Minute No. 740
Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

Item No. 15 End Homelessness Winnipeg, Annual Funding Agreement Report

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That this report be received as information.

Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: End Homelessness Winnipeg, Annual Funding Agreement Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Glugosh	C. Fernandes	N/A	M. Geer, Acting 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.

As part of the City's 2020-2023 operating budget, the Public Service was directed to enter into a funding agreement with EHW for a four (4) year period in the amount of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars ($150,000) per year. The goal of this grant is to support EHW's 2019 Five-Year Business Plan (Attachment 1), which aligns with the goals of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg and Reaching Home, Canada's Federal Strategy to End Homelessness.

As part of the funding requirements of this grant, EHW is required to submit an annual report detailing its activities over the previous year, and identify how successful it was in reaching its goals and objectives. In compliance with this requirement, EHW submitted its annual report to the City of Winnipeg for the period of September 2021 to July 2022 (Attachment 2). The report speaks to the organization's progress on the targets of its five-year plan, including the launch of Winnipeg's Coordinated Access System, Naatamooskakown.

This administrative report provides Council with key highlights taken from EHW's 2022 report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

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

1. The recipient's activities over the past year.
2. 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 the funding agreement, EHW submitted its annual report in July 2022. This administrative report provides Council with a summary of the organization's key achievements over the past year.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications in receiving this report as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) received its mandate from the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg launched in 2014. EHW was established in 2015 with financial contributions from the United Way of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the City of Winnipeg. EHW uses a collective impact approach to work with partners from diverse sectors to prevent and end homelessness in Winnipeg. Since 2015, EHW has served as the backbone organization supporting collaborative responses for Homelessness Prevention, Unsheltered Homelessness, and Housing.

Since 2018, EHW transitioned to become an Indigenous non-profit organization with predominantly Indigenous staff and board members reflective of the local population impacted most by homelessness.

EHW has been appointed as the permanent Community Entity for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. Within their role of Community Entity, EHW is well positioned to align local and Federal funding strategies to achieve tangible outcomes that can prevent and end homelessness.

The Community Services Department provides support to EHW with regard to both governance and engagement. The Department Director is a member on EHW's Board of Directors, as well as sitting on the Board's Audit Committee. Community Services staff, including the Manager of Community Development, participate in regular meetings led by EHW including those related to extreme weather, unsheltered homelessness, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. EHW staff regularly participate and support City initiatives.

As a grant recipient of the City of Winnipeg, EHW is required to submit reports on an annual basis. EHW's 2022 report highlights the organization's ongoing efforts to end homelessness, including the following key activities and achievements.

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness: Bright Spot

In September 2021, EHW was profiled by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness as a "Bright Spot", reflecting outstanding work in ending homelessness nationally. The Kikinanaw Oma Strategy and the COVID-19 Response for Winnipeg homeless serving sectors were highlighted as particularly impactful approaches to advancing the right to housing and Indigenous human rights. Also, in September, EHW released the 2021 Winnipeg Rental Housing Supply Baseline Scan, measuring progress on low-income housing development, using a methodology that can be repeated over time (Attachment 3). EHW leads many shared service partnerships as a collaborative link between homeless serving organizations, sectors and providers.

Kikinanaw Oma: A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers

Released in June 2020, the Kíkininaw Óma strategy was facilitated by EHW and created in collaboration with representation from the City of Winnipeg, first responders, outreach workers, homeless serving agencies and people with lived experience. The name, Kikinanaw Oma, gifted by Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck, can be translated as "This is our Home Here" from Cree. The Strategy offered context on unsheltered homelessness in Winnipeg and made six key recommendations. Since that time, rapid progress has been made on some of the recommendations, while barriers have emerged to the implementation of others.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the urgency for addressing unsheltered homelessness, building broad awareness that housing is health care. However, COVID-19 also increased the visibility of unsheltered homelessness in Winnipeg. Outreach services expanded and worked in closer collaboration, supported by relationships with first responders when emergencies arose. New and expanded safe spaces emerged, and several new housing initiatives began to address key gaps on Winnipeg's housing continuum. However, need may be outpacing the construction of these developments, while rising housing costs continue to keep safe homes out of reach for many.

The second anniversary of the strategy brought another opportunity to evaluate progress and next steps for ending unsheltered homelessness. The Year Two Report to the community, presented in July 2022, (Attachment 4) reveals that while unsheltered homelessness has decreased since the winter of 2021 - 2022, emergency shelter capacity is at an all-time high, pointing to the ongoing need for low-income, low-barrier, and Indigenous-led housing options.

N'Dinawemak

In November, EHW brought together a collaborative of Indigenous Community organizations and the Downtown Community Safety Partners to open N'Dinawemak, the new Indigenous-led 24/7 safe space for unsheltered people, located at 190 Disraeli. Over the winter, the space supported between 150 and 200 people per day with warmth, comfort, nourishment and cultural programming. The opening of this safe space led to an observable decrease in unsheltered homelessness and encampments in the City.

The lifting of public health orders, and reopening of spaces, along with the establishment of new services like the N'Dinawemak Indigenous-led 24/7 safe space have meant that unsheltered homelessness decreased during the winter of 2021 - 2022 to below pre-pandemic levels.

N'Dinewemak and Velma's House, another 24/7 safe space, require continued investment to support work to assist people in greatest need along their pathways to healing and home.

