Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 18, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 13 End Homelessness Winnipeg – Annual Funding Agreement Report

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That this report be received as information

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: End Homelessness Winnipeg – Annual Funding Agreement Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Brens	C. Fernandes	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2015, End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) has served as the backbone organization supporting the implementation of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg (Attachment 1).

The City of Winnipeg Council-approved 2020 – 2023 Operating Budget directed the City to enter into a grant agreement with EHW in the amount of $150,000 per year, for four (4) years, subject to further annual operating budget approval by Council. The goal of the grant is to implement EHW's 5 Year Business Plan (Attachment 2) for the years 2020-2025.

Article 5 of the funding agreement between the City and EHW requires that in June of each year of the agreement, EHW must submit a written report detailing:

- The recipient's activities over the past year
- Whether the recipient has been successful in reaching its goals and objectives, with an explanation as to why or why not.

To satisfy the requirements of their funding agreement, in September of 2020, EHW submitted the above noted report (Attachment 3).

This administrative report provides the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) with a summary of EHW's 2020 update, as well as highlighting some of the organization's key activities and achievements over the past year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The City of Winnipeg Council-approved 2020 - 2023 Operating Budget directed the City to enter into a grant agreement with EHW in the amount of $150,000 per year, for four (4) years. As part of this funding agreement, EHW must submit an annual written report detailing:

- The recipient's activities over the past year.
- Whether the recipient has been successful in reaching its goals and objectives, with an explanation as to why or why not.

To satisfy the requirements of their funding agreement, in September of 2020 EHW submitted said report. Based on the information included in their update, this administrative report provides EPC with a summary of some of EHW's key activities and achievements over the past year.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications arising from receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

EHW was established in 2015 with financial contributions from four funders including the United Way of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA). EHW uses a collective impact approach to work with partners from diverse sectors to end homelessness in Winnipeg. EHW receives its mandate from the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg, launched in 2014. Since 2015, EHW has served as the backbone organization supporting the implementation of the 10-year plan (included as Attachment 1).

In addition to the above, EHW has been appointed as the permanent Community Entity (CE) for the Federal Government's Reaching Home, Homelessness Strategy for a four-year period between 2020 and 2024. EHW was also appointed as the permanent CE for the Indigenous funding stream. By taking on the role of CE, EHW is well positioned to align local and federal funding strategies to achieve tangible outcomes that can prevent and end homelessness.

As a grant recipient of the City of Winnipeg, each year EHW is required to submit a report detailing the organization's activities over the past year, and whether they have been successful in reaching their goals and objectives. This administrative report highlights some of the key activities and achievements outlined in EHW's report submitted for the 2020 year (included as Attachment 3).

Responding to the COVID19 Pandemic

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization recognized COVID19 as a global pandemic. In April 2020, Service Canada announced $2.9 million in Reaching Home funds specific to COVID19 in Winnipeg. As the CE, EHW administered this funding. Funding decisions and allocations were rapidly deployed in support of critical needs. To do so, EHW convened a

response for Winnipeg's homeless-serving sector, drawing on relationships established through collaborative tables and partnerships to quickly bring together more than 60 agencies. The work included support for: social distancing measures within shelters, isolation and quarantine spaces for those experiencing homelessness, access to testing sites through safe and accessible transportation, health supplies, access to food and hygiene, and enhanced street outreach. EHW communicated regularly with funders from government sectors to resource priorities identified through local planning.

Extreme Weather Planning

Over the past year, EHW has supported and facilitated an Extreme Weather Response Committee. The Committee coordinates strategies to support individuals experiencing homelessness during extreme weather events. The committee's membership includes representatives from emergency shelters, outreach services, the City of Winnipeg, health services and Environment and Climate Change Canada. In 2020, EHW completed this function while also managing the diverse challenges posed by the pandemic. For example, this past summer, in partnership with the City, water tanks were deployed in key areas of Winnipeg, and information guides were also developed and distributed that listed cooling spaces available on a drop-in basis. These actions were particularly important as many cooling spaces in the city were restricted or closed. EHW was also essential to the creation of new drop-in services. This included the 190 Disraeli location of Main Street Project, the St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry, as well as the Weetamah location of the Salvation Army. The Weetamah drop-in was developed through a partnership between the Salvation Army, EHW, the City, Siloam Mission, Public Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Agencies providing drop-in space collectively reported more than 500 visits per day at these locations. Over the course of the summer, it is estimated that these sites recorded over 30,000 visits from individuals seeking access to drop-in space. Currently EHW is working through the Extreme Weather Response Committee to support planning for extreme cold weather moving into the winter months.

Kíkininaw Óma: A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers

In June of 2020, EHW released the "Kíkininaw Óma: A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers." The strategy was developed through the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy Working Group with representation from the City of Winnipeg, first responders, outreach workers, homeless-serving agencies, and people with lived experience of homelessness. The Strategy offers context on unsheltered homelessness and encampments in Winnipeg and sets out recommendations to address housing needs based on engagements with people with lived experience. To date, the City has taken action on one of the recommendations of the report by allocating one million dollars over four years to support additional 24/7 Safe Spaces in Winnipeg. The Council-approved program will enable Ka Ni Kanichihk and the Spence Neighbourhood Association (WE24) to enhance 24/7 safe spaces where most needed.

Additional Initiatives

In addition to the above, EHW also works closely with the City on a number of projects, programs and groups. This includes:

- In August of 2020, EHW participated on the selection committee for the City's 24/7 Safe Space grant program.
- The Director of the Community Services Department is a member of the EHW Board of Directors and the EHW Audit Committee.
- The City's Housing Coordinator with the Planning, Property and Development Department is a member of the Community Advisory Board for the Reaching Home program administered by EHW.
- Various City staff representing Public Works, Community Services, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, and Customer Service & Communications are active members of the Kíkininaw Óma Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers working group.
- City staff from the Office of Emergency Management and the Community Development Division of Community Services participate on the Extreme Weather Response Committee facilitated by EHW.
- In relation to the pandemic specifically, since March of 2020, City staff from the Office of Emergency Management and Community Services have participated in regular calls coordinated by EHW related to supporting vulnerable Winnipeggers during the pandemic. This has resulted in new partnerships, including the opening of the daytime drop-in space at the Weetamah location of the Salvation Army.

Moving forward, EHW is well positioned to continue its work in implementing its 5 Year Business Plan (included as Attachment 2), building on the successes and new partnerships developed throughout 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 22, 2020

Project Name:

End Homelessness Winnipeg -– Annual Funding Agreement Report to the Executive Policy Committee

COMMENTS:

The is no financial impact resulting from the recommendation that the Report be received as information.

"Original signed by K. Lemoine"

Kelly Lemoine, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administrative Services
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

End Homelessness Winnipeg

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

- Theme 3-1 - Opportunity:
  - Direction 3: Work with community partners to foster an inclusive and equitable community &
  - Direction 4: Work within municipal service areas as a collaborator on poverty reduction.
- Theme 01-2a - Collaborate to Make Safe Communities -
  - Direction 6: Take a broad-scaled, complete and collaborative approach to crime prevention.
- Theme 1-4 - Housing
  - Direction 3: Establish partnerships with the private, not-for-profit and government sectors to provide affordable housing throughout the city

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Not applicable

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Community Development
Prepared by: Chris Brens, Manager, Community Development
Noelle DePape, Administrative Coordinator, Community Development
Karen Glugosh, Community Development Worker, Community Development
Date: October 23, 2020
File No: CMS-2020-16

Attachments

Attachment 1: The Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg

Attachment 2: End Homelessness Winnipeg 5-Year Plan (2020-2025)

Attachment 3: End Homelessness Winnipeg: Report to the City of Winnipeg Executive Policy Committee