



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Warden and Members of the County Council
From: Mark Poste, Director of Housing Services
Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024
Subject: Requests for Proposals: Transitional Housing with Supports for 65 Delhi Street

Background:

This report provides details from the 2024 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the delivery of Transitional Housing with Supports for 65 Delhi St. in Guelph. The RFP closed in May and had one proponent submit for the delivery of support services for the 65 Delhi Transitional Housing project. The annual funding available for this project is \$1,200,000 and is to be committed under this request for proposals process for the opening of the 65 Delhi site which is expected for the end of 2024.

Evaluation:

The RFP evaluation team consisted of County representatives from the Housing Services Programmes team, Housing Stability team, Tenant Services team, and the Applicant Services team. The evaluation team reviewed the proposal and evaluated it on the criteria listed in the RFP, which was broken down into the following categories: Service Model, Organizational Capacity and Experience, Alignment with Programmes Philosophy and Best Practice, Inclusive Services, and Budget. The proposal that was received came from Thresholds Homes and Supports Inc. as the sole respondent in collaboration with Stonehenge Therapeutic Community, KW Urban Native Housing, Guelph Community Health Centre and Crow Shield Lodge.

The proposal submitted for the RFP scored very well against the scoring criteria. The project, along with the support proposal provided aligns closely with our community's Housing and Homelessness Plan goals and objectives. The support plan provided takes a housing first approach demonstrating all 5 of the Housing First principles:

- Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and client-driven supports
- Social and community integration

The proposal includes lived/living experience knowledge informing the support structure as well as the integration of peer-to-peer engagement into the building.

The strength of this proposal is in its project partners, having partnerships that span across existing health and housing community organizations. With the partnerships identified in the proposal, the collaboration aims to effectively deliver its Philosophy of Care, which is centred around 4 priority areas:

1. Balancing Holistic and Clinical Care
2. Cultural Sensitivity
3. Person-Centred Approaches to Mental Health

4. Housing First/Eviction Prevention

The structure of this partnership and the support systems is important, especially as it pertains to providing culturally sensitive supports for those experiencing homelessness.

Staff are recommending a conditional commitment to Thresholds Homes and Supports Inc. as the lead proponent responsible for the delivery of Transitional Housing supports at 65 Delhi. The conditional commitment will initiate a collaboration with the proponent over the summer to develop a service agreement that meets the support requirements of the 65 Delhi site and its future residents. Staff are seeking delegated authority to execute a service agreement with Thresholds Homes and Supports for 3 years with a possible 2-year extension, subject to the terms of the agreement meeting existing budgets and the service agreement being approved by the County Solicitor and the Social Services Administrator.

Financial Implications

The proposed conditional commitment for the delivery of supports at the 65 Delhi Site, would be made within the existing budget already attributed to the project. The proposed conditional commitment and subsequent services agreement would not have an impact on the County's 2024 or 2025 budgets.

Strategic Action Plan:

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

- Continue working to ensure all County residents have a safe place they can call home.

Recommendation:

That County Council authorize staff to provide a conditional commitment to Thresholds Homes and Supports Inc., for the delivery of transitional housing supports at 65 Delhi; and

That staff be granted delegated authority to execute a service agreement with Thresholds Homes and Supports Inc. for 3 years with a possible 2-year extension, subject to the terms of the agreement meeting existing budgets and the service agreement being approved by the County Solicitor and the Social Services Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Poste
Director of Housing Services