



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative and Ontario Priority Housing Initiative - Program Funding Agreements 2024 2025

From: Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

Date: October 17, 2024

Report Number: HS-2024-041

Staff Recommendation:

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Russell Meadows Non-Profit Accommodations for the Ontario Priority Housing Initiative's repair component; and

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Formosa Senior's Non-Profit Accommodations for the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative's repair component; and

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Project Funding Agreement between Bruce County and Bruce County Housing Corporation for the Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative's repair component.

Report Summary:

The Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priority Housing Initiative (OPHI) allocations are available to fund capital projects for the three housing providers in the region. Capital projects will be determined by the housing provider and approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Background/Analysis:

Bruce County entered into a transfer payment agreement with the Province of Ontario for the COCHI & OPHI programs on August 1, 2019, and submitted an Investment Plan, confirming COCHI & OPHI planned funding allocation.

The guidelines for COCHI set our parameters to support the repair and renewal of existing community housing supply. It is the role of Bruce County, as service manager, to enter into funding agreements with housing providers, administer payments and monitor projects to ensure timely completion.

Bruce County received an allocation of \$495,100 for COCHI (2024-2025), and \$303,800 for OPHI. The portion of the funds that have been allocated to assist the housing providers to make necessary repairs to the buildings is \$45,000 for Russell Meadows, \$37,269 for Formosa Seniors and \$433,076 for Bruce County Housing Corporation.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The Project Funding Agreements outline the funding arrangements and the responsibilities of each party.

COCHI & OPHI are cost matched under the province's bilateral agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Service Managers are required to report municipal social housing expenditures that match the annual COCHI allocation.

COCHI & OPHI allow service managers to use up to 5% of the allocation for administrative purposes.

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

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Corporate Services Department was consulted regarding the inclusion of COHCI & OPHI allocations in the appropriate budget lines.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

The repair and renewal of existing stock supports the Housing and Homeless Plan strategy of maintaining affordable housing stock.

Report Author:

Tania Dickson, Housing Services Manager

Departmental Approval:

Tina Metcalfe, Director

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer