



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Healthy Communities without Poverty

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: By video conference while pandemic protocols are in place

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89760040055?pwd=TEgvZXNmQXILNllaM2VVNDVpVXd2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 897 6004 0055

Passcode: 43169422

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Members: Councillor Dan Roveda (Chair), Councillor Dave Mendicino (Vice Chair), Mayor Dean Backer, Councillor Mac Bain, Mayor Jane Dumas, Councillor Terry Kelly, Councillor Mark King Councillor Chris Mayne, , Mayor Dan O'Mara, Councillor Scott Robertson, Representative Amanda Smith, Councillor Bill Vrebosch.

Item	Topic
1.0	1.1 Call to Order - Roll Call 1.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest
2.0	Opening remarks by the Chair
3.0	Approval of the Agenda for January 26, 2022 MOTION #CSC01-2022 THAT the Community Services Committee accepts the Agenda as presented.

Item	Topic
4.0	<p>4.1 DELEGATIONS – None at this time.</p>
5.0	<p>CONSENT AGENDA – CONSENT AGENDA – All items in the consent agenda are voted on collectively. The Chair will call out each item for consideration of discussion. Any item can be singled out for separate vote; then, only the remaining items will be voted on collectively.</p> <p>MOTION: #CSC02-22 THAT the Committee receives for information Consent Agenda items 5.1 to 5.7.</p> <p>5.1 CSC01-22 Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding - information related to the Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding and Strategy.</p> <p>5.2 CSC02-22 Early Years and Child Care Sector Update - actions taken by the Children’s Services Department in response to recent time-limited measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency child care services for essential workers, and an update regarding the operations of EarlyON Child and Family Centres.</p> <p>5.3 HS02-22 Gateway House Phase 1 and Low Barrier Shelter Update - details on the current Emergency Shelter system, including an update on Gateway House Phase 1.</p> <p>5.4 HS03-22 Coordinated Access Nipissing Update: By Name List, Data Sharing Agreement, HIFIS 4.0 - an update on the implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing</p> <p>5.5 HS01-22 Canada – Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) - an update regarding the implementation of the COHB rent subsidy program for the 2022/23 fiscal year.</p> <p>5.6 HS04-22 Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 (SSRF P3) - Rent Relief Pilot Project Update - details on the Rent Relief Pilot Project funded through the SSRF Phase 3.</p> <p>5.7 Resolution 2022-14 from East Ferris Council – for information. A report on DNSSAB’s position on the Affordable Child Care Strategy will be brought forward to the next Community Services Committee meeting.</p>
6.0	<p>MANAGERS REPORTS</p> <p>6.1 Move in Camera</p> <p>MOTION: #CSC03-22 THAT the Committee move in-camera at _____ to discuss matters of labour and negotiation.</p>

Item	Topic
	<p>6.2 Adjourn in Camera</p> <p>MOTION: #CSC04-22 THAT the Committee adjourn in-camera at _____.</p>
	<p>6.3 Approve in Camera</p> <p>MOTION: #CSC05-22 THAT the Committee approves the direction/action agreed to in the in-camera session.</p>
7.0	OTHER BUSINESS
8.0	<p>NEXT MEETING DATE Wednesday, March 23, 2022</p>
9.0	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>MOTION: #CSC06-22 <i>Resolved</i> THAT the Community Services Committee meeting be adjourned at _____ PM.</p>

BRIEFING NOTE CS01-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding**

Prepared by: Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services

Reviewed by: Justin Avery, Manager, Finance

Approved by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

Briefing Note CS01-22 provides information related to the Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding and Strategy.

BACKGROUND:

In August 2021, the government of Canada and Ontario signed a new Early Childhood Workforce Funding Agreement, which provides approximately \$149.9M in one-time funding to support the recruitment and retention of a high quality early years and child care workforce.

The key objectives for this investment are:

- Sustain the existing workforce to ensure a more stable and high quality early years and child care system.
- Enhance access to opportunities for the workforce that promote retention and recruitment, including professional development, training and qualification upgrade programs.
- Grow the number of qualified staff in the early years and child care workforce to increase access to licensed child care for families.
- Attract and support the development of an increasingly diverse workforce to more effectively reflect the children and families accessing early years and child care programs.

In October 2021, the Ministry of Education released provincial guidelines related to the Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding.

CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

Starting in January 2022, Service system managers across the province received Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding to support with the following targeted initiatives:

1. Development of a Professional Learning Strategy that includes two (2) professional learning days for eligible staff and mentorship opportunities; and
2. Workforce Capacity and Innovation Fund to support innovative recruitment and retention strategies.

The Ministry requested that service system managers submit a plan in December 2021, that provided an overview of district's early years and child care workforce plan highlighting the main strategies to be taken to address the key objectives and targeted initiatives, initiated collaboration/consultations, anticipated targets and outcomes as well as an overview of the next steps to be taken.

As part of the planning and implementation process, service system managers are encouraged to embed some or all of the following priority areas into the development of their professional learning strategies:

- Early years and child care pedagogical practices aligned with Ontario's pedagogy "How Does Learning Happen?";
- Mental health and well-being for children, families and professionals working in the sector;
- Anti-racism and inclusive practices;
- Incorporating Indigenous perspectives and pedagogies;
- Supporting children with special needs through inclusive approaches;
- Health and safety practices; and
- Additional priority areas for professional learning may be determined locally.

To ensure that Nipissing's Workforce Strategy meets the needs of professionals working in the early years and child care sector, DNSSAB's Children's Service team conducted a survey and held consultations with the early years and child care sector prior to the plan's submission.

The survey and consultations revealed a gamut of needs across the district with feedback varying significantly between the various types of programs and services delivered within the sector.

With the aim to address federal and provincial priorities while meeting local needs in a manner that would support all early learning and child care professionals, DNSSAB established an approach that would allow for:

- Agencies to plan for a professional learning day that would support the unique needs of professionals working within their agencies;

- Early learning and child care professionals to determine and personalize their professional learning by attending planned sessions that meet their individual needs; and
- Access to mentorship, leadership development and networking opportunities;

The plan includes the development of a communication and marketing plan to implement sector specific recruitment and retention strategies (i.e. attracting professionals to the sector, recognizing the importance of the profession, how to become an Early Childhood Educator (highlighting various schooling options), etc.

