Subject: Homelessness Services Housing First and Home for Good Contract Extensions

Report to: Public Health and Social Services Committee

Report date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Recommendations

1. That the existing Housing First contracts **BE EXTENDED** as per Appendix 1, with the value of $76,154;
2. That the existing Home for Good contracts **BE EXTENDED** as per Appendix 1, with the value of $31,579;
3. That an additional contingency of $25,000 **BE APPROVED** should additional extensions be necessary; and
4. That staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any required amendments and documentation related to the agreements for service providers of Housing First and Home for Good to implement contract extensions.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend current Housing First contracts in keeping with Committee and Council approval of COM 07-2017.
- Housing First and Home for Good contracts are currently delivered in Niagara through ten Housing First and three Home for Good service providers. These providers support 200 units dedicated to Housing First and 40 units dedicated to Home for Good.
- Housing First and Home for Good programs are a recovery-oriented approach to homelessness that involves moving people who experience homelessness into independent and permanent housing as quickly as possible, with no preconditions, and then providing them with client focused services to support housing stability and prevent a return to homelessness.
- In October 2019, Niagara Region's Homelessness Services division issued multiple Negotiated Requests for Proposals, including Housing First and Home for Good, with the goal to seek preferred proponents to enter into direct contract negotiations with Homelessness Services for service delivery.
- Gateway Residential & Community Support Services of Niagara Inc. as a lead agency, in partnership with Southridge Community Church and Niagara Resource

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Service for Youth (The RAFT), is the successful proponent for the delivery of Housing First and Home for Good programs.

- Extending contracts of current service providers for a range of 1-3 months will provide a smooth transition to the successful proponent, allowing agencies to transition support plans with clients and minimize destabilization of the homelessness system.

Financial Considerations

The total cost to extend the Housing First and Home for Good contracts with current providers amounts to $107,733, and is within the 2020 funding available for Homelessness Services. Homelessness Services will work with Niagara Region's Legal Services and Procurement divisions on the extension of the existing contracts.

Analysis

Community Services operationalizes the Region's provincially mandated responsibilities as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for the homelessness system in Niagara. This system operates under rules established by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), and receives Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and Home for Good supportive housing funding from the Province. The Region also receives federal funding under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (known as Reaching Home) and is identified as the local Community Entity for this funding.

Niagara Region's Homelessness Services division carried out an approved formal procurement process (COM 29-2019) for the homelessness service system, with the intention to contract these services for a three-year period from April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2023. Successful proponents will operate homelessness services and participate in the transformation to a new integrated homeless system. These proponents have been determined for Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Housing First and Home for Good. The procurement process for the Niagara Emergency Energy Fund, Transitional Housing and Prevention is still in progress.

Current service provider contracts are set to expire March 31, 2020. The current Housing First and Home for Good contracts are recommended to be extended, as per Appendix 1, to support a smooth transition of service delivery from existing providers to the successful proponent, Gateway Residential & Community Support Services of

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Niagara Inc., in partnership with Southridge Community Church and Niagara Resource Service for Youth (The RAFT).

In keeping with Committee and Council's approval of COM 07-2017 which provided the authority to award Housing First contracts for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020, staff is seeking Committee approval to further extend these contracts as outlined in Appendix 1. Of note, while COM 07-2017 did not include the Home for Good contracts, these extensions are being provided as information only.

Alternatives Reviewed

Provide a brief analysis of the possible alternatives and explain why they are not recommended.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Aligns with the goals in Niagara's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, including Goal 1: housing individuals who do not have a home and Goal 4: building capacity and improving the effectiveness of the housing system.

Healthy and Vibrant Community – Objective 2.3 – Addressing Affordable Housing Needs

Other Pertinent Reports

- COM 07-2017 Housing First Providers in Niagara Region
- COM 10-2019 Homelessness Services System Review
- COM 23-2019 Niagara Region Application for Built for Zero Canada
- COM 26-2019 Homelessness Services Report 2018
- COM 29-2019 Procurement of Homelessness Services for Period of April 1, 2020-March 31, 2023

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Prepared by: **Recommended by:**
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Manager of Homelessness Services   Commissioner
Community Services   Community Services

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Submitted by:
Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Bart Menage, Director of Procurement and Strategic Acquisitions, Cathy Cousins, Director of Homelessness Services and Community Engagement and reviewed by Stephanie Muhic, Program Financial Specialist.

Appendices

Appendix 1   Homelessness Services Housing First and Home for Good Contract
Extensions Values