
2016 Annual Report - Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership

Recommendation

That the information be received.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activities of the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership in 2016.

Report Highlights

1. The work of the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) is a vital component of the City of Saskatoon's (City) Housing Business Plan 2013 - 2022.
2. SHIP provided business planning services to four housing providers in 2016.
3. SHIP is now focusing on implementing Saskatoon's Homelessness Action Plan.
4. SHIP administers the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

Strategic Goal

This report supports the City's Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by increasing the supply and range of affordable housing options.

Background

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 March 21, 2011 meeting, City Council approved a service agreement with SHIP for a five-year term, providing annual funding of \$100,000 to enable SHIP to facilitate the creation of at least 100 affordable housing units every year in Saskatoon. City Council extended this agreement by six months to April 30, 2017. The agreement requires SHIP to provide the City with an annual report on its activities and the projects for which it has provided business planning services.

At its August 15, 2016 meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services received SHIP's 2015 annual report, which included plans to transition SHIP's focus away from business planning for affordable housing and move toward the implementation of Saskatoon's Homelessness Action Plan (Action Plan) starting in 2016.

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 the Action Plan.

Report

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

SHIP is a community-based organization with the mandate of providing business planning services for affordable housing projects and addressing homelessness in Saskatoon. The work of SHIP has been vital to achieving the City's housing targets and to ensuring that supports are in place so the homeless can have access to housing.

SHIP Provided Business Planning Services to Four Housing Providers

In 2016, SHIP assisted four local housing providers in moving forward with proposals that should result in the creation of 47 new affordable rental units in Saskatoon. The housing providers include OUTSaskatoon, Stewart Property Holdings, Quint Development Corporation, and Hope Restored Canada. The largest of these projects is already under construction. The details of SHIP's contribution to these 47 affordable housing units is found in SHIP's 2016 Annual Report (see Attachment 1).

SHIP is Implementing Saskatoon's Homelessness Action Plan

As a result of changing priorities in the community, SHIP focused less on business planning in 2016 so that more resources could be directed toward creating a coordinated response to homelessness. SHIP played the lead role in the development of the Action Plan, which was released at SHIP's Innovative Solutions to Housing and Homelessness Conference on November 22, 2016. Implementation of the Action Plan officially began in early 2017.

The Action Plan includes a business planning component, enabling SHIP to continue assisting housing providers in developing their projects with a new target of 35 units per year. Other priorities in the Action Plan include: system coordination, strengthening housing placement and support programs, and prevention of homelessness.

SHIP Administers the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy

The Annual Report also includes information regarding funding that SHIP has disbursed in its role as the Community Entity for the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding. A large amount of this funding supports Housing First and Rapid Rehousing programs, which have housed 330 people.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

No public consultation or stakeholder involvement is required.

Financial Implications

The service agreement between SHIP and the City includes an annual payment to SHIP of \$100,000 which is funded from the Affordable Housing Reserve.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, policy, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations; a communication plan is not required at this time.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Under the terms of the service agreements between the City and SHIP, an annual report is required each year. An annual report on SHIP's activities in 2017 will be presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning Development and Community Services in August 2018.

Public Notice

Public notice, pursuant to Section 3 of Public Notice Policy No. C01-021, is not required.

Attachment

1. SHIP's 2016 Annual Report: Partnering to Develop Solutions to Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Saskatoon.

Report Approval

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