial quarter of setup and opening of recuperative care, provincial allocations have been fully expended.

- Reaching Home Program (supporting homelessness services) – commenced April 1, 2019, and ends March 31, 2028, and has no funds returnable for the current reporting period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024

Alternatives Reviewed

The audited financial schedules are a ministry requirement and therefore no alternatives are available.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Providing financial information is aligned to Effective Region, delivery of fiscally responsible and sustainable core services.

Other Pertinent Reports

None.

Prepared by:

Melanie Steele, CPA, CA
Associate Director, Reporting & Analysis
Corporate Services

Recommended by:

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner
Community Services

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Jordan Gamble, CPA, CA, Program Financial Specialist and Eniola Olooto, CPA, CGA, Program Financial Specialist

Appendices

Appendix 1 Community Support Services Program – 2024 Annual Reconciliation Return

Appendix 2 Reaching Home Program – 2024 Schedule of Revenue and Expenses

Annual Reconciliation Report
The Regional Municipality of Niagara
Community Services Department
Community Support Service Program

March 31, 2024

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Annual Reconciliation Report	3-24
Note to the Annual Reconciliation Report	25

Draft

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of
To the Members of Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara,
Ontario Ministry of Health – West Region

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying schedules (ARRFin1 and ARRFin2) of the Annual Reconciliation Report of the Regional Municipality of Niagara (the "Region") Community Services Department – Community Support Service Program (the "Program") for the 15-month period ended March 31, 2024 and notes to the schedules (collectively referred to as the "schedules").

In our opinion, the accompanying schedules for the 15-month period ended March 31, 2024 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions in guidelines in Chapters 3 of the Ontario Healthcare Reporting Standards 12.0 and the Community Financial Policy (2016) issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care (collectively referred to as the "guidelines").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules* section of our report. We are independent of the Region in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the schedules in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the schedule, which describes the basis of accounting. The schedules are prepared to assist the Program in complying with the financial reporting provisions in the guidelines. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Schedules

Management is responsible for the preparation of the schedules in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Region's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these schedules.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedules, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Region's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.
- We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants
July 25, 2024

IFIS / Recipient #		13115
SRI Organization Code		4165
Report Name	2023-24 Account Reconciliation Report	
Ontario Region (formerly LHIN)	Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant (Hnhb)	
Service Provider Name	Regional Municipality of Niagara	
Service Provider Legal Name	Regional Municipality of Niagara	

Service Provider Address

Address 1	1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way	
Address 2	P.O. Box 1042	
City	Thorold	
Postal Code	L2V4T7	

HSP Contact Name	Jordan Gamble	
HSP Contact Position	Program Financial Specialist	
HSP Contact Phone Number	905-685-4225, ext. 3815	
HSP Contact E-mail Address	jordan.gamble@niagararegion.ca	

TOTAL AGENCY

Form ARRfin 1- Total Ontario Health & Ministry Managed- Financial
Regional Municipality of Niagara

		TOTAL HSP
TABLE G: Total Agency Reporting Summary by Fund Type (Total Agency Financials)		Line #
Total Revenue Fund Type 1	115	-
Total Expenses Fund Type 1	116	-
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 1 (Hospital)	117	-
Total Revenue Fund Type 2 (Above)	118	9,836,265
Total Expenses Fund Type 2 (Above)	119	9,409,323
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 2 (Community Programs)	120	426,942
Total Revenue Fund Type 3	121	-
Total Expenses Fund Type 3	122	-
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 3 (Other)	123	-
Total Revenue for the Provider	124	9,836,265
Total Expenses for the Provider	125	9,409,323
Net Surplus/Deficit	126	426,942

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
Funding Initiative (Please select from drop down)			Select Funding Initiative (where applicable)	
Table B	Line #			
OH Cash Flow:				
Funding - Ontario Health (OH)	1	7,811,652	6,639,762	Base Funding (Reporting Period - January 2023 - March 2024)
Funding - Provincial MOH	2	-		
Funding - Ontario Health One-Time	3	1,671,433	1,632,462	Primarily \$1,466,457 of funding for Recuperative Care program (Short-term Transitional Care Model)
Funding - Provincial MOH One-Time	4	-		
Sessional fee funding - OH	5	-		
Sessional fee funding - MOH	6			
Total Ontario Health funding as per cash flow	7	9,483,085	8,272,224	
Service Recipient Revenue	8	313,502	313,502	
Recoveries from External/Internal Sources	9	39,678	11,555	
Donations	10	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
Other Funding Sources and Other Revenue	11	-		
Other revenue adjustments (detailed comments required)	12	-		
Total revenue adjustments	13	353,181	325,058	
Total FUND TYPE 2 funding for settlement purposes	14	9,836,265	8,597,281	
Deferred OH funding used to purchase capitalized items in the current year (Enter as Negative Amount)	15	-		
Amortization of donation revenue and OH funding in the current fiscal year	16	-		
Other Adjustments including OH recovery (detailed comments required)	17	-		
Total Revenue FUND TYPE 2	18	9,836,265	8,597,281	
EXPENSES- Fund Type 2				
Compensation				
Salaries and Wages (Worked + Benefit + Purchased)	19	6,335,332	5,410,380	
Benefit Contributions	20	1,371,605	1,191,570	
Employee Future Benefit Compensation	21	-		
Nurse Practitioner Remuneration	22	123,308	123,308	
Medical Staff Remuneration	23	-		
Sessional Fees	24	-		
Service Costs				
Med/Surgical Supplies and Drugs	25	29,153	27,342	
Supplies and Sundry Expenses (excl. Med/Surg Supplies & Drugs)	26	429,669	415,295	
Community One Time Expense	27	-	-	
Equipment Expenses	28	51,201	50,884	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
Amortization on Major Equip and Software License and Fees	29	-		
Contracted Out Expense	30	630,963	630,963	
Buildings and Grounds Expenses	31	438,092	438,092	
Building Amortization	32	-		
TOTAL EXPENSES Fund Type 2	33	9,409,323	8,287,834	
Depreciation/Amortization of Capital Assets for the Program and Admin & Support	34	-	-	
Total Capitalized Purchases and Services in current year	35	-	-	
(CHC & Home Care purposes only) Inadmissible salary expenses	36	-		
(CHC & Home Care purposes only) Less: Other adjustments	37	-		
Total Expenses for Settlement Purposes	38	9,409,323	8,287,834	
Less sessional fee expenses (Enter as Negative Amount)	39	-		
Less one time expenses as per listing below (Negative sum of	40	- 1,443,377	- 1,404,406	
Total operating expenses for settlement purposes	41	7,965,946	6,883,428	
Operating Recovery	42	198,887	81,391	
Sessional Fee Recovery	43	-	-	
One Time Recovery	44	228,056	228,056	
Total Settlement Recovery	45	426,942	309,447	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
TABLE C: One-Time Expenses	Line #			
Capitalized purchases from One Time funding Section C-1				
	46	-		
	47	-		
	48	-		
	49	-		
	50	-		
	51	-		
	52	-		
	53	-		
	54	-		
	55	-		
	56	-		
	57	-		
	58	-		
	59	-		
	60	-		
Total One-time capitalized purchases from One-time funding	61	-	-	
Operating expenses from One Time Funding Section C-2				
	62	1,206,981	1,174,360	Salaries
	63	163,034	156,685	Benefits
	64	3,293	3,293	Buildings & Grounds Expenses