In addition, this funding will also support a pilot of the Pre-ECE Skills Building Program that will introduce individuals to the early years and child care sector so that they can gain knowledge, work experience and learn more about opportunities that exist, with hope that they will continue their professional journey within the sector. For additional details regarding the Pre-ECE Skills Building Program please refer to Briefing Note CS10-21.

For additional details related to Nipissing's Child Care and Early Years Workforce Strategy, please refer to Appendix A.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding was included in DNSSAB's 2022 Budget Plan and formed part of the 2022 Child Care and Early Years Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Education.

This one-time funding allocation is 100% provincial/federal funding. There are no municipal cost sharing requirements associated with this allocation.

Funding allocations have been confirmed beginning January 1 to December 31, 2022 with a notional allocation provided for January 1 to March 31, 2023.

The one-time funding allocation will be used in accordance with provincial guidelines and will support with the reimbursement of the following expenses:

- Release time and supply staff to encourage and support the participation of eligible staff in professional learning days and/or mentorship programs;
- Staff wages and benefits for additional hours worked to participate in professional learning opportunities throughout the funded period (e.g., evening and/or weekend professional learning sessions);
- Costs associated with waiving parent fees on agency-led professional learning days;
- Costs associated with the development and implementation of professional learning resources and mentorship approaches; and

- Travel costs to support attendance at professional learning opportunities within the district.

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:

In alignment with Ministry guidelines, when planning and implementing agency-led professional development days, the Children's Services team and service providers will be asked to consider the following:

- Approaches that minimize disruption for families, where necessary, through timely communication to provide families with sufficient time to plan for alternate care on professional learning days where programs will be closed (e.g., include the dates in the annual parent handbook; reminders in newsletters, choosing dates that typically have low enrolment, etc.);
- Timing and approach to implementation based on the availability of supply staff;
- Priority areas for professional learning (e.g. supporting mental health and well-being; inquiry-based learning; indigenous pedagogies); and
- Supporting continuous professional learning approaches that are evidence-based, support professionals to apply theory to practice and aligned to Ontario's pedagogy of How Does Learning Happen? (e.g. communities of practice, mentoring, reflective practice networks, view of children, educators and families from a strength-based lens).

In order to ensure that equitable access is available for all eligible staff, providers and supervisors in licensed child care programs and EarlyON Child and Family Centres across the district, a wide-variety of professional learning opportunities (i.e. virtual, videos, webinars, networks, etc.) will be made available to professionals. These opportunities will be posted on the DNSSAB's Children's Services Website within a professional learning portal and calendar (currently under development). The portal and calendar will be made available to all Nipissing early years and child care professionals.

CONCLUSION:

DNSSAB will continue to work in collaboration with the early years and child care sector in order to ensure that the Early Years and Child Care Workforce Strategy continues to meet the professional learning needs across the district.

APPENDIX A – Child Care and Early Years Workforce Strategy

District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board 2022/2023 Child Care and Early Years Workforce Funding Planning Report

Strategies	Planned Implementation Target Dates	Engagement	Priorities	Outcomes & Target	Next Steps
<p>Professional Development Day 1 – Early Years and Child Care Agency Specific Approach</p> <p>The approach for this day will be to allow individual agencies to plan for a professional learning “day” that will support the unique professional development needs within each of the early years and child care programs and services that are delivered by the agency.</p> <p>This approach will allow each agency the flexibility to personalize their professional learning strategy to meet the needs of their teams (i.e. Full Day PD, evening or weekend sessions) to ensure equitable access and choose the topics and guest speakers that best addresses and supports the team’s specific professional development needs and established learning outcomes (i.e. Indigenous and/or Francophone pedagogy, mental health and well being, HDLH?/inquiry based programming, team building to build on internal mentoring opportunities, inclusive services, health and safety practices, etc.).</p>	<p>Planning & Implementation: January 2022</p> <p>Evaluation: Ongoing</p> <p>All early years and child care service providers will have the opportunity to plan for their teams beginning in January 2022. Necessary documents will be made available to all agencies in order to plan for the approach that best meets the overall agency needs.</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>School Boards Partners</p>	<p>Sustain & Enhance</p>	<p>Outcome(s): All early years and child care agencies plan and implement a PD Plan that best meets their teams’ professional needs and established learning outcomes.</p> <p>Estimated Target(s): 14 CC agencies 75% of professionals working in centre based licensed child care (Supervisors, Educators, Other) 3 HCC agencies 75% of professionals working in a home child setting (providers and home child care visitors) 6 EarlyON agencies 75% of professionals working in EarlyON settings (supervisors and practitioners)</p>	<p>Prepare a memorandum, funding agreement, planning process, reimbursement and reporting requirements.</p> <p>Review documents and process with service providers</p>
<p>Professional Development Day 2 – Early Years and Child Care Sector Approach</p> <p>The approach for this day will be to allow DNSSAB, in collaboration with community partners and service providers, to plan for additional professional learning opportunities throughout the year that will support in addressing overall sector needs (equal or greater than the equivalence in hours of a full PD day).</p> <p>This approach will allow all early years and child care professionals to determine and personalize their professional learning plan by selecting and attending the sessions that best meet their professional goals and journey. A wide variety of professional learning topics provided will focus on building capacity, enhancing skills and knowledge within the early years and child care sector (i.e. Indigenous and Francophone pedagogy, Inquiry based programming, mental health and well being, mindfulness, self-regulation, self-care, outdoor play, inclusive services, culturally appropriate environments, etc.).</p>	<p>Planning & Ongoing Implementation: January 2022 – March 2023</p> <p>Evaluation: Ongoing</p> <p>Professional learning opportunities will be made available as of January 2022. Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, additional opportunities will be made available on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>School Board Partners</p> <p>District of Parry Sounds Social Services Administration Board (Partnership)</p> <p>Indigenous Partners</p> <p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Sustain & Enhance</p>	<p>Outcome(s): Early years and child care professionals will enhance skills and knowledge.</p> <p>Estimated Target(s): 14 CC agencies 50% of professionals working in centre based licensed child care (Supervisors, Educators, Other) 3 HCC agencies 50% of professionals working in a home child setting (providers and home child care visitors) 6 EarlyON agencies 50% of professionals working in EarlyON settings (supervisors and practitioners)</p>	<p>Plan a variety of professional learning opportunities that meet the diverse needs of the early years and child care sector (i.e. targeted sessions for educators working in the various age groups, home child care, leadership, etc.)</p> <p>Website: Finalize Professional Learning Management System and Professional Learning Calendar</p> <p>Establish Social Media & Communication Plan to ensure that agencies and professionals become aware of the opportunities available.</p>
<p>Professional Development – Mentorship & Leadership Programs</p> <p>The goal of this initiative is to establish a mentoring program that will help professionals working in the early years and child care sector to find experienced mentors who can guide them on their professional journey. The professionals may be new to the sector, just starting their career, or individuals who are seeking to expand their professional journey. The intent is to increase retention, boost professional satisfaction and foster personal growth, thereby stabilizing the early years and child care workforce.</p> <p>Mentoring groups can include, but are not limited to RECEs new to the sector, non-RECEs seeking to continue their professional journey and become qualified RECEs, new supervisors, and new Executive Directors</p>	<p>Planning: January 2022</p> <p>Training Plan Implementation for Mentors: Second quarter 2022</p> <p>Implementation of Mentoring Program: Third quarter 2022 – March 2023</p> <p>Leadership PD: Second Quarter of 2022 to March 2023</p> <p>Evaluation: Ongoing</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>District of Parry Sounds Social Services Administration Board (Partnership)</p>	<p>Sustain & Enhance</p>	<p>Outcome(s): “New” early years and child care professionals will enhance skills and knowledge (i.e. Supervisors, Educators, and Practitioners).</p> <p>Estimated Target(s): 20 professionals working in the Early Years and child care sector</p>	<p>Establish Social Media & Communication Plan to ensure that agencies and professionals become aware of the opportunities available. (i.e. recruitment and retention strategies for individuals interested in becoming mentors or mentees).</p>

APPENDIX A – Child Care and Early Years Workforce Strategy

<p>Professional Development – Establish Nipissing Early Years and Child Care Network (NEYCCN)</p> <p>The goal of this project is to establish networking opportunities that support groups of early years and child care professionals who have a common interest in early years and child care. The NEYCCN will establish a collaborative environment where a group of professionals can regularly meet to reflect, share information, improve skills and actively work on gaining more knowledge and understanding on various topics related to the early years and child care sector. Moreover, the NEYCCN can form a basis for leadership and mentoring opportunities to occur. These conversations present individuals with opportunities to further build professional networking, personal relationships, shared knowledge and common skills with other early learning and child care professionals. The NEYCCN will be offered in a way that ensures a targeted approach to networking. These half-hour network conversations will be planned so that similar interests and responsibilities will be recognized and supported. To this end, sessions will be planned for professionals working in various age groups, and EarlyON programs.</p>	<p>Planning: January 2022</p> <p>Implementation: Second quarter 2022 to March 2023</p> <p>Evaluation: Ongoing</p> <p>NEYCCN topics, dates and times for the upcoming year will be made available in advance to support with scheduling and program planning.</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>School Board Partners</p> <p>Employment Partners²</p> <p>District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (Partnership)</p>	<p>Sustain & Enhance</p> <p>Sustain, Enhance, Grow & Attract</p> <p>Grow & Attract</p>	<p>Outcome(s): Provide targeted networking opportunities for early years and child care professionals.</p> <p>Estimated Target(s): 10% of professionals working in centre based licensed child care (Supervisors, Educators, Other) 20% of professionals working in a home child setting (providers and home child care visitors) 40% of professionals working in EarlyON settings (supervisors and practitioners)</p>	<p>Establish Social Media & Communication Plan to ensure that agencies and professionals become aware of the opportunities available.</p>
<p>Workforce Capacity and Innovation Project 1 – Communication & Marketing Plan: Recruitment and Retention Strategies</p> <p>One of the main recruitment strategies for early years and child care professionals in the Nipissing District is a marketing campaign to promote the sector as a rewarding and enjoyable career (i.e. licensed child care including centre-based and home child care, EarlyON programs, inclusion support programs, etc.). As the main trait in becoming a professional in this sector is a love of children, the campaign will focus on why people become early years and child care workers as well as registered ECE professionals and how these individuals help children in their lifelong learning. Further more, a social marketing strategy will be developed to professionalize the ECE sector and bring recognition to the great work early years and child care workers do every day. This will include a variety of posts on the Children's Services Facebook page scheduled on an ongoing basis and planning for "celebrations" of the profession.</p>	<p>Planning & Implementation: Starting January 2022</p> <p>Implementation: Ongoing</p> <p>Communication and marketing strategies will begin as of January 2022.</p> <p>These strategies will be enhanced throughout the year.</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>School Board Partners</p> <p>Employment Partners²</p> <p>District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (Partnership)</p>	<p>Sustain, Enhance, Grow & Attract</p>	<p>Outcome(s): Increase the number of individuals working in the early years and child care sector. Increase the number of non-qualified staff who are participating in a form of education to become qualified.</p> <p>Estimated Target(s): 50 'new' professionals (qualified and non-qualified) working in early years and child care sector. 15 'new' professionals participating in an ECE program (i.e. apprenticeship, full-time or correspondence).</p>	<p>Establish Social Media & Communication Plan that includes working with early years and child care agencies, school board partners, employment agencies, colleges, etc.</p>
<p>Workforce Capacity and Innovation Project 2 – Pilot Pre-ECE Skills Building Program</p> <p>The goal of the Pre-ECE Skills Building Program is to introduce individuals to the early years and child care sector so that they can learn more about career opportunities that exist in the sector, gain work experience and continue their professional journey toward accreditation through a program of their choice (i.e. apprenticeship program, full-time program, correspondence program). There are also opportunities to support and expand partnerships with the early years and child care agencies, training providers (i.e. colleges), employment partners and OW/ODSP to develop a pool of job-ready, skilled individuals that meet workforce development needs of employers in the early years and child care sector. The curriculum would be developed in collaboration with child care agencies and training providers (i.e. colleges). The program would be provided free of charge for the duration of the funding period (duration of funding period is dependent on funding application that is completed). To ensure the program's success, mentorship supports would need to be in place to ensure that individuals are supported throughout their journey to sustainable employment within the early year and child care sector and to the next steps in their journey to become fully accredited. The mentor could also support with problem resolutions as concerns arise.</p>	<p>Planning: January 2022</p> <p>January 2022 – reach out to colleges and education instruction, Employment partners, to collaborate with the creation of the Pre-ECE Skills Building Program.</p> <p>Pilot Implementation: Second/Third Quarter 2022</p> <p>Fourth Quarter - Program evaluation and plan for next cohort.</p>	<p>Early Years and Child Care Sector¹</p> <p>School Board Partners</p> <p>Colleges and Education institutions</p> <p>NOSDA³</p> <p>Employment Partners²</p>	<p>Grow & Attract</p>	<p>Outcome(s): Increase the number of individuals working in the early years and child care sector.</p> <p>Estimated Targets: 10 individuals that participated in the program 6 individuals employed within the early years and child care sector.</p>	<p>Establish Social Media & Communication Plan that includes working with early years and child care agencies, school board partners, employment agencies, colleges, etc.</p> <p>Seeking additional funding opportunities in order to enhance program delivery throughout the North.</p>

Notes:

¹ Early Years and Child Care Sector means professionals working within Licensed Child Care (centre based and home child care programs), EarlyON Child and Family Centres and Inclusion Support Programs.

