



## Committee Report

**To:** Councillor Mark Goetz, Chair and  
Members of the Human Services Committee

**From:** Tina Metcalfe  
Director of Human Services

**Date:** September 21, 2023

**Re:** Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative and Ontario Priority  
Housing Initiative Transfer Payment Agreement & Investment Plan

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### Staff Recommendation:

The Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Investment Plan is for information.

### Background:

Bruce County has received confirmation of the COCHI & OPHI allocations from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. This is year 6 of a nine-year funding commitment. 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).

In order to receive funding, Service Managers are required to sign a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province and submit an Investment Plan that indicates the components that will be funded with the allocation.

Staff have analyzed the recently published More Homes, More Choice, and the Community Housing Renewal Strategy as well, as Bruce County's Housing & Homelessness Plan update to determine the most strategic and appropriate way to allocate the money.

Below is an outline of the Investment Plan, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

COCHI	COCHI Planned Financial Commitment		Total
	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	
	2023-2024	2024-2025	
Allocation	\$364,000	\$495,100	\$859,100
<b><u>Capital Components</u></b>			
New Build			
Repair	\$345,800	\$470,345	\$816,145
<b><u>Operating Components</u></b>			

COCHI	COCHI Planned Financial Commitment		Total
	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	
	2023-2024	2024-2025	
Rent Supplement			
Transitional Operating Funds			
<b>Administration Fees</b>	<b>\$18,200</b>	<b>\$24,755</b>	<b>\$42,955</b>

OPHI	OPHI Planned Financial Commitment		Total
	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	
	2023-2024	2024-2025	
Allocation	\$314,800	\$303,800	\$618,600
<b><u>Capital Components</u></b>			
Rental Housing			
Homeownership			
Ontario Renovates	\$119,814	\$114,200	\$234,014
<b><u>Operating Components</u></b>			
Rent Supplement	\$116,286	\$113,650	\$229,936
Housing Support Services	\$62,960	\$60,760	\$123,720
<b>Administration Fees</b>	<b>\$15,740</b>	<b>\$15,190</b>	<b>\$30,930</b>

In 2024, OPHI Ontario Renovate funding will be used to promote additional residential units (ARU) by offering incentives for homeowners to build ARUs and rent at an affordable rate.

#### **Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

Staff will work with the Finance Division to amend the 2023 approved County Budget and will continue to monitor the budget to ensure appropriate expenditures.

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

There are no staff or IT considerations associated with this report.

#### **Interdepartmental Consultation:**

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

#### **Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

Goal 1: Build a strong and inclusive community.

Goal 2: Enhance and grow partnerships.

#### **Report Author:**

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**Departmental Approval:**

Tina Metcalfe  
Director, Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Christine MacDonald  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer