

Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

2022 Budget

CK Emergency Rapid Rehousing Program (Isolation Shelter)

Briefing Note required for:

- items +/- \$50,000 or more
- changes in FTE
- Council Priority requests

Dept	Division	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
CHS	ESS	Rapid Rehousing - Wages	S	\$1,500,711	18.1429
CHS	ESS	Rapid Rehousing - Operating Expenses	S	\$1,593,183	
CHS	ESS	Rapid Rehousing – Provincial Funding	S	(\$1,788,096)	
CHS	ESS	Rapid Rehousing – Future Economic Downturn Reserve #17296	S	(\$1,305,798)	
		Total:		\$0.00	18.1429

Background:

The combination of COVID-19 and increased costs of living in Chatham-Kent lead to the community need for a temporary Isolation Shelter. As COVID-19 has progressed, more homeless clients have been housed and more services offered by transitioning to the Chatham-Kent Emergency Rapid Re-Housing Program (CKERRP).

CKERRP is a housing focused emergency housing program following five principles:

1. Homelessness is first and foremost a housing problem.
2. Homelessness should be rare, brief, and non-recurring.
3. Permanent housing is a human right.
4. Housing is harm reduction.
5. Maintaining high professional standards ensures quality services which in turn ensures sustainable positive outcomes.

CKERRP is currently operated and staffed by ESS, operating 24 hours a day seven days a week. Every request and interaction are viewed as an opportunity to engage a participant in a housing conversation. ESS does not want to be in the shelter business – but in the ‘housing people’ business.

CKERRP is not a shelter. It is emergency housing that is more similar to transitional/bridge housing than it is to a congregate shelter. Those in need are provided with either a single or shared room. The room is based on availability and individual circumstances. All guests must agree to actively pursue long-term housing options to qualify for services. This is reviewed with guests at intake, and they are immediately matched with a housing worker who they meet with regularly. In line with best practices, everything CKERRP does is about housing. That is not to say that those accessing services don’t need additional supports, but those needs are best fulfilled once the person is housed or at the very least supported while actively searching for housing.

Background:

Since the program became operational on October 1, 2020, 110 individuals moved from CKERP to long term housing. Staff are working with community partners to ensure supports are in place for these individuals to maintain their housing. Individuals not interested in CKERP services are receiving short-term supports and connections to other community partners better able to meet their needs.

Comment:

It is recommended that the Emergency Rapid Re-housing Program be funded partially with the remaining provincial Social Services Relief Funding (SSRF) with the remaining \$1,305,798 being funded out of the Ontario Works Future Economic Downturn Reserve.

The ESS Division requested and was approved for \$2,540,467 from the Economic Downturn Reserve as part of the 2021 Budget process but did not need to access the funds as a result of additional SSRF funding being provided in 2021 by the Ministry. Employment and Social Services will continue to work with the Ministry to try to obtain additional funding in relation to homelessness but do not anticipate receiving any additional funding past March 2022. The reserve amount would be reduced by any future funding from the Ministry.