




# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

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| <b>TO:</b>               | Mayor and Members<br>City Council   |
| <b>DATE:</b>             | December 8, 2023  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | Interim Housing Assistance Program funding (City Wide)  |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> | City Wide   |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>     | Michelle Baird<br>Director Housing Services Division<br>Healthy and Safe Communities Department |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>        |               |

Hamilton continues to be challenged with the impact of refugee and asylum claimants within our emergency shelter system. Over the course of 2023 the numbers of individuals seeking shelter as asylum claimants has continually increased. At this point in time well over 35% of all shelter beds are being filled with asylum claimants and these numbers are even higher in the men's and women's systems with the men's system seeing more than 50% of all beds being occupied by asylum claimants.

The costs being incurred through these pressures are being covered through the Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program funding and through our local levy. This means we have less funding available to allocate to programs targeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness in Hamilton, particularly as we come into the winter months.

Through the Mayor and Council advocacy to the Federal and Provincial government to support needed funding has been underway over the past number of months and this advocacy continues.

We've been notified that we will be receiving funding assistance to address these concerns through the Federal Government through the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP). **Hamilton is receiving an interim payment of \$3.5 million to assist with immediate budgetary and capacity challenges to provide continued support to claimants.** This funding reimburses costs already assumed by the City in provision of services. A decision on our full year financial ask of \$10 million will follow in 2024.

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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.

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These funds will be used to offset costs incurred to date which will subsequently allow continued investment in homeless services, including expansion of the winter response plan.

An update with respect to the full financial impacts as well as the 2023 full budget decision will follow in early 2024.

For more information, please contact Michelle Baird, Director, Housing Services, at [Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca](mailto:Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca) or 905-546-2424 x4860.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A