² Employment Partners include but not limited to Ontario Works/ Ontario Disability Support Program, Yes Employment, Options Emploi, etc.

³ Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association – Children's Services Working Group

BRIEFING NOTE CS01-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Early Years and Child Care Sector Update**

Prepared by: Lynn Démoré-Pitre, Director Children's Services

Reviewed by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

Briefing note CS02-22 describes the actions taken by the Children's Services Department in response to recent time-limited measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency child care services for essential workers. In addition, it provides an update regarding the operations of EarlyON Child and Family Centres.

BACKGROUND:

On January 3, 2022, the Premier of Ontario [announced time-limited measures](#) intended to support the province's response to the pandemic.

As part of the province's response, starting January 5, 2022 all publicly funded and private schools moved to remote learning. During the remote learning period, free emergency child care would be provided for school-aged children of health care and other eligible frontline workers.

On January 12, 2022, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce announced that students would be returning to in-person learning effective Monday, January 17, 2022.

CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

Emergency Child Care Services for School-Aged Children

On January 4, 2022, the Ministry of Education released a memorandum related to the provincial time-limited public actions of the delivery of emergency child care services for school-age children. Service system managers were asked to complete and submit an emergency child care plan, which in turn needed to be reviewed and approved by the Ministry before implementation.

In response to the province's time-limited measures to support health care and frontline workers during the COVID-19 outbreak, DNSSAB's Children's Services Department, in collaboration with licensed child care service providers, began immediately planning for designated emergency child care services for school age children throughout the district.

Expressions of interest were sent out and DNSSAB received favourable responses from 10 licensed child care agencies who had experience in the delivery of both centre-based and licensed home child care. Three licensed home child care agencies and sixteen centre-based locations (community-based and school-based locations) were identified in the plan.

On January 4th, DNSSAB submitted Nipissing's plan for consideration by the Ministry. This plan included all licensed child care programs identified through the expression of interest. The approval for the emergency child care plan was received on January 5th with a start date of January 6th. Over 400 emergency child care spaces were available in communities across the district which included, Mattawa, Temagami, Whitney, Sturgeon Falls and North Bay area.

As in the past, the Ministry provided eligibility parameters based on the same eligibility "List of Workers Eligible for Emergency Child Care" that was in place for the Spring 2021 emergency child care program (mid-April to June 2021) with additional provincial priorities in place. As the level of demand for these services is significantly high, DNSSAB also follows the priority list for health care and essential workers as previously approved by the Board –please refer to Briefing Note CS03-20 for additional details.

As of January 10, 2022, over 400 emergency child care applications were received. The DNSSAB Children's Services team worked on getting through all of these as quickly as possible to ensure that eligible families were able to receive services at the earliest possible date.

The last day for the delivery of emergency child care services was January 14, 2022.

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres are also expected to operate within time-limited measures set out by the Province.

With these time limited measures in place, EarlyON Child and Family Centres located in schools are not permitted to operate in-person programs and are encouraged to offer virtual programs.

The updated regulations do permit EarlyON Centres not located in schools to continue to operate in-person programs within capacity restrictions; however, the Ministry of Education strongly recommended that at this time EarlyON Centres cease offering in-person programming and move to virtual programs as an alternative.

As a result, all EarlyON Child and Family Centres moved to virtual programs effective January 6, 2022.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

Consistent with past practices, costs for emergency child care services will be covered by the Ministry during the period elementary schools are closed for in-person learning. All expenditures related to emergency child care services are 100% provincially funded and do not require municipal contributions.

CMSMs and DSSABs are being asked to keep track of funding associated with managing and operating emergency child care sites and are asked to provide rationale for the incurred costs. A reconciliation of expenditures will be submitted to the Ministry following the conclusion of the emergency child care services.

Funding related to the delivery of EarlyON Child and Family programs is also 100% provincial/federal funding and does not require municipal contributions.

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:

Concerns about program sustainability continues to be at the forefront as many programs are experiencing low enrolment and several programs have not returned to pre-COVID levels due to ongoing staffing challenges and shortages.

In order to support with financial pressures that threaten the financial viability of licensed child care services, the Ministry has confirmed that service system managers can help address operating pressures through flexibility within their regular 2022 child care allocation as well as funding provided through the one-time 2022 transitional grant and Early Learning Child Care (ELCC) funding.

DNSSAB staff continue to work closely with the early years and child care sector so that the early years and child care sector remains sustainable throughout this pandemic.

CONCLUSION:

DNSSAB will continue to plan and collaborate with the province and licensed child care providers to ensure that emergency child care options in the district are provided in order to meet the needs of essential workers as required.

BRIEFING NOTE HS02-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Gateway House Phase 1 and Low Barrier Shelter Update**

Prepared by: Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Programs

Reviewed by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

This report provides details on the current Emergency Shelter system, including an update on Gateway House Phase 1, and is for information purposes.

BACKGROUND:

Homelessness continues to grow in complexity in the Nipissing District and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has further changed the landscape and conditions under which the Board was previously addressing homelessness and related issues.

As detailed in DNSSAB's Homelessness Action Plan, one of the priorities to alleviate the aforementioned homelessness issue is to create dynamic transitional and supportive housing that stabilizes individuals and promotes life skills development and independent living.

In November 2021, funded through the Investment in Affordable Housing 2014 Extension, Gateway House Phase 1 opened its doors. These 16 units provide stable, supported housing for individuals who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness and living with complex barriers.

