



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Social and Housing Services
Division: Social Services
Report Number: 2020-225-Social and Housing Services
Prepared By: Mellissa Morgan, Manager
Meeting Date: October 13, 2020
Subject: Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Plan

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding the social assistance recovery and renewal updates, as announced by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Recommendation

That Council receive Report 2020-225-Social and Housing Services.

Financial Implications

2021 Ontario Works planning allocations are being kept at the 2020 baselines to provide stability for Ontario Works delivery partners during the COVID-19 recovery period.

It is anticipated that, with the implementation of employment services transformation in 2022, the Ontario Works planning allocation will be revised.

Background / Discussion

As part of the ongoing modernization strategy, on Wednesday September 30, 2020, MCCSS announced their social assistance recovery and renewal update (attachment 1).

In conjunction with modernization, this plan builds on what has been learned during the COVID-19 outbreak, and the need to fundamentally change ways of delivering services.

The first phase of the social assistance recovery and renewal plan, to roll out over the next few months, will be focused on four key areas:

- Accelerated digital delivery solutions,
- Centralized and automated delivery,
- Risk-based eligibility review, and
- Access to employment and training.

How will these changes affect the way Ontario Works is delivered (attachment 2)?

The Ministry will be implementing centralization and automation of financial assistance intake and initial eligibility decisions. This has already begun with a limited number of Ontario Works prototype sites. In the coming months, this means that intake for new applicants to Ontario Works who apply using the new Social Assistance Digital Application (SADA) will be automated by using data from provincial, federal and third-party sources and supported by a central team instead of being processed through the local office.

Starting in 2021, centralized and automated financial assistance intake will be expanded to more municipalities. Full implementation, across all Ontario Works, should be complete by April 2021.

The Renewal Period (Spring 2021 –2024), following the implementation of the first phase, the Ministry will then begin an overall shift to:

- Life stabilization, individualized support, and system navigation
- Better connections with Employment Ontario (employment services transformation)
- Co-designing, enabling, and implementing new approaches that bring us closer to Human Services Integration

What does this mean locally?

While the full impact of employment services transformation and life stabilization is not fully known, modernization has been on the forefront of our planning activities for the past 12 months. As such, locally we have tried to mitigate the impact through various activities, including a review of vacancies as they occur.



If there is a need to replace a vacancy, in most cases this has been done on a temporary basis.

In the longer term, a new provincial-municipal transformation vision will be co-designed with municipal and DSSAB stakeholders and partners and set the stage for system transformation that drives outcomes, accountability, and system performance.

As more information regarding employment services transformation and life stabilization is released by the Ministry, we will continue to plan accordingly.

Document Title:	Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Plan - 2020-225-Social and Housing Services.docx
Attachments:	- Council Report 13-10-20 - Attachment 1.doc - Council Report 13-10-20 - Attachment 2.doc
Final Approval Date:	Oct 6, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Bailey - Oct 6, 2020 - 6:42 AM

Maureen Adams - Oct 6, 2020 - 7:14 PM