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
	65	549	549	Contracted Out Expense
	66	18,310	18,310	Equipment Expenses
	67	51,158	51,158	Supplies & Sundry Expenses
	68	51	51	Medical Supplies
	69	-		
	70	-		
	71	-		
	72	-		
	73	-		
	74	-		
Total One-time operating expenses from One-time funding	77	1,443,377	1,404,406	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
TABLE D: Operating Expenses				
Capitalized expenses Sourced from Operating Funding (Section D-1) (All capitalized items regardless of amount)				
	78	-		
	79	-		
	80	-		
	81	-		
	82	-		
	83	-		
	84	-		
	85	-		
	86	-		
	87	-		
	88	-		
	89	-		
	90	-		
	91	-		
	92	-		
Total Capitalized expenses from Operating Funding	93	-	-	
Non- capitalized one-time expenses > \$5,000 Sourced from Operating Funding (Section D-2)				
	94	-		
	95	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
	96	-		
	97	-		
	98	-		
	99	-		
	100	-		
	101	-		
	102	-		
	103	-		
	104	-		
	105	-		
	106	-		
	107	-		
	108	-		
Total Non-Capitalized One-time expenses >\$5,000 from Operating Funding	109	-	-	
Total One Time Expenses	110	1,443,377	1,404,406	

TABLE F: Sessional Fees Summary (Enter the # of Sessions Delivered)				
# of Sessions Delivered (From Sessional Fees)	111	-		
Calculated Cost Per Session	112	0.00	0.00	

TABLE G: Total Agency Reporting Summary by Fund Type (Total Agency Financials)				
	Line #	TOTAL		
Total Revenue Fund Type 1	113	-		
Total Expenses Fund Type 1	114	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - CSS	OH - CSS Comments
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 1 (Hospital)	115	-	-	
Total Revenue Fund Type 2 (Above)	116	9,836,265	8,597,281	
Total Expenses Fund Type 2 (Above)	117	9,409,323	8,287,834	
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 2 (Community Programs)	118	426,942	309,447	
Total Revenue Fund Type 3	119	-		
Total Expenses Fund Type 3	120	-		
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 3 (Other)	121	-	-	
Total Revenue for the Provider	122	9,836,265	8,597,281	
Total Expenses for the Provider	123	9,409,323	8,287,834	
Net Surplus/Deficit	124	426,942	309,447	

END OF WORKSHEET

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
Funding Initiative (Please select from drop down)			Select Funding Initiative (where applicable)	
Table B	Line #			
OH Cash Flow:				
Funding - Ontario Health (OH)	1	7,811,652	1,171,890	Base Funding (Reporting Period - January 2023 - March 2024)
Funding - Provincial MOH	2	-		
Funding - Ontario Health One-Time	3	1,671,433	38,971	
Funding - Provincial MOH One-Time	4	-		
Sessional fee funding - OH	5	-		
Sessional fee funding - MOH	6			
Total Ontario Health funding as per cash flow	7	9,483,085	1,210,861	
Service Recipient Revenue	8	313,502		
Recoveries from External/Internal Sources	9	39,678	28,123	
Donations	10	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
Other Funding Sources and Other Revenue	11	-		
Other revenue adjustments (detailed comments required)	12	-		
Total revenue adjustments	13	353,181	28,123	
Total FUND TYPE 2 funding for settlement purposes	14	9,836,265	1,238,984	
Deferred OH funding used to purchase capitalized items in the current year (Enter as Negative Amount)	15	-		
Amortization of donation revenue and OH funding in the current fiscal year	16	-		
Other Adjustments including OH recovery (detailed comments required)	17	-		
Total Revenue FUND TYPE 2	18	9,836,265	1,238,984	
EXPENSES- Fund Type 2				
Compensation				
Salaries and Wages (Worked + Benefit + Purchased)	19	6,335,332	924,951	
Benefit Contributions	20	1,371,605	180,035	
Employee Future Benefit Compensation	21	-		
Nurse Practitioner Remuneration	22	123,308		
Medical Staff Remuneration	23	-		
Sessional Fees	24	-		
Service Costs				
Med/Surgical Supplies and Drugs	25	29,153	1,811	
Supplies and Sundry Expenses (excl. Med/Surg Supplies & Drugs)	26	429,669	14,374	
Community One Time Expense	27	-	-	
Equipment Expenses	28	51,201	318	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
Amortization on Major Equip and Software License and Fees	29	-		
Contracted Out Expense	30	630,963		
Buildings and Grounds Expenses	31	438,092		
Building Amortization	32	-		
TOTAL EXPENSES Fund Type 2	33	9,409,323	1,121,489	
Depreciation/Amortization of Capital Assets for the Program and Admin & Support	34	-	-	
Total Capitalized Purchases and Services in current year	35	-	-	
(CHC & Home Care purposes only) Inadmissible salary expenses	36	-		
(CHC & Home Care purposes only) Less: Other adjustments	37	-		
Total Expenses for Settlement Purposes	38	9,409,323	1,121,489	
Less sessional fee expenses (Enter as Negative Amount)	39	-		
Less one time expenses as per listing below (Negative sum of	40	- 1,443,377	- 38,971	
Total operating expenses for settlement purposes	41	7,965,946	1,082,518	
Operating Recovery	42	198,887	117,496	
Sessional Fee Recovery	43	-	-	
One Time Recovery	44	228,056	-	
Total Settlement Recovery	45	426,942	117,496	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
TABLE C: One-Time Expenses	Line #			
Capitalized purchases from One Time funding Section C-1				
	46	-		
	47	-		
	48	-		
	49	-		
	50	-		
	51	-		
	52	-		
	53	-		
	54	-		
	55	-		
	56	-		
	57	-		
	58	-		
	59	-		
	60	-		
Total One-time capitalized purchases from One-time funding	61	-	-	
Operating expenses from One Time Funding Section C-2				
	62	1,206,981	32,621	Salaries
	63	163,034	6,350	Benefits
	64	3,293		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
	65	549		
	66	18,310		
	67	51,158		
	68	51		
	69	-		
	70	-		
	71	-		
	72	-		
	73	-		
	74	-		
	75	-		
76	-			
Total One-time operating expenses from One-time funding	77	1,443,377	38,971	

