

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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February 3, 2023

Andy Lennox
Warden, County of Wellington
74 Woolwich Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3T9

Dear Andy Lennox:

Re: 2023-24 and 2024-25 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially-Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs

I am pleased to be writing to you today with important details regarding your planned funding allocations for community housing and homelessness prevention programs for 2023-24 and 2024-25 where available.

Our government's policies have delivered historic results in getting more homes built faster and complement our nearly \$4.4 billion in investments to create community and supportive housing, respond to COVID-19, and address homelessness over the past three years. Community and supportive housing are critical components of our commitment to build 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years, which will ensure that all people in Ontario, especially our most vulnerable, have a home that meets their needs and budget.

We are committed to ensuring our partners have certainty and stability in funding for their housing and homelessness services and will continue to fight to ensure Ontario municipalities receive their fair share of funding under the National Housing Strategy – and I would urge you, as municipal leaders, to join us in making the case to the federal government. We are committed to continuing our vital work with you to provide affordable housing and homelessness prevention options in our local communities.

Today, I'm pleased to inform you that the province is investing a further \$11.5 million in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 through the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit for women and children escaping violence.

Additionally, a further \$33.9 million in 2023-24 is being allocated through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI). Recognizing that the COCHI funding allocation model was based on outdated 2018-19 Social Housing Agreement funding levels, the ministry has updated the funding model for 2023-24 onwards to provide a

more equitable, needs-focused approach based on social housing stock and core housing need. This is intended to help achieve the COCHI objectives, such as preserving and creating new social housing units across the province. Importantly, the revised allocation model ensures that all participating SMs and IPAs see an increase in COCHI allocations from the 2022-23 amounts.

To assist with your local planning, we are providing **your specific planned funding allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years**.

Please be aware that the ministry is conducting a review of the funding allocation model for the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP). Given the ongoing review, funding allocations under HPP may be subject to change although any change would not result in a reduction to the planning allocation provided.

All funding allocation amounts included below are for planning purposes only and are subject to confirmation through the province's annual budget planning process. The National Housing Strategy initiatives are dependant on agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on the National Housing Strategy Bilateral Agreement amendments. Updated program materials including Transfer Payment Agreements, Program Guidelines and Investment Plan templates for the National Housing Strategy initiatives will be released in the coming weeks.

Planning Funding Allocations – County of Wellington

Program	Planning Allocation Amounts	
	2023-24 Fiscal Year	2024-25 Fiscal Year
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)	\$1,633,500	\$2,222,200
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)	\$1,186,200	\$1,144,500
Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) ¹	\$497,900	N/A
Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) ²	\$4,878,400	N/A

Notes:

¹The allocation amount for COHB is funding available to enroll new participants in the program for the fiscal year, including SM administration payments. Allocations exclude the funding required to support existing participants. As the cost required to support existing participants in 2024-25 depends on the 2023-24 participant take-up, the 2024-25 allocations will not be available until early 2024. Housing Program staff will be in touch with you to discuss estimates for the number of applications you should plan to enroll with the 2023-24 funding amount.

²The 2023-24 allocation amounts for HPP are under review and will not decrease from the 2022-23 amount shown. Once finalized, allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 will be confirmed.

For more information on the programs listed above, please see the enclosed Appendix.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist vulnerable residents and to keep people safe. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosures

c. Scott Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark Poste, Director of Housing, Housing Services
Cynthia Cabral, Team Lead, Municipal Services Office

Appendix – Program Descriptions

Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)

To support Ontario's *Community Housing Renewal Strategy*, COCHI was launched in fiscal 2019-20. COCHI funding is provided under the National Housing Strategy and represents a reinvestment of federal funding that has been declining under the *Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement*.

COCHI provides an opportunity for Service Managers and housing providers to address the challenges associated with social housing projects reaching the end of their operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity. This initiative provides flexible funding for social housing affordability support, repair and/or new supply.

Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

In addition to launching COCHI under the *Community Housing Renewal Strategy*, the Ministry also launched OPHI in fiscal 2019-20. OPHI provides significant flexibility to address local priorities in the areas of housing supply and affordability, including new affordable rental construction, community housing repair, rental assistance, tenant supports and affordable homeownership.

Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)

Launched in April 2020, the COHB is a joint federal/provincial housing allowance program under the National Housing Strategy.

The purpose of the COHB is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit payment directly to eligible households in housing need that are on, or are eligible to be on, a social housing waiting list, and to households in housing need living in community housing.

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

Launched on April 1, 2022, HPP is a provincially-funded program that supports Ontario's 47 municipal Service Managers to provide affordable housing and support services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The objective of the program is to support Service Managers in preventing, addressing and reducing homelessness, including chronic homelessness.

It combines three previous programs and is intended to be streamlined and flexible so that Service Managers can target funding where community need is greatest and can make the most impact.