



Council Report

Report Number: HS2025-004

Meeting Date: April 22, 2025

Title: **Joint Advisory Committee Recommendation for the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit Program Review**

Description: Update on the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) Program review and referral to staff and the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services.

Author and Title: Cheryl Faber, Director Human Services

Recommendation(s):

That Report HS2025-004, **Joint Advisory Committee Recommendation for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program Review**, be received.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of January 28, 2025, Council adopted the following resolution:

CR2025-14

Moved by Councillor Perry

Seconded by Councillor Warren

That the deputation of Diane Engelstead, regarding the **Request for a Review of Priority Groups for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit**, be received; and

That the addition of persons with disabilities be referred to Staff and the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services.

This report provides Council the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services Report (JAC2025-06) as well as the recommendation that was approved at the meeting held on February 19, 2025.

Rationale:

As per Council's resolution, the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services met on February 19, 2025. Members were provided with Report JAC2025-06 (Appendix A) titled Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program Review and the following was recommended:

Resolved That Report JAC2025-06, "Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program Review", be received;

That the current priority populations approved by Council remain unchanged for the remainder of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program delivery, as they continue to meet the local population needs given the mandate of the rent supplement program and the growing demand for Housing and those living unsheltered; and

That Staff prepare a joint letter of support from the Mayor of the City of Kawartha Lakes and the Warden of Haliburton County to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services to advocate for an increase in provincial funding for affordable housing initiatives for smaller municipalities to better support community members in need, across various priority populations, including those living with complex needs.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Members were informed by staff that should a different alternative have been suggested by the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services, the cost implications would need to be considered including those of required tax levy dollar investment to support, as well as the staff time and resource costs.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

This report aligns with the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan priority of An Exceptional Quality of Life by ensuring a broad range of programs, services and supports are available and accessible to those in need.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

No financial impacts, based on the recommendation made by the Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services.

Consultations:

Joint Advisory Committee for Housing and Social Services Members (City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Haliburton)
Homelessness System Coordinator
Data Analyst Coordinator
Program Supervisor, Homelessness
People Partner- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility
Manager, Human Services

Attachments:

Appendix A – JAC2025-06 Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit Program Review



JAC2025-06
Canada-Ontario Hous

Department Head email: cfaber@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Cheryl Faber, Director Human Services