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
TABLE D: Operating Expenses				
Capitalized expenses Sourced from Operating Funding (Section D-1) (All capitalized items regardless of amount)				
	78	-		
	79	-		
	80	-		
	81	-		
	82	-		
	83	-		
	84	-		
	85	-		
	86	-		
	87	-		
	88	-		
	89	-		
	90	-		
91	-			
92	-			
Total Capitalized expenses from Operating Funding	93	-	-	
Non- capitalized one-time expenses > \$5,000 Sourced from Operating Funding (Section D-2)				
	94	-		
	95	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
	96	-		
	97	-		
	98	-		
	99	-		
	100	-		
	101	-		
	102	-		
	103	-		
	104	-		
	105	-		
	106	-		
	107	-		
	108	-		
Total Non-Capitalized One-time expenses >\$5,000 from Operating Funding	109	-	-	
Total One Time Expenses	110	1,443,377	38,971	

TABLE F: Sessional Fees Summary (Enter the # of Sessions Delivered)				
# of Sessions Delivered (From Sessional Fees)	111	-		
Calculated Cost Per Session	112	0.00	0.00	

TABLE G: Total Agency Reporting Summary by Fund Type (Total Agency Financials)				
	Line #	TOTAL		
Total Revenue Fund Type 1	113	-		
Total Expenses Fund Type 1	114	-		

Select TPBE (Transfer Payment Business Unit)		TOTAL	OH - SH	OH - SH Comments
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 1 (Hospital)	115	-	-	
Total Revenue Fund Type 2 (Above)	116	9,836,265	1,238,984	
Total Expenses Fund Type 2 (Above)	117	9,409,323	1,121,489	
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 2 (Community Programs)	118	426,942	117,496	
Total Revenue Fund Type 3	119	-	-	
Total Expenses Fund Type 3	120	-	-	
Net Surplus/Deficit Fund Type 3 (Other)	121	-	-	
Total Revenue for the Provider	122	9,836,265	1,238,984	
Total Expenses for the Provider	123	9,409,323	1,121,489	
Net Surplus/Deficit	124	426,942	117,496	

END OF WORKSHEET

PROXY PAY EQUITY ANNUAL REPORT

This form is to be completed by transfer payment organizations who receive proxy pay equity funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, pursuant to the April 23, 2003 Memorandum of Settlement. It must be completed on an annual basis until an organization no longer has a pay equity obligation.

SECTION 1: BASIC PROGRAM INFORMATION		
Name of Agency:	Regional Municipality of Niagara	
Vendor #:	<input type="text"/>	Reporting Period: from <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>
Contact Person:	<input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>

SECTION 2: EXPENDITURE REPORT

Sources of Proxy Pay Equity Funds

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

\$

A

Other (Specify)

TOTAL

0.00

Expenditures

Actual Proxy Pay Equity Expenses

B

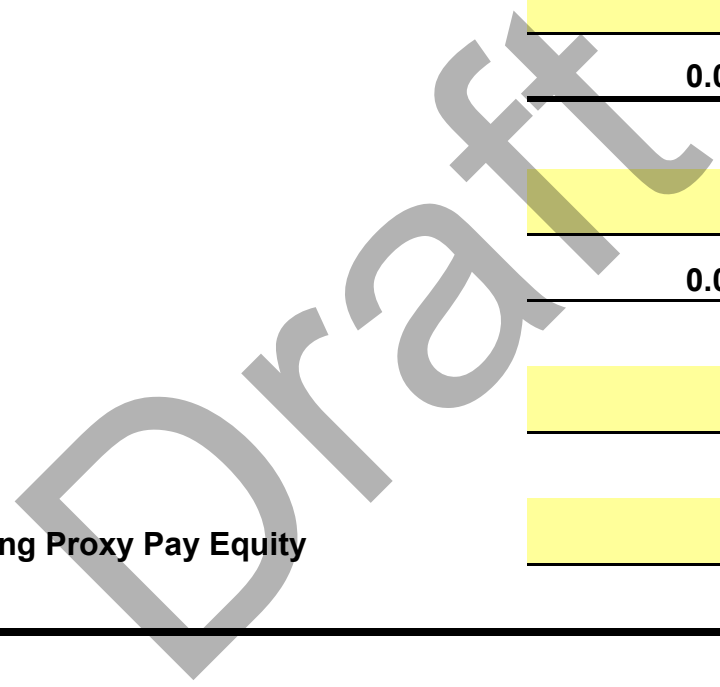
Surplus(Deficit)

0.00

A-B

Current Outstanding Liabilities

Total Number of Individuals Receiving Proxy Pay Equity



SECTION 3: CERTIFICATION

I, _____ hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge the financial data is correct and it is reflected in the year-end settlement.

(Signature of Health Service Provider Authority)

Title:

Draft

Certification by Provider Fiscal 2023-24

Having the authority to bind the Health Service Provider, we certify that the information provided in ARRFin1, ARRFin2 and ARRFin3 are complete and accurate

Regional Municipality of Niagara	
N/A	
Name of Signing Officer	Date
Signing Officer***	
N/A	
Title	
N/A	
Name of Signing Officer	Date
Signing Officer***	
N/A	
Title	

***I have the authority to bind the Health Service Provider

The Regional Municipality of Niagara Community Services Department
Community Support Service Program
Note to the Annual Reconciliation Report
March 31, 2024

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

These schedules have been prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Health, Ministry of Long-Term Care and Ontario Health. They are prepared in accordance with the financial reporting provisions in the guidelines in Chapters 3 of the Ontario Healthcare Reporting Standards 12.0 and the Community Financial Policy (2016) issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health, which approximates Canadian public sector accounting standards, except that they do not provide for employee future benefits and tangible capital assets are expensed as incurred. Since precise determination of many assets and liabilities is dependent upon future events, the preparation of periodic financial information necessarily involves the use of estimates and approximations. These have been made using careful judgments.

Revenue and expenses

Revenue is recognized as amounts become available and are measurable.

