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CENTRAL LOCAL HEALTH INTEGRATION NETWORK ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY LIVING PROGRAM PROPOSAL

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends:

- 1. staff report back on the feasibility of undertaking a study regarding potential aging at home programs**
- 2. the Regional Chair write to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care expressing concern regarding the lack of provincial programs and funding for seniors aging at home**
- 3. adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated March 27, 2009, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the additional gross expenditures of up to \$695,819 to implement an Alternative Community Living Program in the Town of Markham subject to 100% funding by the Central Local Health Integration Network (Central LHIN) with no impact to the Region's tax levy budget.
2. Council approve an increase to permanent staff complement of up to 8.5 full-time equivalent positions to support the proposed Alternative Community Living Program subject to 100% funding by Central LHIN.
3. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services or designate be authorized to execute the necessary agreements on behalf of the Region with Central LHIN and participating partners, subject to review by Legal Services.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks authorization for the Community and Health Services Department to deliver an Alternative Community Living Program at the Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc. building, located in the Town of Markham, which will be funded 100% by Central Local Health Integration Network (Central LHIN) and to approve 8.5 full-time positions to implement the Program.

3. BACKGROUND

Government of Ontario invests in *Aging at Home Strategy* to help seniors live healthy, independent lives in their homes

In August 2007, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care launched the *Aging at Home Strategy* to help streamline, promote integration, and build community capacity of care and services for seniors. The *Aging at Home Strategy* is a three year (2008-2011), \$700 million initiative by the provincial government to ensure seniors have access to support services that allow them to live healthy, independent lives in their own homes. To ensure the effective implementation of the *Aging at Home Strategy*, the Province has given the responsibility of identifying and funding innovative, integrated programs for seniors to the 14 Local Health Integrated Networks (LHIN). Central LHIN, covering York Region, received a total of \$106.5 million to fund local projects over the three years.

York Region submitted a proposal to deliver an Alternative Community Living Program in partnership with Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc.

In November 2008, the Community and Health Services Department submitted a proposal entitled *Alternative Community Living Program—Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc.* to the Central LHIN for Aging at Home Funding. The Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc. building is a non-profit 150 unit seniors building in the Town of Markham, where the proposed Alternative Community Living Program will be housed. The proposal requests a total of \$695,819 to fund start-up costs and ongoing operating costs. The Central LHIN has forwarded the proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for final approval. It is anticipated that approvals will be released in May 2009.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region has almost 20 years of experience delivering Alternative Community Living Programs

The Alternative Community Living Program is a supportive housing program operated by the Community and Outreach Programs Division of the Long Term Care and Seniors Branch. The Alternative Community Living Program was one of the first supportive housing programs in York Region, and possibly the province, with almost 20 years of experience. Currently, there are six Alternative Community Living Program sites across York Region, none of which services seniors in the Town of Markham. With virtually no supportive housing programs in the Town of Markham, aging seniors are currently under serviced.

Providing a continuum of care and support to 30 seniors to age at home

The proposed Alternative Community Living Program will provide services to approximately 30 clients (25 apartments) at the Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc. building. A comprehensive, coordinated package of support services will be available to the clients 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Services will include medication monitoring, housekeeping, personal care, security checks, laundry, and meal preparation. Intensive case management will be conducted to assess clients' needs, set goals, and organize appropriate services to ensure services are managed around the client's needs.

Building community capacity in the Town of Markham

An important objective of the proposed Alternative Community Living Program is to build community capacity through unique partnerships. The Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc. building will be accommodating the Alternative Community Living Program by leasing a two bedroom apartment to the Region for a Client Centre and providing a second bedroom to be used by the community as a respite care room.

The collaboration of services offered by the Alternative Community Living Program, the Unionville Home Society South East Geriatric Team, Community Home Assistance to Seniors, Markham Seniors Activity Centre, and York Region's Seniors Community Programs will enhance the continuum of supportive housing services to seniors in the Town of Markham.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed Alternative Community Living Program is funded 100% by the LHIN

The proposal requests start-up funding to purchase equipment and to convert a two bedroom apartment into a Client Centre. It also requests ongoing operating funding for supplies and 9.5 full-time positions to serve approximately 30 clients (25 units). The Region would commit 8.5 full-time staff, which includes Elderly Service Workers, a Housekeeper, as well as program coordination, and administrative support. Unionville Home Society would commit a 1.0 full-time Therapeutic Recreationist.

The start-up and ongoing operating costs associated with the proposed program will be funded 100% by the Central LHIN through the Aging at Home Fund. The proposed Alternative Community Living Program will be delivered at no net cost to the Region. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the Alternative Community Living Program costs.

Table 1
Alternative Community Living Program Costs

Funding Source	Ongoing Operating Costs	Start-Up Costs	Total Request
Central LHIN - Aging at Home Fund	\$640,819	\$55,000	\$695,819

All financial and staffing proposals are contingent on 100% funding by the Central LHIN.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Given that there are extremely limited support services for seniors in the Town of Markham, the proposed Alternative Community Living Program will provide tenants of the Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc. building and senior residents greater access to supportive housing programs.

7. CONCLUSION

The proposed Alternative Community Living Program will provide significant benefits to seniors living in the Town of Markham and allow the Region to meet the priorities outlined in the Provincial *Aging at Home Strategy*.

For more information on this report, please contact Sylvia Patterson, General Manager, Housing and Long Term Care at Ext. 2091.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.