



**REPORT TO:** Co-Chairs and Members of the  
Public Health and Social Services Committee

**SUBJECT:** 2007 Amended Service Contract - Homelessness  
Ministry of Community and Social Services  
(Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program, Emergency  
Energy Fund)

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That this Committee recommend to Regional Council that the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2007 Amended Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) regarding funding through the Emergency Energy Fund (EEF) (100% of Provincial Subsidy = \$175,557/ Regional Contribution = \$0), and the Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program (CHPP) (100% Provincial Subsidy = \$589,832/ Regional Contribution= \$0, for a total contract of \$765,389.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report has been prepared to obtain approval for Corporate signatures for a MCSS 2007 Amended Service Contract for CHPP and EEF.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Provincial funding associated with this Service Contract incorporates additional funding of \$212,616 beyond the 2007 approved budget of \$552,773. The additional subsidy reflects budget increases under EEF and CHPP, a CHPP cost of administration increase and a carryover of funding from 2006. It has no effect to the Regional budget.

## **PURPOSE**

Staff are in receipt of correspondence from MCSS (as Appendix 1) requesting that the Ministry's 2007 Amended Homelessness Service Contract be signed.

## **BACKGROUND**

MCSS has continued its funding through the 2007 Service Contract for the CHPP which is consistent with the new funding model implemented in January, 2006 and supports the Niagara Homelessness Services Community Plan.

The EEF commenced in 2004 to assist low-income Ontarians with energy arrears, security deposits and reconnection costs necessary to sustain permanent housing. Funding continues at 100% through MCSS.

Community Services will administer the CHPP and EEF through Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

## **REPORT**

The execution of this Service Contract will demonstrate Ministry, as well as Region, commitment and investment in the following programs.

### Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program (CHPP)

Introduced in 2006 the Consolidated Homeless Prevention Program (CHPP) goal is the reduction and prevention of homelessness through a coordinated effort directed at prevention and emergency relief, re-housing, and stabilizing households in permanent accommodation.

To achieve this goal the program helps fund Canal View Homes in Welland with providing support services and housing to the psychiatrically disabled. It also supports the Housing Help Centre in St. Catharines and Project S.H.A.R.E. in Niagara Falls for the delivery of housing placement and supportive services in their communities and finally, it supports the provision of homelessness outreach services in Niagara through Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold, providing direct service to the homeless population living on the street.

In March 2007, MCSS advised Community Services that \$108,000 was available to launch and evaluate the supported transitional housing pilot in St. Catharines. Utilizing an RFP process, CMHA (Niagara Branch) was selected as the successful proponent to manage the pilot and provide supports to the residents. The funding provided represents 80% of the anticipated costs of the 18 month pilot. CMHA will be providing in-kind contributions to

cover the balance of the anticipated costs. The Transitional Supported Housing Pilot Project is designed to address the problem of homelessness by providing supported transitional housing to individuals experiencing persistent homelessness (see COM 31-2007).

#### Energy Emergency Fund (EEF)

The EEF, which is 100% funded by MCSS, was established in 2004 on a one-time basis to assist low-income Ontarians with energy arrears, security deposits and reconnection costs. When granted, energy assistance will be paid directly to the individual's energy provider. Locally, Community Services has contracted with the Share the Warmth program to provide this service across Niagara (see COM 40-2007).

Provincial funding associated with this service contract is consistent with the Ministry's ongoing commitment to reduce or prevent homelessness in Ontario communities. The Ministry is funding all of the programs at 100%. Accordingly, staff recommend that the Service Contract be signed. In addition, Community Services staff will continue with its evaluations of these programs to support community planning related to homelessness.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Brian Hutchings, Commissioner  
Community Services Department

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Mike Trojan  
Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared by F. Malone, Program Cost Analyst, Operational Support Services, and reviewed by C. Cousins, Director Operational Support Services and S. Pennisi, Director Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.*

Appendix 1 - Correspondence requesting that the Ministry's 2007 Amended Service Contract for EEF and CHPP be signed.