Expenses are recognized as they are incurred and measurable.

Capital assets

The historical cost and accumulated depreciation of capital assets are not recorded. Capital assets acquired are reported as expenditures and amortization is not reported on ARRFIn1 and ARRFIn2.

Employee future benefits

Employee future benefits are provided which will require funding in future periods. These benefits include sick leave, benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board ("WSIB") Act, and life insurance, extended health and dental benefits for early retirees. These benefits are recorded on a cash basis.

Schedule of revenue and expenses
The Regional Municipality of Niagara
Reaching Home – Canada’s
Homelessness Strategy Program

March 31, 2024

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the Ministry of Employment and Social Development Canada

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying schedule of revenue and expenses of the Regional Municipality of Niagara (the "Region") Reaching Home – Canada's Homelessness Strategy Program (the "Program") for the year ended March 31, 2024 and notes to the schedule (collectively referred to as the "schedule").

In our opinion, the accompanying schedule of the Program for the year ended March 31, 2024 have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the agreement between the Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Employment and Social Development Canada and the Regional Municipality of Niagara signed June 12, 2019 (the "guidelines").

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards ("Canadian GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedules* section of our report. We are independent of the Region in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the schedules in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the schedule, which describes the basis of accounting. The schedule is prepared to assist the Program in complying with the financial reporting provisions of the agreement between the Ministry of Employment and Social Development Canada and the Regional Municipality of Niagara. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation of the schedules in accordance with the Financial Reporting Framework, and for such internal control as management

determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Region's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Schedule

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the schedules are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these schedules.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian GAAS, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the schedules, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Region's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, and related disclosures made by management.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants
July 25, 2024

Reaching Home - Canada's Homelessness Strategy

Schedule of revenue and expenses

Year ended March 31, 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Revenue:			
Ministry funding	2	5,128,045	3,912,364
Expenditures:			
Sub-project costs		4,780,881	3,715,907
Program management & administrative		347,164	196,457
Total expenditures		5,128,045	3,912,364
Excess of eligible expenditures over revenue		-	-

See accompanying notes to the schedule of revenues and expenditures.

The Regional Municipality of Niagara
Reaching Home – Canada’s Homelessness Strategy
Program Notes to the schedule of revenue and expenses
March 31, 2024

1. Significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The schedule has been prepared for the Office of Infrastructure of Canada (INFC) Employment and Social Development Canada. The agreement between the Ministry of Employment and Social Development Canada and the Regional Municipality of Niagara requires the schedule to be prepared in a manner consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). Management of The Regional Municipality of Niagara has interpreted GAAP to be recognition and measurement principles in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards, except that it does not provide for employee future benefits and does not capitalize and amortize tangible capital assets. Management has further interpreted that GAAP does not include the presentation principles or the presentation of all financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP for a complete set of financial statements.

Revenue and expenses

Revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses are recorded if they are eligible for the program and incurred in the period, except for employee future benefits.

Employee future benefits

Employee future benefits are provided which will require funding in future periods. These benefits include sick leave, benefits under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (“WSIB”) Act, and life insurance, extended health and dental benefits for early retirees. These benefits are recorded on a cash basis.

2. Ministry funding

This project commenced April 1, 2019 and will end March 31, 2024. Total maximum amount of Canada’s contribution is \$24,659,958.

The funding allocation under Reaching Home will be used to support priorities and recommendations of the joint housing and homelessness action plan task force / Community Advisory Board (\$22,106,963). There is incremental funding to support initial investments towards the design and implementation of Coordinated Access (\$1,297,160) and Winter 2023/2024 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding (\$1,255,835).

The maximum amount payable by the Ministry in each fiscal year of the project is:

The Regional Municipality of Niagara
Reaching Home – Canada’s Homelessness Strategy
Program Notes to the schedule of revenue and expenses
 March 31, 2024

	Designated Community \$	Coordinated Access \$	Unsheltered Response \$	Total Funding \$
2020	837,176	121,420	—	958,596
2021	837,176	103,920	—	941,096
2022	4,065,127	103,920	—	4,169,047
2023	3,718,784	193,580	—	3,912,364
2024	3,678,630	193,580	1,255,835	5,128,045
2025	3,475,467	193,580	—	3,669,047
2026	3,475,467	193,580	—	3,669,047
2027	1,009,568	96,790	—	1,106,358
2028	1,009,568	96,790	—	1,106,358
	<u>22,106,963</u>	<u>1,297,160</u>	<u>1,255,835</u>	<u>24,659,958</u>

Subject: Niagara Prosperity Initiative Fund and Grant Program

Report To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

Report date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Recommendations

1. That the use of granting **BE APPROVED** for the funding allocation pursuant to the “Niagara Prosperity Initiative” (NPI) as a second pilot project (of the granting approach) to respond to the recommendations in the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS);
2. That the Commissioner of Community Services **BE AUTHORIZED** to build on the learnings from the “Building Safer Communities Grant Program” when developing the necessary procedures to implement the use of granting for the Niagara Prosperity Initiative and execute any agreements and ancillary documents as required to allocate funding under the Niagara Prosperity Initiative in a form satisfactory to the Director, Legal and Court Services, and contingent on annual operating budget approval of NPI investments from 2025 to 2027; and
3. That staff **REPORT BACK** on the outcome of the second granting pilot and the potential to establish a corporate grant policy and procedure, subject to Council approval, to provide a fair, open and transparent method for allocating funding to advance future Community Services’ programs and initiatives.

Key facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a second pilot for the Grant program as a means to allocate Niagara Prosperity Initiative (NPI) funding aligned with the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- The community-led [Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy \(NPRS\)](https://www.niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/default.aspx) (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/community-safety/poverty-reduction-strategy/default.aspx>) was presented at Committee of the Whole on March 7, 2024.
- The strategy is used to inform where to best invest resources to gain the greatest impact in poverty reduction.
- The community identified eight Areas of Focus, with one recommendation for each area and a set of actions that addresses the issue of poverty.
- To mobilize the strategy, the grant program will be used to distribute funds to community-led programs as opposed to traditional methods of procurement.

Financial Considerations

NPI investments are 100% levy funded as part of the Community Services operating budget and have been allocated annually since 2008, reaching up to \$1.5 million per year. As a measure to help mitigate the overall levy budget increase, the annual allocation for 2024 was reduced to \$1.2 million.

