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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (SCPI) PHASE 2, 2003-2006 PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Community Services and Housing Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, November 5 , 2004, from the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve the Phase 2 Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives (SCPI) projects (*see Attachment 1*) recommended in this report.
2. The Region enter into Purchase of Service contracts with successful proponents as recommended by the Evaluation Committee, after due diligence verifications are completed, and the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing be authorized to sign these contracts on the Region's behalf, subject to review by the Regional Solicitor.
3. Any SCPI funds not allocated under the above contracts be disbursed during the duration of the agreement with Human Resources Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) within the framework of the SCPI program requirements and *York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness*.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides details of recommended funding allocations to community agencies under Human Resources Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC) "Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative" (SCPI) program.

3. BACKGROUND

In late 1999, the Federal government responded to requests from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the provinces for collaboration and support in dealing with the growing problem of homelessness in Canada by establishing SCPI, a program funded through HRSDC. York Region received \$1.6 million under the program over a three-year period.

In 2001, York Region worked with HRSDC and service providers in the community to complete *York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness*. York Region was established as the "*Community Entity*" in April 2002. The Government of Canada and York Region executed the first SCPI "*Entity Agreement*" which ended March 31, 2004.

In March 2003, The Government of Canada announced the extension of the National Homelessness Initiatives (NHI), which includes, as a major component, the SCPI program. In July 2003, York Region received notification of funding to the Region in the amount of \$1,626,865 for this second phase of SCPI. This brings the total allocation to the community to \$3,253,730 over the life of SCPI.

In December 2003, *York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness Update-2003* was completed. The *Community Plan Update* is a comprehensive document that outlines existing services and gaps, and identifies key issues and target areas, thus satisfying the fund allocation requirements of HRSDC.

The timing of the RFP process for the second round SCPI funding coincided with the planned release of the Community Development Investment Funding's (CDIF) call for proposals for 2005 funding opportunities. These two processes were therefore combined to eliminate the need for agencies to prepare multiple proposals and to optimize the benefits of multiple funding sources.

The second annual Request for Proposal (RFP) - *To Provide Priority Community Services to Vulnerable Residents of York Region* - was released on August 12, 2004, and closed September 30, 2004. The RFP invited proposals from community agencies for funding under both CDIF and SCPI. This report focuses on the projects recommended for SCPI funding only.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The *Community Plan Update* (the Plan) identifies 10 priority issues and 53 target areas within the priority issues. The Plan groups these issues and target areas into four "funding envelopes" which are to be used as a guide for the allocation of funding for homelessness initiatives in York Region. These funding envelopes are Capital Funding and Improvements; Programs and Services; Planning, Research and Education; and Administration and Evaluation. Agencies applying for funding were expected to address these priorities and target areas in their responses to the RFP.

A total of 22 proposals were received from a wide variety of agencies providing services to the homeless and at risk population within York Region.

4.1 Proposal Review Process

As required by HRSDC, a "Community Advisory Board" (CAB) was set up to review SCPI proposals and make recommendations for funding allocations to the Commissioner of Community Services and Housing. In order to avoid any potential conflict of interest the CAB was composed of representatives of funding and planning agencies as opposed to service providers who might want to access funding. The membership included representatives of United Way of York Region, Trillium Foundation, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Simcoe York

District Health Council and HRSDC and York Region staff as advisors. The CAB is chaired by the Director of Policy and Program Support in the Community Services and Housing Department and facilitated by the Supplies and Services Branch of the Finance Department.

An evaluation tool was designed for assessment of the submissions to ensure they meet the goals of the Plan and the funding envelopes established. All 22 proposals were reviewed by the CAB at a meeting on October 18, 2004, and consensus was reached on a recommended list of projects to go forward. A distinct advantage of having such people participate in the process was their ability to suggest alternative funding arrangements for good proposals that didn't meet the SCPI criteria. As well they have knowledge about new initiatives already being planned so as to ensure services are not duplicated.

4.2 SCPI Ineligible Projects

This year there were clear trends that suggest that a number of ineligible agencies applied for SCPI funding in response to a lack of funding from other sources, specifically including capital and operating funding supports for a range of health services.

Staff proposes that agencies be contacted to ask their permission to pass their proposals on to appropriate funding sources in these cases. This report also recommends that other levels of government be made aware of the impacts that inadequate funding in these areas has had on York Region residents.

A unique situation arose this year; an individual submitted a form of proposal. A protocol will be developed to respond to individuals who apply to CDIF for funding in future RFP's.

4.3 Funding Decisions

The Community Services and Housing Department is recommending the projects, as per *Attachment 1*, for funding allocation. After Regional Council approval, the Department will enter into negotiations, as appropriate, with the successful agencies to develop Purchase of Service contracts for the delivery of approved services. During the negotiation process Regional staff will verify each agency's representations contained in its proposals. After contracts are signed, all agencies will be appropriately monitored and evaluated throughout the implementation of their Purchase of Service agreement.

4.4 Sutton-Multi Services Centre for Youth

The Region, in concert with HRSDC and CAB, agreed to make available \$800,000 in capital funding of the available SCPI funding for the development of the proposed Sutton Multi-Service Centre for Youth.

The CAB supported the allocations of SCPI funding to the Region for the proposed Sutton Multi-Service Centre for Youth where up to 16 emergency shelter beds and up to 10 transitional housing units are to be developed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of these initiatives will be paid for through HRSDC funding and projects must be completed by March 31, 2006 when the current Federal program ends. Proponents who are providing programs through this SCPI funding were required to provide plans for sustaining the initiatives once the federal funding expires in 2006. Such evidence of the ability to go forward was a prime criterion for funding approval.

A portion of the SCPI funding was allocated in the *Community Plan Update* for administration and evaluation of the program in York Region. The amount of Federal funding for this purpose is \$ 115,477 and HRSDC has approved the allocation of that amount to the Region to help offset the cost of administering the program on their behalf.

The 2005 Business Plan and Budget has made provisions for operating funding in the form of shelter per diems and rent supplements for the Sutton Youth Project.

Table 1 below illustrates the breakdown of the total funding allocation for the Region.

Table 1
SCPI II Funding Distribution

Funding Stream	Recommended Allocation
Purchase of Service (<i>see Attachment 1</i>)	\$1,274,136
Administration and Evaluation (York Region)	115,477
Remainder to be Allocated	237,252
Total Federal Funding	\$1,626,865

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The programs and initiatives being provided through SCPI will benefit vulnerable residents in communities in every municipality in the Region as most service providers serve all of York Region no matter where they are based.

7. CONCLUSION

The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) Phase 2 builds on the gains of the first allocation of funding and provides an opportunity to again secure significant funding for programs and services for homeless people in York Region. There is a wide range of projects being funded, that will benefit the entire Region over the life of the program and beyond.

York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness will again be updated over time and can continue to serve as a blueprint for meeting service needs for the Region's homeless and at risk residents.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause was included in the Agenda for the November 10, 2004 Committee meeting.)