

MEMORANDUM

COM-C 25-2023

Subject: Councillor Information Request – CHPI Funding Comparison

Date: April 4, 2023

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner Community Services

This memo is provided in response to the Councillor Information Request at the Public Health and Social Services Committee meeting of February 14, 2023, to circulate the (former) Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding comparison sheet.

This previously developed funding comparison analysis took into consideration all 47 service managers across Ontario and the funding they received in 2019/20 under the CHPI funding program to address homelessness. This homelessness funding was then compared between service manager areas, to reflect how the funding may have been allocated differently had the allocation decisions been based on a range of factors that would reasonably be considered to reflect the need in a community, such as population, social assistance caseloads, core housing need and low income measure – before tax. Based on all four possible means of allocation, Niagara would have received significantly more funding.

As part of previous advocacy work of Council and staff, a team of councillors and staff formally presented these findings to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in 2017, as referenced in the Auditor General's 2021 Value for Money Audit on Homelessness.

The Ontario Auditor General's report found "that the funding allocation model for homelessness did not allocate funding based on current need because a significant proportion is still allocated based on 2013 historical program spending and out dated 2011 Statistics Canada data". As a result, the Auditor General's recommendation 7 is:

"To fairly allocate funding to municipalities based on need, we recommend the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

Revisit the options identified in past funding reviews and re-evaluate its funding model for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative;

Implement changes to the funding model; and

Use the latest census data from Statistics Canada to recalculate the current funding allocation under the Community Homelessness Prevent Initiative.”

The Ministry Response:

“The Ministry agrees with this recommendation. The Ministry is committed to undertaking a review of the CHPI funding model methodology to more equitably allocate funds based on current local need. This review will include revisiting the options identified in past funding reviews, including replacing the outdated historical program spending component and using more updated data. The Ministry will consult with service managers before implementing funding model changes impacting CHPI funding allocations.”

The current homeless funding, known as the Homelessness Prevention Program funding, effective April 1, 2022, is a combination of the old CHPI funding, with Home for Good and Strong Communities funds bundled in, however the funding formula review was not undertaken prior to the amalgamation of funding programs.

While the full comparative analysis is very detailed and covers all 47 municipal service managers, below is chart with some key comparator municipalities relevant to Niagara.

CMSM	Population Source	2016 Population (individuals)	CHPI 2019-20 (\$)	Proposed Increase/Decrease to CHPI 2019-20 Allocation if Base Funding (\$169,800,000) was based only on:			
				Population 2016	Total Caseload 2018-19	Core Housing Need 2016	LIM-BT 2015
			323,707,142	And Estimated Allocation was used as an estimate of Provincial Priorities Funding (\$153,800,000).			
Durham	Durham CD	645,862	8,010,644	6,238,516	4,476,110	4,342,193	3,708,083
Halton	Halton CD	548,435	5,800,061	5,054,781	430,777	2,101,270	2,078,002
Hamilton	Hamilton CD	536,917	19,455,174	(6,529,280)	(4,380,337)	(6,328,481)	(6,082,395)
London	Middlesex CD	455,526	10,725,290	305,741	2,175,812	219,210	1,288,746
Niagara	Niagara CD	447,888	7,536,433	3,054,165	4,839,140	2,761,140	3,243,002
Waterloo	Waterloo CD	535,154	10,225,029	1,435,716	819,856	(272,267)	467,641
Windsor	Essex CD	398,953	10,166,257	(1,095,003)	(69,920)	(2,200,872)	(393,433)

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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