The future level of funding available for the NPI program that targets poverty prevention and elimination in Niagara will be up to \$1.5 million per year, contingent on the amount that Council approves for NPI investments annually from 2025 to 2027. The funding covers the investment in the individual projects approved, estimated \$1.4 million per year for three (3) years starting in 2025, plus the internal administration costs for staffing estimated at \$100,000 per year for three (3) years. Therefore, awarded funding for projects over the three (3) year contracts is anticipated to be \$4.2 million in total. This three (3) year grant will be included in the Community Services budget for NPI and is contingent on Council approving the same level of funding throughout 2025-2027.

Analysis

Poverty Reduction Strategy

In March 2024, Niagara Region released the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS). The strategy reflects concerns, opportunities and actions identified by residents during a broad engagement process and outlines eight Areas of Focus with one recommendation for each area. The Areas of Focus are: Indigenous Well-Being, Housing, Income, Employment, Food Security, Early Child Development, Transportation, and Mental Health and Addiction.

The strategy will play a significant role to inform where to best invest resources to have the greatest impact on poverty reduction.

Niagara Prosperity Initiative

One Niagara Regional program that has a direct goal to alleviate and reduce poverty in Niagara is NPI. Since its inception in 2008, Regional Council has made an annual investment in the NPI program with the purpose of supporting poverty reduction and prevention activities.

Niagara Prosperity Initiative has six principle objectives:

- Low-income people become more self-sufficient
- The conditions in which low-income people live are improved

- People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities
- Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved
- Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results
- Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments

NPI Grant Program

Objectives

Program staff recommend, in alignment with other municipalities across Ontario, the release of funding to support Poverty Reduction Initiatives through a Grant program. A granting approach to redistribute NPI funding (as opposed to a traditional procurement approach) is being used by the municipalities of Hamilton, Peel, Toronto, and others. The NPI Grant Program will be used to fund community-based poverty alleviation and reduction initiatives for people living in poverty. Community organizations may apply for funds to develop and deliver initiatives for targeted investment aligned with the NPRS in the following areas:

- Indigenous well-being – working in partnership with Indigenous community leaders using a community driven process to develop strategies for Indigenous specific poverty reduction initiatives
- Housing and Early Childhood Development – provide housing stability services for people living in poverty and strengthen supports for children transitioning out of shelter
- Mental Health and Addiction – enhance core service capacity and offer a choice of timely, early recovery interventions and treatments for people on social assistance or those experiencing homelessness
- Income and Employment – increase opportunities for decent work, living wage employment and financial empowerment initiatives
- Food Security – improve access to fresh, culturally appropriate, affordable and nutritious food through interventions that reduce barriers to food access in priority neighbourhoods

Guiding Principles

The NPI Grant Program will be guided by the below values and principles:

- **Fairness, Integrity and Transparency:** The decision to grant funding and the application process is fair, impartial and transparent, and conforms to applicable legal requirements.
- **Accountability:** Community Services ensures that funded activities address local needs, and that the progress of funded activities is regularly and publicly monitored and reported. Grant recipients are responsible for delivering the activities for which the funds were received and subject to appropriate accountability mechanisms and oversight.
- **Value for Money:** Community Services makes efficient and effective use of public resources for grants. Grant funding produces the best value where expected outcomes are clearly defined, and programs and organizations are focused on enabling and achieving those outcomes.
- **Reciprocal Respect:** There is respectful, open and ongoing communication between Community Services and grant recipients.
- **Equity and Inclusion:** Community Services will engage diverse residents, including groups that have been traditionally underrepresented and/or marginalized from access to services, to identify and review community needs and trends so that the NPI Grant Program is informed by and responsive to local needs.
- **Flexibility:** In alignment with appropriate and transparent financial guidelines and funding allocation, budget flexibility allows grant recipients to adjust and innovate program delivery throughout the course of the grant to ensure expected outcomes and community needs are met.
- **Clarity and Consistency:** Community Services uses common processes, tools and templates as appropriate to create administrative efficiencies and support consistency in the oversight and application of grants

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to receive a grant under the NPI Grant Program, all organizations must meet the following conditions:

- a. The services funded through the grant shall take place within the boundaries of the Niagara region;
- b. The organization shall provide information that demonstrates it does not, in the absence of the grant, have the financial resources necessary to undertake the activity for which the grant is requested;
- c. The organization shall have legal not-for-profit or charitable status or be an urban off-reserve Indigenous-led organization or community centre;
- d. The organization has been in existence for a minimum of one year;

- e. The organization shall not be or have not been indebted to the Region or be in default of the terms and conditions of any agreement (including any previous grant agreement) with the Region of Niagara; and,
- f. The organization must submit a completed application form and confirm that all information provided in the application form and related documents is true, correct and complete, as verified by an authorized official of the organization.

Outreach and Engagement

Program staff will develop an outreach plan which outlines the approach to sharing information about the NPI Grant Program with organizations across the region of Niagara. The outreach plan will include the promotion of the grant program through local planning tables, foundations, an agency distribution list, information sessions with community partners and use of Regional social media. The core purpose of this outreach is to ensure that as many potential applicants as possible are directly informed or have access to appropriate information regarding the NPI Grant Program.

Application Process

Program staff will ensure procedures are developed which describe the above eligibility criteria, the application submission process and how applications will be evaluated and approved. It is anticipated that the Call for Applications will be issued in early Fall 2024 and will remain open for a 4-week period.

Lastly, program staff will develop an application form to seek information from applicants, including their organizational information, how their program/service will align with the grant objectives, a description of the target population, equity considerations, evidence of need, a description of collaboration / partnerships, proposed use of funds / resources and a work plan (i.e., activities, key performance indicators, targets and outcomes).

These documents and the application submission process will occur online using a grant management platform – Good Grants, which was used successfully for the previous grant pilot program (Building Safer Communities). This grant management platform provides a number of features which can enable administrative efficiencies in applying for and evaluating applications, such as: an applicant portal; customizable online application forms; collaborative submissions; communication in one place between staff, reviewers and applicants; audit trails; integrated review portal/process; and, integrated reporting.

Review Process

A Grant Selection Panel, consisting of staff and community members and subject matter experts, will assess grant applications to support funding recommendations. Panel members will be selected on the basis of expertise, including lived expertise, and shall reflect the diversity of Niagara region and be required to confirm that they do not have a conflict of interest. Those with a declared conflict of interest will not participate in the assessment, the discussion of those particular applications and/or will not participate in the selection panel.