It is only recently that there has been a widespread acknowledgement that emergency-based responses to homelessness are unsustainable and ineffective. While shelters, outreach programs and drop-in centres inevitably play an important role in our system's response to homelessness, there is growing agreement that we need to do more. (Attachment 5)

Naatamooskakowin

Winnipeg's coordinated access was launched in the spring of 2022 as a new way for people experiencing homelessness and facing multiple barriers to finding a place, to connect quickly with the supports they need to secure safe housing, including Housing First programming. Elder Belinda Vandenbroeck gifted Winnipeg's Coordinated Access system the name, a Cree word meaning "a place to come for help, shelter or resources." EHW facilitated several community engagement and co-creation activities with the homeless serving sector. The direction received informed every aspect of the design and implementation. Coordinated access is the implementation of a single, integrated, shared information system that supports the seamless and rapid exit from homelessness that is person-centered, anti-oppressive, trauma-informed, strengths-based, and grounded in the principles of harm reduction.

Gizhe Waa Ti -Sii-Win

Gizhe Waa Ti -Sii-Win is a free access, volunteer-driven, community-based service delivery Expo. Now an annual event, service providers come together across sectors, on one day, to deliver essential, dignity-enhancing services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The event's name aptly means "working with love, kindness and generosity for others" in Anishinaabemowin. EHW initiated the first Expo in 2018 in partnership with the Manitoba Financial Empowerment Network and local agencies. In 2018, the Expo took place at the Neeginan Centre with 500 guests participating. In 2019, the Expo took place at the Salvation Army Weetamah welcoming more than 700 guests. In 2022, it took place at Siloam Mission where more than 1,000 individuals accessed services, food and community connection.

The continued success of this event demonstrates the level of need in the community as well as the array of challenges individuals face when trying to access essential supports and services. Through collective action, the service providers positively impact and transform the community to create sustainable change.

Astum Api Niikinaahk

The housing development formerly known as the Village Project, adjacent to Circle of Life Thunderbird House, faced a range of pandemic-related construction delays. The site will offer 22 Rent Geared to Income “tiny homes” and a communal lodge for adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Conclusion

Progress has been made to house people; to shorten lengths of stays in emergency shelters by supporting pathways to housing; to prevent new inflows to homelessness from systems; to implement a new Coordinated Access system, Naatamooskakowin; and to support unsheltered Winnipeggers with enhanced outreach and new safe spaces.

As in 2020 - 2021, two key challenges remain:

1. Create adequate housing supply to end homelessness and reduce core housing need.
2. Address the over-representation of Indigenous people among those experiencing homelessness.

Despite these challenges, successes continue to be achieved toward advancing the human right to housing through work facilitated by or in partnership with End Homelessness Winnipeg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: **August 4, 2022**

Project Name:

End Homelessness Winnipeg, Annual Funding Agreement Report

COMMENTS:

There is no financial implication resulting from the recommendation to receive the report as information.

O. Garrett August 4, 2022
Ozzy Garrett, CPA, CGA
Acting Manager of Finance
Community Services Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- End Homelessness Winnipeg

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Theme: Leadership & Good Governance

- 1.15 Community Capacity Development
- 1.16 Equitable Funding Distribution – that respond to needs of systemically disadvantaged groups
- 1.19 Equitable Service Access

Theme: Economic Prosperity

- 3.12 – Poverty Reduction

Theme: Good Health & Well-Being

- 4.1 Health Equity
- 4.4 Affordable and Supportive Housing Options
- 4.6 Community Safety
- 4.9 Inclusive Public Places
- 4.11 Equitable Service Access

Theme: Social Equity

- 5.1 Equitable Services Access
- 5.2 Affordable and Supportive Housing Options
- 5.3 End Homelessness
- 5.4 Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- 5.5 Indigenous Lens
- 5.7 Community Cohesion

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Not applicable.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following **Guiding Principles**:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- We will Address Systemic Oppression, Trauma and Social Inequity
- We will Promote and Maintain the Welfare of All Residents
- We will Develop Trust and Meaningful Partnerships to find solutions and drive change.

They align with the following **Goals and Objectives**:

Goal 2: The City Actively Plans for and Partners in Affordable Housing

10-year Objectives:

B. The urgent housing needs of unsheltered residents are addressed through proactive, multi-sectoral partnerships.

The information and recommendations presented in this report also advance the following **Actions,** as listed in the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan (2021 - 2023):

Action 2.4 Collaborate on Ending Homelessness - Continue to support and collaborate with End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW), the coordination of a city-wide response to ending and preventing homelessness, including support for implementation of EHW's 5 Year Plan and the continued support and delivery of the recommendations of Kíkininaw Óma – A Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers, including support for outreach services. (see also 'Community Well-being Supports' section). *(Community Services – Lead Dept)*

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Community Services Department
Division: Community Development Division
Prepared by: Karen Glugosh, Community Development Worker
Date: August 4,2022
File No: CMS-2022-5

Attachment 1: EHW’s 2019 Five-Year Business Plan
Attachment 2: 2022 Annual Report to the City
Attachment 3: 2021 Winnipeg Rental Housing Supply Baseline Scan
Attachment 4: Kikinanaw Oma Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers-Year 2
Attachment 5: Supplementary Data: Details of Progress on Creating Housing