



# CITY COUNCIL REPORT

**Title** Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy 2024-2028 – Infrastructure Canada

**Meeting Date** March 26, 2024

**Submitted By** Darrell Mathews, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

## Summary

- The City’s current Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy contribution agreement with Infrastructure Canada ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. A four-year extension via an amending agreement has been provided which will start on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2028.
- Administration requires Council’s approval through Resolution to spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget as per Section 248 of the Municipal Government Act.

## Recommendation(s)

That Council

1. Approve the expenditure of \$5,587,012 for federal fiscal years 2024-2028 from the Designated Communities and Indigenous streams of Infrastructure Canada’s Reaching Home: Canada’s Homelessness Strategy to support projects aimed at reducing homelessness and projects aimed at preventing individuals and families at imminent risk from becoming homeless.

	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>2027-2028</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Designated Communities</b>	\$1,296,653	\$1,296,653	\$595,813	\$595,813	\$3,784,932
<b>Indigenous</b>	\$696,488	\$696,488	\$204,552	\$204,552	\$1,802,080
<b>Total</b>	\$1,993,141	\$1,993,141	\$800,365	\$800,365	\$5,587,012

2. Direct Administration to return to a Safety & Social SPC in Q2 of 2024 to present a proposed plan for funding allocations in years 2025-2028.

## Financial

Infrastructure Canada has allocated \$5,587,012 in fiscal year 2024-2028 (ending March 31, 2028) to the City of Lethbridge. \$3,784,932 from Designated Communities and \$1,802,080 from Indigenous Homelessness streams as outlined below:

	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2026-2027</b>	<b>2027-2028</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Designated Communities</b>	\$1,296,653	\$1,296,653	\$595,813	\$595,813	\$3,784,932
<b>Indigenous</b>	\$696,488	\$696,488	\$204,552	\$204,552	\$1,802,080
<b>Total</b>	\$1,993,141	\$1,993,141	\$800,365	\$800,365	\$5,587,012

Administration requires Council expenditure approval through Resolution to spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget as per Section 248 of the Municipal Government Act.

### **Background and Prior Decisions**

- Community Social Development (CSD) is responsible for the administration and monitoring of various grant program funding from the Provincial and Federal governments, to support community wellbeing and safety in alignment with the Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy (CWSS).
- Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (Link 1) is a community-based program launched in 2019 with the aim to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada.
- For 2024-25 through 2027-28, a total of \$1.394 billion in Reaching Home funding is being allocated to communities across Canada. The City of Lethbridge will receive a total of \$5.58 million over the 4-year agreement term. The annual allocations in year 1 and year 2 represents a slight decrease over amount provided in 2023-2024, however there will be a significant decrease (54%) in years 3 and 4.
- Competitive procurement completed through RFSQ in 2019 is still in place until the end of 2024 so there will be minimal change to existing funding commitments in 2024. Re-procurement of programs/services will occur in 2024 for 2025-2028 funding in alignment with the key findings from the Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy (CWSS) updates which are currently being completed.

### **Engagement**

N/A

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

1. Council approves expenditure of new federal Reaching Home funding (\$5,587,012) for fiscal years 2024-2028.
  - Once Administration receives a fully executed copy of the amended contribution agreement, Community Social Development (CSD) will commence the delivery of the contractual expectations through to March 2028 in alignment with the Community Wellbeing and Safety Strategy (CWSS), CWSS Advisory Committee, and City Council.

2. Council does not approve expenditure of new federal Reaching Home funding (\$5,587,012) for fiscal years 2024-2028.
  - Without the City of Lethbridge accepting the funding, then funds targeted to homelessness in Lethbridge would go unutilized further exacerbating a critical community issue.

**Link(s)**

[Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy](#)

**Approvals**

**Department Director:** Darrell Mathews

**City Manager:** Lloyd Brierley