Grant selection panelists will use a standardized scoring matrix to review applications that is currently under development (see Appendix A: Scoring Matrix provides a preliminary outline, based on the evaluation criteria used previously in procurement processes for the NPI program, to be further refined as the pilot is further developed, subject to Council approval of this report). Program staff will support with the orientation and onboarding of panelists to the grant management platform and offer associated training to support them in their role as evaluators.

Awarding and Post-Award Feedback

The highest scoring applications as determined by the Grant Selection Panel, will be further reviewed and considered by staff in light of program objectives for purposes of advancing funding recommendations to the Commissioner for consideration and approval. All applicants shall be informed that they can request a follow-up meeting with program staff regarding the outcome of their grant application. Applicants will be provided with the ability to meet with program staff involved in the review process to receive feedback, including the decision rationale based on the application evaluation results.

Agreements

Prior to receiving a Grant, successful applicants shall be required to enter into an agreement with Niagara Region outlining the terms and conditions for receiving the Grant, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal and Court Services. Execution of agreements are contingent on the amount that Council approves for NPI commencing January 2025.

Funding Cycle

Community agencies will be able to apply for three years of funding for initiatives that align with the NPRS which address poverty. The three-year grant cycle supports the recommendations outlined in the NPRS, to provide longer funding terms for programs to help address the unpredictability and fragmentary nature of services provided through time-limited contracts. In addition, it aligns with granting timelines from other levels of government and funding bodies.

Funding will begin for year one projects once Council has approved the 2025 budget. Annual reports and reviews will be required and funding for year two and three will be contingent on the success of the projects and approval by Council for continued NPI investment included in the 2026 and 2027 operating budgets.

Reporting

Program staff will ensure that information related to funded initiatives / activities and evaluation metrics are made publicly accessible on the regional website. NPI program updates will be rolled into annual NPI progress reports that highlight updates, milestones, next steps and new activities for Council.

Report back the outcome of the grant process

As shown through the initial evaluation of the Building Safer Communities Grant Pilot Program, the grant process has proven to be an effective option to allocate funds to the community. Most agencies found value in the granting process, noting the simplified application process, expedited timelines and community collaboration.

The flexibility afforded in the granting model decreases barriers for agencies, including financial and administrative resources, while still upholding a rigorous, fair and transparent funding process.

Using granting to distribute the funds allocated to NPI is anticipated to further allow for community involvement and enhance the current granting policy and procedures that are well underway. Staff will bring a report to Council on the outcomes of the NPI grant process and the successful applicants of the funding in fall 2024.

Alternatives Reviewed

Alternative methods of awarding funding through traditional procurement methods (e.g., Request for Proposals) can be utilized but may impede the ability to distribute funds to community organizations within constrained limited project timelines, can be

administratively burdensome to community organizations and present additional costs to community organizations to access and submit bid documents. Granting allows for flexibility in design and equity-based considerations when awarding funds to successful recipients.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This recommendation is aligned to Council’s strategic priority of ensuring an “Equitable Region” by listening and responding to community needs and planning for future growth.

The Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy is an action within the Equitable Region. The use of the Niagara Prosperity Initiative granting program improves access to funding opportunities for community agencies to implement recommendations in the poverty strategy.

Other Pertinent Reports:

- Committee of the Whole Presentation, Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy, March 7, 2024
- COM 14-2024 – An Evaluation of the use of Granting for the Building Safer Communities Grant Program Pilot

Prepared by:

Lori Watson
Director
Community Services

Recommended by:

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner
Community Services

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Marc Todd, Manager, Community Services, and reviewed by Donna Gibbs, Director of Legal and Court Services and Donovan D’Amboise, Manager, Program Financial Support.

Appendix 1 Niagara Prosperity Initiative Grant Program: Scoring Matrix (Under Development)

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
Alignment with Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission is clearly aligned with poverty prevention and reduction objective(s) and identified in a manner that is impactful Clearly supports individuals and/or families that are living in poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission is mostly aligned with poverty prevention and reduction objective(s) and identified in a manner that is somewhat impactful Somewhat supports individuals and/or families that are living in poverty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The submission lacks full alignment with poverty prevention and reduction objective(s) and has some alignment but unlikely to be impactful Lacks evidence that the application would support individuals and/or families that are living in poverty.
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target population is clearly identified using sociodemographic descriptors (i.e., age, gender, race and/or other factors are provided) The program/initiative is likely to have a high level of impact on people living in poverty Target population is clearly identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target population is somewhat identified (may be missing some sociodemographic descriptors) The program/initiative is likely to achieve a moderate level of impact on people living in poverty. Target population is mostly clear with some minor information gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Target population is not clear (there are multiple sociodemographic descriptors missing or none at all) The program/initiative is likely to achieve minimal or no impact on people living in poverty. Target population is not clear or there are significant information gaps
Evidence of Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly demonstrates a need for the proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly demonstrates a need for the proposal through somewhat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not demonstrate a need for the proposal

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
	<p>through strong use of evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence provided is congruent with the need that will be addressed by the program/initiative (i.e., identified need and project outcomes are highly aligned) • Evidence provided is appropriate for the nature of the request; if evidence is unavailable the applicant has demonstrated how they will contribute to improving the availability of evidence of the issue • The proposal clearly demonstrates how the program/initiative will address a gap in services or will complement existing services • The applicant has clearly identified why the program/initiative should be considered a priority in Niagara 	<p>satisfactory use of evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence provided is mostly/somewhat congruent with the need that will be addressed by the program/initiative (i.e., identified need and project outcomes are mostly/somewhat aligned) • Evidence provided is mostly appropriate for the nature of the request; if evidence is unavailable the applicant has somewhat demonstrated how they will contribute to improving the availability of evidence of the issue • The proposal somewhat demonstrates how the program/initiative will address a gap in services or will complement existing services • The applicant has mostly/somewhat identified why the program/initiative should 	<p>through use of evidence, or evidence is weak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence provided lacks congruency with the need that will be addressed by the program/initiative (i.e., identified need and program outcomes are poorly aligned) • Evidence provided is not appropriate for the nature of the request; if evidence is unavailable the applicant has not demonstrated how they will contribute to improving the availability of evidence of the issue • The proposal does not demonstrate how the program/initiative will address a gap in services or will complement existing services; the proposal may duplicate current services • The applicant has made only a limited case (or not at all) for why the

