



INFORMATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members City Council
DATE:	February 12, 2020
SUBJECT:	Canada–Ontario Housing Benefit (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manager Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

INFORMATION

The Government of Canada is investing \$2 B into housing stability solutions through the Canada–Ontario Housing Benefit, with Provinces cost-matching for a total national investment of \$4 B. From April 2020 to March 2029, the Canada–Ontario Housing Benefit will provide funding through portable housing benefits directly to households in need of housing affordability and who are on or eligible for a social housing waitlist. This program is modelled after and replaces the Survivors of Violence Portable Housing Benefit and will provide assistance at levels similar to Rent-Geared-to-Income.

The Province has allocated \$1.15 M for 2020-2021 to the City of Hamilton. The City will not deliver the program directly but will refer applicants to the Province who will determine eligibility and make payments to participants. The City of Hamilton will receive administrative funding based on the number of approved applications. Applying the Province's average annual benefit estimation of \$3,400/year/household, Hamilton's allocation translates into approximately 320-350 portable housing benefits for a duration of nine years.

In order to maximize Hamilton's allocation and mitigate risks related to Hamilton's portion being reallocated by the Province to other regions or municipalities, the Housing Services Division is developing a strategy that will ensure portable housing benefits are assigned to eligible households who meet both provincial and local priorities within 60 days of the program's start on April 1, 2020. Staff will bring the strategy to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in March for discussion and approval.

Should you require further information please contact Edward John, Director, Housing Services Division at 905-546-2424 ext. 4860 or via email at ejohn@hamilton.ca.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None