CHPI – Housing with Related Supports and SSRF is funding the operating costs of the Low-Barrier Shelter, while Gateway House Phase 1 is funded by the municipal levy. These projects are both essential components as they address an identified gap in the District's housing continuum. Although this gap was recognized pre-pandemic, it has further highlighted the need for a permanent solution. Both of these projects are crucial to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable population by further connecting them with services and rapid rehousing solutions on-site.

CURRENT STATUS:

On November 26, 2021, the Emergency Operations Center was reinstated in response to a positive case of COVID, and potential high risk exposure in the homeless population. A local hotel was booked for 14 days for those needing to quarantine. As of November 29, 2021th, two units were occupied for isolation purposes, with six units available if needed. Services continued at the low barrier shelter and overflow for those not presenting with COVID symptoms or not deemed to be at high risk of having COVID.

As the colder months are upon us, the demand on the shelter system has increased. Consequently, Four Elms, the Low Barrier Shelter, and overflow (funded by CHPI) have been consistently at capacity. There has also been an increase in the number of individuals using the shelter for amenities only. It is expected that this demand will continue to grow into the winter months.

Figure #1.0 Low Barrier Shelter: Guest Usage and Temperature

June 1, 2021 – December 28, 2021

The Low Barrier Shelter capacity remains at 21 occupants and is consistently at capacity. The usage from June 1, 2021 to December 28th, 2021 has steadily increased as seen in Figure # 1.0.

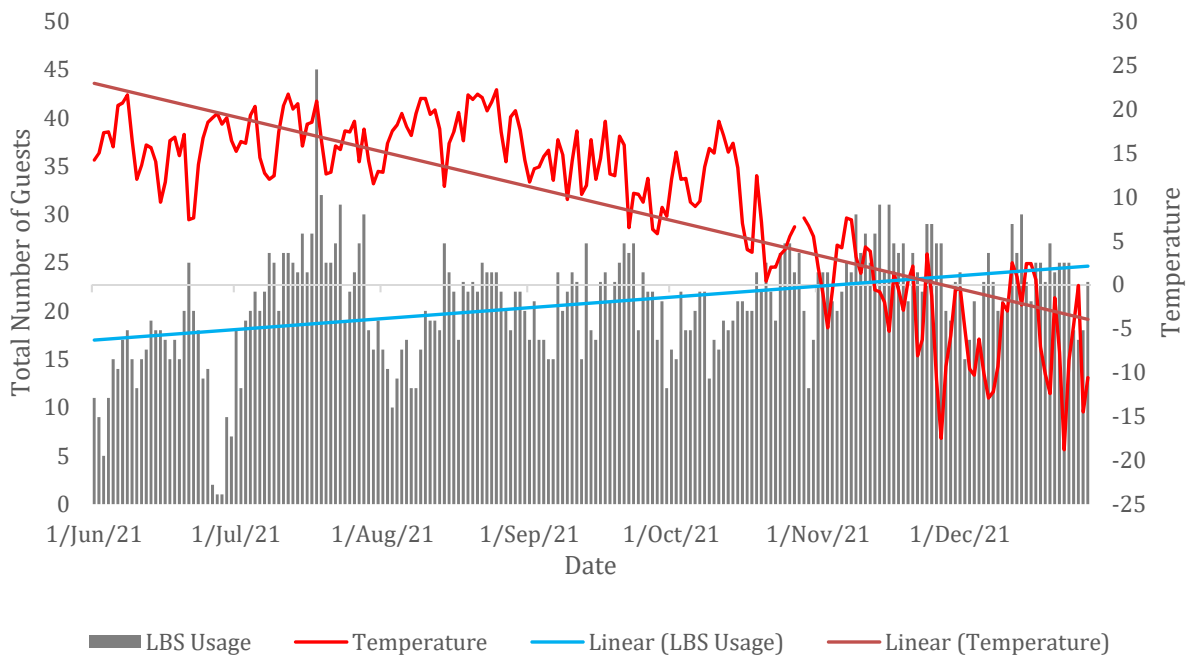


Figure # 2.0 Low Barrier Shelter: Guests Accessing Amenities Only

June 1, 2021 – December 28, 2021

Figure # 2.0 depicts the same for guests visiting the LBS to use amenities available (i.e. showers). These trends are predicted as temperatures decrease even more.

