



To: Chair and Members of the Social Services Committee
From: Mark Poste, Director of Housing
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023
Subject: **2023 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative Funding Update**

Background:

In March 2023, County Staff shared committee report HS-23-03 “2023-25 Planned Funding Allocations for Provincially Delivered Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programmes” which provided a funding planning allocation for the 2023 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) programme. To date, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not provided the County with confirmed local allocation for the COCHI programme.

Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) 2022-23 Investments

Early in 2023, the Housing Services division put out a call for proposals to all of our community housing providers looking for applications for potential major capital investments from the County under the 2023 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) funding. The funding available in the provincial planning allocation in 2023 for capital project investments is \$ 1,633,500. At closing for the call for proposals, housing providers submitted 31 project requests totaling \$4,779,624 in funding. The 31 projects ranged from \$12,000 to support accessibility upgrades to \$672,000 for a parking garage restoration.

Funding and Submission Overview

Total Funds Available for Capital Projects in 2022	\$ 1,633,500 (Planning Allocation)
Total Number of Projects Requested	31
Total Amount of Funding Requested	\$ 4,779,624

Evaluation:

All capital project investment proposals will be reviewed in detail by an evaluation team that will assign numerical values based on the following criteria:

- Risks – health and safety, water damage, litigation, security, human rights, accessibility
- Urgency of project – repair within the year or several years from now
- Compliance order issued to housing provider i.e. fire department, City, TSSA
- Project completion deadlines and prior success with capital projects
- Capital reserve balance current, 5-year projection and 10-year projection, surpluses or other funding available and,
- Capital funding from previous funding programmes

Traditionally, Housing Services would receive confirmation of our COCHI funding allocations from MMAH prior to the June Social Services Committee meeting. Staff use the June committee meeting to approve COCHI funding commitments to be made to housing providers. It is important to issue letters of commitment under the COCHI programme to major capital projects as early as possible, to allow housing providers to start the tendering process over the summer. Starting the tendering process over the summer provides enough time to complete the capital projects within the funding deadlines. However, with the delay that we are experiencing in receiving funding confirmation from MMAH, Staff have concerns that construction milestones may be missed.

Staff are seeking delegated authority over the summer months to be able to complete the project evaluation process, as soon as MMAH releases the final local funding confirmation for the 2023 COCHI programme. The proposed delegated authority would be executed by the County's CAO and the Social Service Administrator subject to the approval of the County Solicitor, for the COCHI funding. Staff will report back to Committee and Council of the 2023 COCHI capital project investment approvals made at the Social Services Committee meeting in September.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications that impact the tax levy in 2023. All potential commitments have been made through the to be confirmed 2023-24 COCHI programme funding.

Recommendation:

That the report #HS-23-07 2022 COCHI Funding Update be received for information; and

That delegated authority be provided to the CAO and the Social Services Administrator, subject to the approval of the County Solicitor for approving commitments made by the County of Wellington under the 2023 Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative programme; and

That, based on the commitments made under delegated authority, that Housing staff complete all necessary Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reporting for the projects and draft and execute all necessary agreements related to the funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Poste

Director of Housing