



Committee Report

To: Councillor Robert Buckle, Chair and
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Christine MacDonald
Director of Human Services

Date: May 19, 2022

Re: Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative & Ontario Priority
Housing Initiative

Staff Recommendation:

That the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) & the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Investment Plan be approved for submission; and,

That the Warden & Clerk be authorized to execute the COCHI-OPHI Amending Agreement between Bruce County and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and,

That the 2022 approved budget be amended to reflect the new revenue and expenditure associated with the program.

Background:

On April 27, 2022, Bruce County received confirmation of the funding allocation for the COCHI & OPHI programs from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing. This allocation represents the fourth year of the program, which was introduced in 2019.

COCHI represents a re-investment of the federal funding that has been declining under the Canada-Ontario Social Housing Agreement. While OPHI is meant to address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair and new construction. OPHI is modelled after previous programs, the most recent being the Investment in Affordable Housing Extension (IAHE).

Staff have analyzed previous spending in the COCHI & OPHI programs to determine the most strategic and applicable way to allocate, the funds in alignment with the Housing and Homelessness Plan, as per below.

COCHI	2022-2023 COCHI Planned Financial Commitment
Allocation	\$306,450
<u>Capital Components</u>	
New Build	
Repair	\$291,128
<u>Operating Components</u>	
Rent Supplement	

COCHI	2022-2023 COCHI Planned Financial Commitment
Transitional Operating Funds	
Administration Fees	\$15,322

OPHI	2022-2023 OPHI Planned Financial Commitment
Allocation	\$348,700
<u>Capital Components</u>	
Rental Housing	
Homeownership	
Ontario Renovates	\$117,890
<u>Operating Components</u>	
Rent Supplement	\$120,000
Housing Support Services	\$93,375
Administration Fees	\$17,435

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Staff will work with the Finance Division to amend the 2022 approved County Budget based on approval of this report and will continue to monitor the budget to ensure appropriate expenditures.

Staff will ensure alignment with the COCHI-OPHI Amending Agreement through the duration of the program.

There are no financial, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Staff are reviewing the impact of the various program changes and additional pieces of work on the Housing Services team and will be providing further information to committee in the future.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Staff consulted with the Corporate Services Department on the analysis of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #3 Find creative new ways to engage our public

Element #5 E Focus on the internal and external customer/client first

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Christine MacDonald
Director, Human Services

Approved for Submission:

Derrick Thomson

Chief Administrative Officer