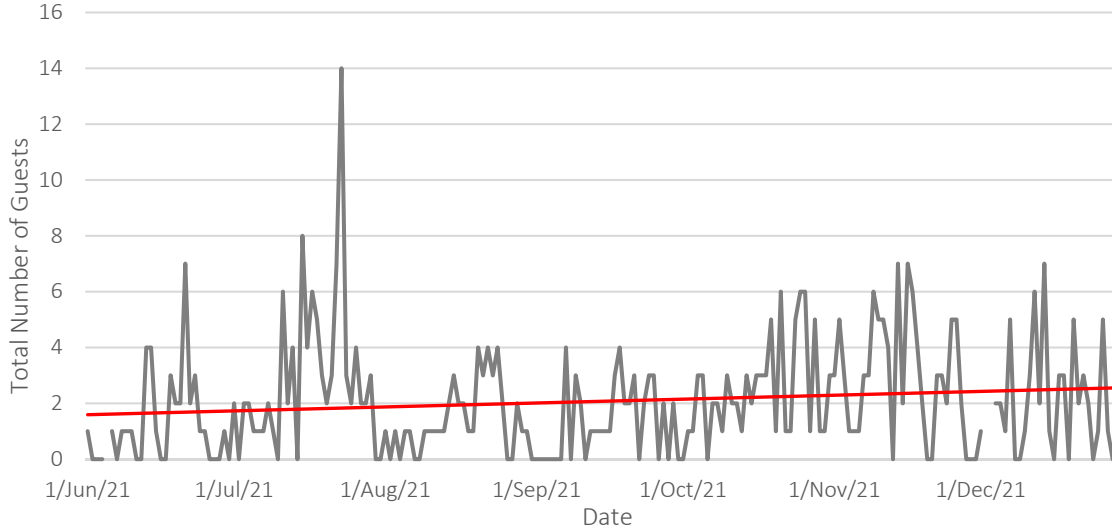
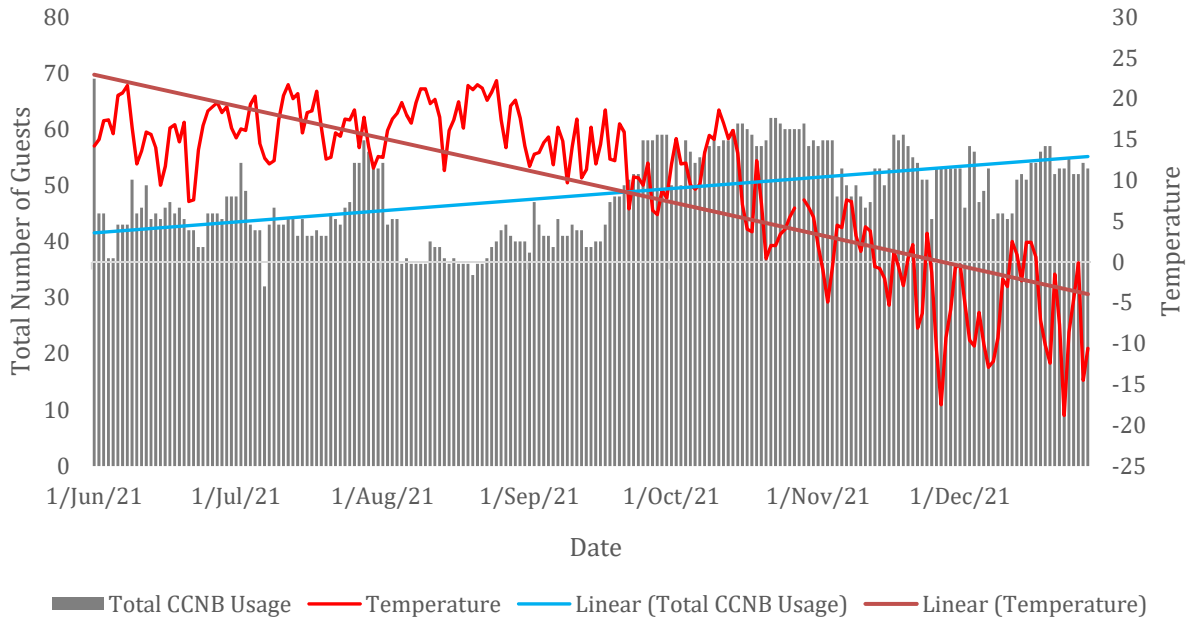


Figure #3.0 Crisis Centre North Bay: Four Elms & Overflow Combined Usage, and Temperature

June 1, 2021 – December 28, 2021

When analyzed in relation to temperature, it is evident (in Figure #3.0) that there is a negative relationship between the number of clients within CCNB and temperature. As temperature decreases, the number of clients seen at CCNB increases.



Gateway Phase 1

As stated in DNSSAB's Homelessness Action Plan, independent and sustainable living can be a challenge for some segments of the population. Transitional housing is an avenue to stabilize individuals by providing necessary support services including life skills development. By nature, transitional housing is temporary and intended to move individuals further along the housing continuum. Supportive housing, conversely, is a more permanent rental accommodation where tenants are provided with ongoing supports to facilitate daily living needs. In North Bay, there is currently optimism due to relatively large development projects that are underway. These include the 16-bed supportive housing project known as Gateway House Phase 1. Residents have their rent supplemented by the Commercial Rent Supplement program.

Gateway House Phase 1 construction and renovations are complete. As of January 4th, 2021, there are eight residents living there, all of whom were described as chronically or episodically homeless. As a result of well-coordinated community partnerships, the transitions have been smooth and positive.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- The DNSSAB requires increased funding to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, increased capital funding to increase the housing supply in the district, as well as operating funds to sustain the local supply of shelter spaces, the existing supportive housing units and the additional 84 units anticipated to open over the next year.
- Successful implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing requires dedicated resources linked to the shelter system, including navigation, assessment and ongoing supports for newly housed individuals.

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:

Risk: Access to services for individuals experiencing homelessness within the district continues to be challenging.

- The DNSSAB, in collaboration with other Community Partners, will continue to create opportunities for connections and referrals for supports, housing and treatment options.
- In the next few months, a Coordinated Access system will be implemented using the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) and a Standardized Prioritized Assessment Tool, the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SP-DAT). This will allow for the creation of a shared, By-Name-List of homeless individuals waiting for support and housing and also provide accurate and timely data to use for planning

Risk: Access to shelter space for families experiencing homelessness within the district continues to be challenging. Consequently, the use of Overflow space has drastically increased in both frequency of use, and length of stay.

- Using the Social Services Relief Fund, the DNSSAB has secured two family housing units to be used as overflow shelter spaces which will reduce the costs associated with long-term Overflow use for families in need.

CONCLUSION:

In line with the Homelessness Action Plan, DNSSAB endeavors to provide a suite of coordinated homelessness prevention programs and services that will provide long-term stabilization and security to households and individuals at-risk of homelessness. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge service providers and service recipients, however it has also provided opportunities for the DNSSAB and its partners to work together to face current and future challenges. The DNSSAB will continue to work with community partners and stakeholders to find creative and collaborative solutions to homelessness within the District of Nipissing.

BRIEFING NOTE HS03-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2021

Purpose: **Coordinated Access Nipissing Update: By Name List, Data Sharing Agreement, HIFIS 4.0**

Prepared by: Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Programs

Reviewed by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

This report provides an update on the implementation of Coordinated Access Nipissing and is for information purposes.

BACKGROUND:

Coordinated Access has been identified as a priority in the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, the Reaching Home Community Plan and, most recently, the Homelessness Action Plan. In addition, both federal and provincial homelessness funding have now been tied to the implementation of Coordinated Access processes and prioritized lists for access of those experiencing homelessness within the District.

Federally: Reaching Home Designated Communities must have a Homelessness Management Information System (HIFIS) and Coordinated Access implemented by March 31, 2022.

Provincially: Service Managers must have a By-Name List (BNL) in place by January 1, 2022, and must conduct a formal enumeration of homelessness every two years, beginning in 2021 and the count must encompass 100% of a Service Manager's Area. In addition, the By-Name list must cover at least 90% of the Service Manager's Area.

CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

- This year's Point in Time (PiT) Count was held over a 24-hour period from Wednesday, October 13 to Thursday October 14, 2021.
- In addition to the 24 hour count, two Registry Days were held on October 14 and 15, 2021 to kick start the By-Name List.
- The first Coordinated Access Nipissing By Name List (CAN BNL) is comprised of 169 individuals who gave their consent during Nipissing Counts to be contacted by services to begin the process of matching them to housing and supports
- The Coordinated Access Nipissing Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) was finalized and sent out for signing in November 2021. Agencies signing the DSA were asked to commit to different levels of involvement in Coordinated Access Nipissing as defined in an agency participation document.

