



## CULTURAL AND SOCIAL STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

**Title** Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy – Reaching Home (RH) Allocation Request

**Meeting Date** October 19, 2023

**Submitted By** Deputy Mayor Campbell, Chair – Cultural and Social Standing Policy Committee

**Recommendation from Cultural and Social Standing Policy Committee Standing Policy Committee:**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council:

1. Adopt the following recommendation of the CWSS Advisory Committee regarding funding from the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding portfolio:
  - a. Approve up to \$230,000 of federal Reaching Home funding to be utilized until March 31st, 2024, for a 24-hour drop-in centre over the winter months.
  - b. Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the appropriate Fee for Service Funding Agreement, and such Agreement shall be subject to continuous administrative review and optional renewal at the discretion of the City of Lethbridge pending available funding from the Government of Canada.
2. To meet the March 31, 2024, spending deadlines for the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, City Council delegates the approval of the estimated remaining balance of unallocated Reaching Home funding for the 2023/2024 year to the City Manager, with support of CWSS Advisory Committee and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the appropriate Fee for Service Funding Agreement(s)

**Vote:**

**In Favour:** 3-0

**Public Speakers at the Meeting:** None

**Public Submissions:** None

**Submitted By** Andrew Malcolm, General Manager Community Social Development

## Summary

To adopt the Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy Advisory Committee recommendations to allocate currently unallocated Reaching Home (RH) funding.

### Recommendation(s)

THAT the Cultural and Social SPC recommend that City Council:

1. Adopt the following recommendation of the CWSS Advisory Committee regarding funding from the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding portfolio:
  - Approve up to \$230,000 of federal Reaching Home funding to be utilized until March 31st, 2024, for a 24-hour drop-in centre over the winter months.
  - Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the appropriate Fee for Service Funding Agreement, and such Agreement shall be subject to continuous administrative review and optional renewal at the discretion of the City of Lethbridge pending available funding from the Government of Alberta.
2. To meet the March 31, 2024, spending deadlines for the federal Reaching Home (RH) funding, City Council delegates the approval of the estimated remaining balance of unallocated Reaching Home funding for the 2023/2024 year to the City Manager, with support of CWSS Advisory Committee and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the appropriate Fee for Service Funding Agreement(s)

## Financial

The request is to be funded through the federal Reaching Home funding portfolio. No City of Lethbridge tax funding is being solicited to meet this allocation request.

The current funding agreement term between the Government of Canada and the City of Lethbridge ends March 31, 2024. It is anticipated that this agreement will be renewed at that time. However, like all other CWSS agreements funded by this source, should the funds become unavailable at that time, the City of Lethbridge is able to terminate the agreement to ensure no financial liability resides with the corporation.

## Background and Prior Decisions

Community Social Development (CSD) is responsible for the administration and monitoring of provincial (FCSS) and federal (RH) funds to prevent and address social issues/needs. CSD works closely with community stakeholders to identify service needs, initiate and evaluate procurement processes, seek funding recommendations from the Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy (CWSS) Advisory Committee and approval by City Council, and then execute and monitor service delivery agreements.

In May 2019, a City Council resolution directed that Council act as the interim decision-making body for all FCSS, OSSI, and RH funding allocations. Allowing administration to focus on the creation of a community-based governance. In June 2022, Council ultimately defeated the community governance model and as such Council continues to fill the interim decision making roll for all FCSS, OSSI, and RH funding (until a community governance model can be established) which supports the requested resolution.

The requested resolution is being presented prior to the confirmation of a service provider in order to ensure funding can be spent in alignment with cold weather which cannot occur within Advisory/SPC/Council timelines if not approved prior to the confirmation of the provider.

### **Engagement**

The CWSS Advisory Committee has been engaged and voted in favor to recommend this request go forward to Cultural and Social SPC and subsequently City Council for final approval.

### **Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis**

#### ***Option #1 – Approve the proposed allocation (Administration’s Recommendation)***

Should City Council approve the recommendation, the City of Lethbridge will be able to properly allocate currently unallocated RH funds.

Community/Citizen

- Healthy & Diverse – prioritize health-supporting developments and the wellbeing of all residents.
- Economically Prosperous – Actively encourage the development and diversification of the local economy.
- Culturally Vibrant – Support the creation of a thriving, dynamic environment that exudes a sense of place and of community identity and belonging.

City Council not approving this allocation risks sending the funds back to the Government of Alberta. It additionally risks the City of Lethbridge not having adequate space for individuals experiencing homelessness during winter months.

#### ***Option #2 – Reject the proposed allocation***

City Council may reject the proposed CWSS agreement allocation.

This may result in RH funding being returned to the Government of Canada and possibly reduce the overall amount of RH funding being provided in Lethbridge regardless of who holds the contribution agreement with the GoC. It additionally risks the City of Lethbridge not having adequate space for individuals experiencing homelessness during winter months.

### **Attachment(s)**

N/A

### **Link(s)**

N/A

<b>Approvals</b>
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**Department Director:** Carly Kleisinger

**A/City Manager:** Darrell Mathews