

Annual Report and Update – Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership

ISSUE

This report provides an update on 2019 activities of the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (2018 fiscal year occurring at the end of June 2019) and a preliminary update for 2020.

BACKGROUND

Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) was created in 1999 with a focus to provide community-based services to help affordable housing providers develop business plans and write proposals for affordable housing projects.

At its February 27, 2017 meeting, City Council approved a new service agreement with SHIP for a five-year term beginning May 1, 2017, to implement Saskatoon's Homelessness Action Plan (Action Plan).

At its December 3, 2019 meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services received the SHIP 2018 Annual Report, which included updates on the implementation of the Action Plan.

CURRENT STATUS

The SHIP 2019 Annual Report covers year three of a five-year service agreement between the City of Saskatoon (City) and SHIP.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Work by SHIP is a Vital Component of the City's Housing Business Plan 2013 - 2022

SHIP is a community-based organization with related mandates of implementing the Action Plan, providing business planning services for affordable housing projects and administering the investment of the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy in Saskatoon. Work done by SHIP has been vital in ensuring supports are in place to assist homeless people in accessing housing and to support the creation of new affordable housing projects to meet the City's targets. Details of work done by SHIP in all of these areas for 2019 is found in their 2019 Annual Report (see Appendix 1).

SHIP Continues Providing Business Planning Services to Two Housing Projects

In 2019, SHIP continued to assist two local housing providers in moving forward with proposals. This included teaming up to create a feasibility study for a seniors housing complex with the Sherbrooke Foundation called 333. SHIP also continued working with YWCA Saskatoon by coordinating their feasibility study for their affordable housing development consisting of a shelter, transitional unit expansion and renovation of their existing building. The YWCA project includes initial plans of 16 emergency shelter units, 10 family shelter units, 18 transitional units and 32 low-income seniors units. The project will include non-residential spaces such as office space for Saskatoon Crisis

Intervention Service, a coffee shop and gallery, renovated and expanded child care and space for an employment and learning centre.

SHIP Administers the Federal Government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy

As the Community Entity for the federal government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy, SHIP disbursed \$1.87 million in funding to 12 Saskatoon agencies that responded to homelessness in our community in 2019. The bulk of this funding went to support Housing First and Rapid Re-Housing programs that together have moved 1,368 individuals out of homelessness and into permanent housing since 2015.

2020 Preliminary Update

SHIP has continued its work on implementing the community-based federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Reaching Home. Continued progress is being made on coordinated access with the hiring of a consultant to implement the coordinated and systems-based approach that helps match individuals to appropriate housing and services in the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The service agreement between SHIP and the City includes an annual payment to SHIP of \$130,000 which is funded from the Affordable Housing Reserve.

NEXT STEPS

Under terms of the service agreement between the City and SHIP, an annual report is required from SHIP each year. SHIP activities will be reported on during their 2020 fiscal year and will be presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services later in 2021.

APPENDICES

1. 2019 Annual Report

REPORT APPROVAL

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