- Built for Zero (BFZ) Canada has created, in consultation with the Province, a BNL Scorecard that is to be used by Service Managers to track the implementation of the BNL. The DNSSAB is in compliance with the mandated December 31, 2021 deadline and has a fully implemented By-Name List
- The Coordinated Access Nipissing process is being researched and designed in consultation with Community Partners. Student placements from Nipissing University have been working with the Housing Team and the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to refine the CAN processes. A presentation entitled “Samantha’s Way Home” has been made to the CAB and DNSSAB staff to provide information about the By Name List and Coordinated Access.
- A half day planning session in January will use an extended version of the same presentation to guide the process planning for CAN.
- The original 169 individuals on the BNL will be tracked as a baseline for the District’s data moving forward.
- As of December 31, 2021:
 - 22 individuals from the original list have been housed, three left the community, and one individual is deceased (this was an individual who had been incarcerated at the time of the PiT Count).
 - A short referral intake form has been circulated to community partners so that new names can be added to the list.
 - A Housing Resource Inventory is under development so that individuals from the BNL can be matched with the housing supports and options that best fit their need as spaces become available.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The DNSSAB is mandated by the Province to develop, implement, maintain and report on the BNL, which will require staffing resources. These dedicated staffing resources will need to develop processes and reporting forms for community partners to add names to the list and report updates in a timely manner. In addition, the expectation that at least 90% of the District will be actively involved with either referring to the list or working with the individuals who are identified, will mean that a district-wide process for referral must be developed and implemented.

The BNL is the first step in the development of Coordinated Access Nipissing. In addition to the resources required for the monitoring of the BNL, CAN will require on-going, dedicated staffing to receive referrals, provide assessments, meet with other CAN Team partners to review the By Name List and begin matching individuals to housing and supports. As the Service Manager, the DNSSAB is obligated to implement policies that will delegate housing and support resources using the prioritization processes defined by the BNL and CAN.

HIFIS 4.0 implementation and maintenance will also be part of the DNSSAB’s obligation for CAN, along with the Data reporting that will be required by both the Provincial and Federal funding bodies.

In February 2022, Built for Zero Canada will open the opportunity for new communities to join BFZ. This was identified within the Homelessness Action Plan as a way for the District to move forward with the goal of reaching functional zero for chronic homelessness within Nipissing. Becoming a BFZ community would require a re-alignment of housing and homelessness services and supports that would fit well with the implementation of CAN.

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION:

As of 2022, all Federal and Provincial homelessness funding will be tied to mandated requirements for regular enumeration, data compilation, and service and housing prioritization and collaboration.

CONCLUSION:

The implementation of HIFIS 4.0 will facilitate collection of data throughout the District of Nipissing. The data gathered can then be used for planning at all levels of service and governance, and also for the

creation of a collaborative and data-driven continuum of services for the individuals who are represented by the data.

The implementation of Coordinated Access, PiT Counts, Registry Days, HFIS 4.0 and the creation of shared processes, consents and assessments will fulfill the mandatory requirements of the funders while strengthening the District's Homelessness system. With the successful and collaborative implementation of CAN, it is anticipated that many of the 169 individuals who were counted on October 13, 2021 and agreed to be placed on the By Name list, will be connected to appropriate supports and housing.

BRIEFING NOTE HS01-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Canada – Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) - Update**

Prepared by: Stacey Cyopeck, Director, Housing Programs

Reviewed by: Justin Avery, Manager of Finance

Approved by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

This report provides an update regarding the implementation of the COHB rent subsidy program for the 2022/23 fiscal year and is for information purposes.

BACKGROUND:

- The COHB program is a federal-provincial rental subsidy program that launched on April 1, 2020, jointly funded through the CMHC-Ontario Bilateral Agreement under the 2017 National Housing Strategy and provincially delivered.
- The purpose is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing subsidy directly to eligible households that are on, or eligible to be on, the social housing waiting lists or to those currently living in community housing. It is important to note that these do not count towards service level standards.
- The program is modeled after, and builds on, the former provincial Portable Housing Benefit – Special Priority Policy (PHB-SPP). COHB offers flexibility; recipients can move anywhere in the province and access market rent units all while remaining on the program. Consequently, recipients have more options when choosing where they live whether it is to be closer to family, social support networks, schools or employment opportunities.
- The program is administered by the Ministry of Finance (MOF). MOF determines eligibility, processes monthly COHB payments, and completes annual reviews.
- Local priority groups in Nipissing District are:
 - Victims of Domestic Violence & Human Trafficking
 - Persons experiencing *or* at risk of homelessness
 - Indigenous persons

CURRENT STATUS:

- DNSSAB staff work collaboratively with the following community partners to assist applicants with COHB applications:
 - ACCT/NBRHC Assertive Community Treatment Teams – North Bay Regional Health Centre
 - CCC (NIP) – Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing
 - CCNB – Crisis Centre North Bay
 - LIPI – Low Income People Involvement

- NBIFC – North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
- NBNPLC – North Bay Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
- CMHA North Bay – Canadian Mental Health Association
- NTH – Nipissing Transition House
- ODSP – Ontario Disability Support Program
- OW – Ontario Works
- Other.

- To date, Nipissing District has served 108 applicant households through COHB. These households were either on, or eligible to be on, the social housing waitlist.
- Nipissing's 2022-23 annual planning allocation to enrol new households is five times the allocation for 2021-2022. A total of \$ 317,700 will allow the DNSSAB to help between 75 to 100 new households, starting in the spring with their first payments as early as April 2022.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION:

COHB planning allocations are provided on a “use it or lose it” basis, and cannot be reallocated to future years. For this reason, annual planning allocations that cannot be fully taken up within the respective fiscal year may be reallocated by MMAH after December 31 to Service Manager areas with higher take-up rates.

CONCLUSION:

In summary, the COHB has provided rent subsidy assistance to many citizens of the Nipissing District. Targeting households who were accessing community partner resources met program priorities. The COHB program has allowed the DNSSAB to be more flexible in addressing local housing needs and priorities, and create mixed-income communities by diversifying housing options to foster the prevention and reduction of homelessness within the District.

