

Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	August 14, 2025
Subject / Report No:	CSR-CW-26-25
Title:	Transitions to Permanent Housing Pilot Project Funding
Prepared by:	Josh Gibson, Manager of Housing Programs
Reviewed by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	

Recommendation

1. That report CSR-CW-26-25 regarding Transitions to Permanent Housing Pilot Project be received;
2. That the Warden and Clerk sign the funding agreement for \$362,420 between the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness - Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund and the Corporation of the County of Grey, in the form substantially provided in this report;
3. That the funding of \$362,420 be approved for use in 2025-26; and
4. That the agreement be signed prior to County Council approval in accordance with Section 26.6 (b) of Procedural By-law according to Procedural Bylaw 5134-22.

Executive Summary

The County applied for funding for a pilot project through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) funding initiative called the “Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund” (HRIF). The pilot project focuses on reducing the number of individuals who return to homelessness following a successful housing placement by providing a higher level of case management support. Staff are asking Grey County to enter into an agreement for funding with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and that the agreement be signed prior to County Council approval to meet start date of October 1, 2025.

Background and Discussion

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) is a national movement focused on ending homelessness in Canada by supporting and mobilizing communities to implement proven solutions and advocate for policy changes. CAEH through an expression of interest process sought ideas for projects aimed at reducing homelessness by increasing move-ins to housing or decrease inflow to the homelessness system. To be considered eligible, the applying

community must be the community lead for the area and have a Quality By Name List approved by CAEH, both criteria which Grey County met.

Grey County proposed Transitions to Permanent Housing Pilot through the expression of interest to address a gap in local services. Currently, individuals from the Grey County By Name List (BNL) are housed without sufficient ongoing case management. This project aims to fill that gap by expanding housing supports, reducing evictions among newly housed chronically homeless individuals, and decreasing returns to homelessness.

The project is expected to start October 1st, 2025 and conclude September 30, 2026.

Project Goal and Description

The Project goal is to lower the rate of return to homelessness by more than 50% after securing a housing opportunity directly from the BNL. In 2024, Grey Counties BNL had 99 Households experiencing chronic homelessness move into Housing, with a rate of return to homelessness of 30% during the same period.

This initiative proposes two full-time temporary Housing First Case Coordinators to support households transitioning from the By-Name List (BNL) into housing. Currently, this support is lacking, with emergency outreach staff handling follow-ups without dedicated time or resources.

Each Case Coordinator would support 12 households at a time, offering intensive, 6-month support including:

- Regular in-person check-ins
- Crisis management and tenant education
- Referrals to community services (income support, food, healthcare, employment)
- Help setting up housing (furnishings, utilities, etc.)
- Ongoing landlord communication to maintain tenancies and encourage landlords to engage with the system in the future to increase the supply of rental opportunities

Households would also receive a rental supplement and a \$250 engagement incentive for the first 6 months to ease their transition and encourage participation in the pilot project.

The pilot project would support 48 households over its duration and aims to highlight the critical role of sustained Housing First support in ensuring long-term housing stability.

Financial and Resource Implications

Total funding under this agreement is \$362,420, the table below provides a breakdown of the pilot budget.

Item	Budget
Two Case Coordinators	\$216,000
Rent Supplements	\$72,000
Housing Rental Readiness Costs	\$30,000

Program Supervision	\$20,000
Data Collection	\$11,420
Computers and Cell Phones	\$8,000
Travel	\$5,000
Total	\$362,420

This program is not included in the 2025 budget as funding was unknown in fall of 2024. All unbudgeted 2025 costs will be funded from unbudgeted grant revenue and the 2026 portion will be included in the 2026 budget. All costs will be fully funded through the grant, resulting in no levy impact to the County. Additionally, the supervision and data collection will be completed by existing Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Staff, which will result in savings of \$31,420 to the HPP budget. These savings will be used to increase the capacity of the Short-Term Shelter Program.

Relevant Consultation

- ☒ Internal (Finance, HR)
- ☐ External

Appendices and Attachments

HRIF Agreement

HRIF Data Sharing Agreement