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
Program Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a high likelihood that the program/initiative will be sustainable beyond the funding period <p>(e.g., clear rationale for how the program will be sustained; program has partners that contribute substantial resources or in-kind contributions; diversified program revenues; builds on a social enterprise model; if the request is for an existing program, there has not been a decrease in revenues over the past 12 months)</p>	<p>be considered a priority in Niagara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is somewhat likely that the program/initiative will be sustained beyond the funding period <p>(e.g., some rationale for how the program will be sustained; program has partners that contribute some resources or in-kind contributions; somewhat diversified program revenues/projections; if the request is for an existing program, there has not been a significant decrease in revenues over the past 12 months)</p>	<p>program/initiative should be a priority in Niagara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unlikely that the program/initiative will be sustained beyond the funding period <p>(e.g., limited or no rationale for how the program will be sustained; program does not have partners that contribute resources or in-kind contributions; very little revenue diversification /projected revenue diversification; if the request is for an existing program, there has been a significant decrease in revenues over the past 12 months)</p>
Use of Funds/ Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed use of resources is efficient Budget is specific and realistic Budget is clearly aligned with program/initiative activities/outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed use of resources is mostly/somewhat efficient Budget is mostly specific and realistic, but requires further clarity in some areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed use of resources lacks efficiency Budget is incomplete, lacks clarity or is unrealistic Budget lacks alignment with program/initiative activities/outcomes

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget is somewhat/mostly aligned with program/initiative activities/outcomes 	
Work Plan: Goals Activities Targets/Objectives Evaluation Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear work plan with alignment between goals, targets, activities, and evaluation methods Targets/objectives are achievable/realistic and are likely to result in a high level of impact Targets/objectives are specific/measurable Clear and realistic evaluation plan; evaluation methods are aligned with the targets/objectives they are intended to measure There is a clear link between the work plan and other components of the application Overall, the work plan demonstrates a clear approach to implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly clear work plan with moderate alignment between goals, targets, activities and evaluation methods Targets/objectives are mostly/somewhat achievable/realistic and likely to result in a moderate level of impact Some targets/objectives are specific/measurable Mostly/somewhat clear and realistic evaluation plan; evaluation methods are mostly/somewhat aligned with the targets/objectives they are intended to measure There are links between most elements of the work plan and other components of the application Overall, the work plan demonstrates a mostly/somewhat clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work plan lacks clarity, weak alignment between goals, targets, activities, and evaluation methods Targets/objectives are not achievable/realistic and unlikely to result in meaningful impact Targets lack specificity/measurability Evaluation plan is not clear or realistic; evaluation methods lack alignment with targets/objectives they are intended to measure There are missing links between the work plan and other components of the application Overall, the work plan does not demonstrate a clear approach to implementation

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
		<p>approach to implementation</p>	
<p>Overall Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a strong proposal with a high return on investment • If funded, the proposal is likely to result in a high level of impact • The proposal is addressing a high priority need in the community • It is likely that impact will be sustained beyond the funding period • If appropriate, the proposal demonstrates a highly collaborative approach • If appropriate, a letter(s) of support has been submitted by partner(s) essential for the delivery of the program/initiative • If appropriate, the application demonstrates that it reaches and supports diverse, equity-seeking or marginalized populations in Niagara • If appropriate, the proposal is based on best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a somewhat strong proposal with a moderate return on investment • If funded, the proposal is likely to result in a moderate level of impact • The proposal is addressing a moderate level of need in the community • There is an opportunity for impact to last beyond the funding period • If appropriate, the proposal demonstrates a somewhat collaborative approach • If appropriate, a letter(s) of support has been submitted by most partner(s) essential for the delivery of the program/initiative • If appropriate, the application somewhat reaches and supports diverse, equity-seeking or marginalized populations in Niagara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal is weak and likely to result in a limited return on investment • If funded, the proposal is unlikely to result in significant impact • The proposal is not addressing a priority need in the community • Any potential impact will not be sustained beyond the funding period • A collaborative approach is appropriate for this program/initiative but is not demonstrated • If appropriate, a letter(s) of support has been submitted by only some or none of the partner(s) essential for the delivery of the program/initiative • The application does not reach and support diverse, equity-seeking or marginalized populations in Niagara, even though it

Review Criteria	High (4-5)	Medium (2-3)	Low (0-1)
	<p>or evidence-based practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the proposal is a high priority for investment by Niagara Region, as identified in the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If appropriate, the proposal demonstrates some alignment to best practices or evidence-based practices Overall, the proposal is a medium range priority for investment by Niagara Region, as identified in the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy 	<p>would be appropriate to do so</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An approach based on best practices or evidence-based practices is appropriate for this program/initiative but is not demonstrated Overall, the proposal is a low range priority for investment by Niagara Region, as identified in the Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

Memorandum

COM-C 10-2024

Subject: Homelessness Services “Niagara Counts” Point-in-Time (PiT) Count 2024

Date: July 9, 2024

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services

Niagara’s Point-in-Time (PiT) Count, “Niagara Counts”, is a strategy to help determine how many people in Niagara are experiencing homelessness, found in emergency and domestic violence shelters, on the streets, in transitional housing or in other people’s homes. A PiT Count provides a one-day snapshot of non-identifying data at a specific time through an event the community can rally around. A Count typically focuses on collecting numbers, basic demographics, reasons for homelessness and service use information. The data collected is used to measure trends over the large periods of time between counts, typically every one or two years. A PiT Count is similar to a By-Name List in that they both provide a count of the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Designated communities are mandated by the federal government to conduct a PiT Count as part of the Reaching Home program. Three previous PiT Counts were conducted in Niagara: in 2016, 2018 and 2021. Although previous PiT Counts have all occurred in spring, the Federal government is requiring the upcoming PiT Count to take place in the fall before the end of November 2024. Niagara Counts is planned to take place on October 22, with a contingency date of October 29.

A By-Name List is different from a PiT Count because it provides an ongoing, real-time count of people entering and exiting the homeless-serving system using identifying data. By-Name List data is collected over time, as needed, to assist the system to provide the right amount and types of service to people experiencing homelessness at the right time based on progressive engagement. It also provides actionable household-level data needed for Coordinated Access¹ to offer housing support and provides

¹ Coordinated Access is a systems-level approach for addressing homelessness that provides a consistent way to assess, prioritize and connect people experiencing homelessness to Region-funded housing and supports.

monthly snapshots to use in measuring trends and informing system improvements. Niagara's homeless-serving system has used a By-Name List since 2019 as part of its work with Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C) and in line with provincial and federal requirements.

Niagara Counts is a collaborative effort among Niagara Region and social service providers across the region. A steering committee representing a variety of sectors organizes the event. Key partners in planning and conducting the PiT Count include:

- Niagara's Assertive Street Outreach (NASO) team will support with the unsheltered count and surveys, visiting the more remote places frequented by those experiencing homelessness and helping to map routes for street count volunteers.
- Niagara Indigenous Community Advisory Board (NICAB) and Indigenous service providers will lead engagement of Indigenous people and families experiencing homelessness.
- Staff within emergency and domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing, will be conducting the sheltered count and surveys.