BRIEFING NOTE HS04-22

For Information or For Approval

Date: January 26, 2022

Purpose: **Social Services Relief Fund Phase 3 (SSRF P3) - Rent Relief Project Update**

Prepared by: Stacey Cyopeck, Manager, Housing Programs

Reviewed by: Justin Avery, Manager, Finance

Approved by: Catherine Matheson, CAO

This report provides details on the Rent Relief Project funded through the SSRF P3, and is provided for information purposes.

BACKGROUND:

On March 10, 2021 the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) received notification from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the province had allocated an additional \$2,611,180 under the SSRF P3 funding for use from March 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. This funding was intended to mitigate the continued impact of the pandemic on the homelessness sector, and supports operating expenses only.

The intention of SSRF P3 was to continue to help a diverse range of vulnerable people to meet their short-term critical needs, including people living in community housing, supportive housing, people with low incomes, social assistance recipients, or others who require social services support as well as those that are experiencing homelessness.

The SSRF P3 funding had the same four eligible service categories found under CHPI: Emergency Shelter Solutions, Housing and Related Supports, Other Services and Supports and Homelessness Prevention. In recognition of the number of households that were financially impacted by the pandemic, a specific sub-category: Homelessness Prevention - Rent Relief; was also added.

CURRENT STATUS/STEPS TAKEN TO DATE:

In April 2021 a presentation was made to the DNSSAB concerning a collaboration between Low Income People Involvement (LIPI) and the Near North Landlord Association (NNLA) that was in response to concerns about the ending of the eviction moratorium and the growing number of tenants who were in substantial arrears and at risk of homelessness. The collaboration would

offer a three-party option for dealing with the arrears while keeping tenants housed: One third of the arrears would be paid through LIPI; one third would be the responsibility of the tenant; and one third would be forgiven by the landlord. The model would be voluntary and dependent of the need and the willingness of tenants and landlords to commit to the processes.

The project was designed to decrease evictions with Rent Bank Agreements between tenants and Landlords, wherein the Landlord will agree to cease eviction proceedings and sign an in-kind contribution agreement for household rental arrears, and the tenant will agree to do the following:

- (i) Participate in a Brief Intervention Trusteeship,
- (ii) Agree to a repayment plan,
- (iii) Enrol in the rent share program;
- (iv) pay upfront upcoming rent and/or first repayment obligation

The Rent Relief project with LIPI as the lead and in partnership with the NNLA, was funded in July 2021 through the SSRF P3. As of December 31, 2021, 18 households, comprised of 19 children and youth and 23 adults, were stabilized through this project. Rental arrears of \$69,059.73 were paid out and all households were in agreement with being part of the project, including trusteeship and direct payment of rent. As of December 31, 2021, repayments of \$3,500 have been recovered.

Support provided	Number of Individuals	Number of Households	Funding Expensed
Homelessness Prevention Support	42	18	\$37,380.00
Stabilization of Core Housing	42	18	\$69,059.73
Total expensed to December 31, 2021			\$106,439.73

As a result of the Rent Relief project, a new protocol has been developed between the DNSSAB CHPI program, OW and ODSP Income support services and LIPI. All rent arrears applications are first triaged by LIPI, allowing for more collaboration between services and coordination of limited Homelessness Prevention resources.

Final reporting for the project, including outcomes and data, scheduled to be completed in March of 2022, will be built into a final SSRF P3 report and will also include the other nine community projects.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The late start of the project and the changing dates for the end of pandemic income relief funding and eviction moratoriums resulted in an uptake that was lower than anticipated. The pandemic has continued to lead to pressures in other operational areas. The provider reached out on November 25, 2021 to advise that the Global Emergency Homelessness Fund (GEHF) had been exhausted, and more funds would be required to continue providing assistance to March 31st, 2022. Upon review of the expenditures under the various funding pockets, it was determined that the provider will be given the flexibility to move the remaining \$100,137.00 in surplus funds as follows:

Program	Surplus (Deficit) as December 31, 2021	Reallocated, to be spent by March 31, 2022
Global Emergency Homelessness Fund (GEHF)	(\$14,504.91)	\$75,000
Rent Arrears	\$7,606.04	\$20,000
Utility Arrears	\$17,035.87	\$5,137.00
Total	\$100,137	\$100,137

CONCLUSION:

The pandemic continues to impact housing stability and shelter capacity. The SSRF P3 funding ended on December 31, 2021.

In October 2021, the Nipissing Counts Homelessness enumeration found that 15% (31 people) of respondents experiencing homelessness indicated that their most recent housing loss was related to the pandemic.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD
January 11th, 2022

2022-14

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Lougheed

WHEREAS the province of Ontario has one of the best, albeit expensive, child care system in the country to include its full-day kindergarten program for four and five-year olds;

AND WHEREAS the province of Ontario is in the process of negotiating an agreement with the federal government that will ensure the protection of our unique, sophisticated and mature child care system;

AND WHEREAS Municipality of East Ferris families who are preparing to emerge from the fourth wave of the pandemic view child care as a financial hardship and a barrier for women's full economic participation;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of East Ferris Community Safety and Well Being Plan identifies a need for more childcare spaces in Astorville and in Corbeil with parents seeking the freedom to choose from an expanded regulated daycare system with for-profit, not-for-profit, and independent providers where early childhood educators are supported with adequate wages and working conditions;

AND WHEREAS provincial governments in BC, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon Territory, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have already reached agreements with the federal government;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Municipality of East Ferris encourages the province of Ontario to pursue its negotiations with the federal government to ensure daycare fees are lowered to an average of \$10 per day, per child;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council of the Municipality of East Ferris directs staff to take the necessary steps in its dealings with the provincial government and the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) to ensure that East Ferris child-care providers have access to sufficient child-care spaces and programs to support our local families;

AND that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Merrilee Fullerton, MP Nipissing Timiskaming Anthony Rota, MPP Nipissing Vic Fedeli, Director of Education Near North District School Board Craig Myles, Directeur de l'éducation Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord Serge Levac and DNSSAB CAO Catherine Matheson.



East Ferris
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Carried Mayor Rochefort

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of
Resolution No. 2022-14 passed by the
Council of the Municipality of East Ferris
on the 11th day of January, 2022.

Monica L. Hawkins

Monica L. Hawkins, AMCT
Clerk