Niagara Counts typically relies on community agencies and trained volunteers to conduct the Count. However, due to the pandemic, the 2021 Count was modified and completed by community agency staff only. The 2024 Count will once again provide an opportunity for broader engagement of community members. Broad engagement is important in that it provides an opportunity for community members who are interested in efforts to address homelessness to contribute toward an issue they care about while learning about current efforts, best practices, homelessness programs and successes. The volunteer opportunity will be posted on social media by early September. Volunteer training is typically a two-to-three-hour session that covers who to ask, how to ask each survey question and how to stay safe while conducting the count.

Additional engagement with Indigenous organizations is necessary to provide an accurate picture of homelessness among Indigenous persons and families in Niagara. Many Indigenous people and families experiencing homelessness access supports outside of Niagara's homeless-serving system, and therefore are not reflected in the Region's By-Name List. For the 2024 Count, the Region will work with the Niagara Indigenous Community Advisory Board (NICAB) to gather information about the experience of homelessness among Indigenous people and families. Indigenous Street Outreach and Housing First staff will be available to support engagement and assist with outreach with traditional foods.

Information gathered from the 2024 PiT Count will be available in early 2025, and results will be posted on Niagara Region's Niagara Counts website.

Visit our website for more information about Niagara Counts.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Adrienne Jugley, MSW, RSW, CHE
Commissioner, Community Services



Mailing Address:
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Thorold ON L2V 3Z3

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Toll Free: 1-800-232-3292
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Web site: www.nrh.ca

June 21, 2024

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk
Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Dear Ms. Norio,

At their June 21, 2024 meeting, the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors passed the following motion as recommended in attached report NRH 5-2024:

The resolution requested is:

WHEREAS the "Corporation" and/or "Housing Provider" has requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the "Ministry") to arrange on its behalf a refinancing of the existing charge/mortgage of land (the "Mortgage") for its project municipally known as **Julius Court, 725 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines (the "project") for approximately \$1,708,822.36 maturing on September 1, 2024 (Ministry Reference No: S02843).**

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has agreed to arrange said mortgage financing and the Housing Provider agrees to be bound for those purposes by the terms and conditions contained in the said Mortgage, or any amendments thereto.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1.The Housing Provider hereby authorizes the Ministry to solicit and arrange on its behalf such Mortgage(s) or Mortgage facilities with a lender or its authorized agent (the "Lender") as it deems necessary, appropriate or advisable for the project identified above and for the maturity date aforementioned;

2.The Housing Provider hereby agrees to be bound to the Lender for such mortgage purposes and upon the terms and conditions contained in the said Mortgage, or any

amendments thereto, and the Housing Provider hereby further agrees to mortgage its property and assets to secure its present and future obligations under the said Mortgage, or any amendments thereto, to the Lender, as deemed necessary or advisable;

3. The Housing Provider hereby authorizes the designated signing Officers to enter into such agreement or agreements amending the terms of the said Mortgage and to deliver to the Lender such document or documents as may be deemed necessary, advisable or required by the Lender to give effect thereto; and

4. The Housing Provider hereby confirms that this Resolution has been ratified and approved by its Board of Directors and it agrees to deliver this Resolution to the Ministry and to the Lender; and the Housing Provider further confirms that this Resolution shall continue in force and effect until written notice to the contrary is delivered to the Lender and the Ministry with receipt acknowledged by the Lender and the Ministry.

It is further requested:

5. That this memo **BE FORWARDED** to the July 9, 2024 Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting for **INFORMATION**.

Your assistance is requested in moving report NRH 5-2024 through proper channels to the July 9, 2024 Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Zalepa', written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Gary Zalepa
Chair



Niagara Regional Housing

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NRH 5-2024
24-225-3.6.
COM-C 11-2024 June 21, 2024
Page 1 of 2

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 21, 2024
To: Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Board of Directors
From: Cameron Banach, CEO of Niagara Regional Housing
Subject: Social Non-Profit Housing Mortgage Renewal for September 1, 2024:
Niagara Regional Housing

On September 25, 2020 the Niagara Regional Housing Board of Directors approved the acquisition of Local 175 UFCW Residences Inc., aka Julius Court, located at 725 Welland Avenue in St. Catharines. Niagara Regional Housing assumed this property including all assets and liabilities, which consists of 70 townhouse units in total. The mortgage is held with the province and is due to be renewed.

The resolution requested is:

WHEREAS the "Corporation" and/or "Housing Provider" has requested the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the "Ministry") to arrange on its behalf a refinancing of the existing charge/mortgage of land (the "Mortgage") for its project municipally known as **Julius Court, 725 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines (the "project") for approximately \$1,708,822.36 maturing on September 1, 2024 (Ministry Reference No: S02843).**

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has agreed to arrange said mortgage financing and the Housing Provider agrees to be bound for those purposes by the terms and conditions contained in the said Mortgage, or any amendments thereto.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1.The Housing Provider hereby authorizes the Ministry to solicit and arrange on its behalf such Mortgage(s) or Mortgage facilities with a lender or its authorized agent (the "Lender") as it deems necessary, appropriate or advisable for the project identified above and for the maturity date aforementioned;

2.The Housing Provider hereby agrees to be bound to the Lender for such mortgage purposes and upon the terms and conditions contained in the said Mortgage, or any

amendments thereto, and the Housing Provider hereby further agrees to mortgage its property and assets to secure its present and future obligations under the said Mortgage, or any amendments thereto, to the Lender, as deemed necessary or advisable;

3.The Housing Provider hereby authorizes the designated signing Officers to enter into such agreement or agreements amending the terms of the said Mortgage and to deliver to the Lender such document or documents as may be deemed necessary, advisable or required by the Lender to give effect thereto; and

4.The Housing Provider hereby confirms that this Resolution has been ratified and approved by its Board of Directors and it agrees to deliver this Resolution to the Ministry and to the Lender; and the Housing Provider further confirms that this Resolution shall continue in force and effect until written notice to the contrary is delivered to the Lender and the Ministry with receipt acknowledged by the Lender and the Ministry.

It is further requested:

5. That this memo **BE FORWARDED** to the July 9, 2024 Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting for **INFORMATION**.

Respectfully submitted and signed by



Cameron Banach,
CEO of Niagara Regional Housing