



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 26-035**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Jayne Hartley, Director, Housing & Social Services
Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025
Subject: Award of Funding - Call for Proposals (CFP) under Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF)

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 4. Foster a Caring and Inclusive Community

Goal: 1.4 Improve service to unhoused and precariously housed.

Executive Summary:

In response to Health Canada's 2024 Call for Proposals under the Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF), Housing & Social Services staff submitted a proposal requesting funding to support the response to the temporary closure of the Integrated Care Hub/Consumption Treatment Services over the fall of 2024. This response was needed to ensure continued and enhanced provision of ongoing critical supports to assist displaced unsheltered individuals. The initial proposal was not approved due to high demand. Recently, Health Canada confirmed additional funding availability and invited the City to update its proposal to reflect current community needs.

The City has submitted an updated proposal and has been awarded \$710,621 in ETF funding to implement rapid response initiatives that improve services for vulnerable community members, some of which may be experiencing addiction challenges. Approved activities include street outreach services and the purchase of two vans (one accessible) to support street outreach activities and the provision of winter response materials and essential supplies. These initiatives align with ETF objectives by reducing barriers to care and supporting vulnerable individuals in connecting to health and wellbeing services. Staff and service provider partners believe these initiatives will provide critical support to vulnerable individuals during the winter months and enhance the City's local winter response plan.

December 16, 2025

Page 2 of 6

This funding leverages existing municipal investment in the program activities and offsets the need for further municipal contributions. No additional municipal funding is required, and the initiatives are consistent with the City's 10-Year Municipal Housing and Homelessness Plan and Strategic Priorities. This report is provided to inform Council and the community of this local funding contribution and the activities that will be supported.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

December 16, 2025

Page 3 of 6

Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Jennifer Campbell,
Commissioner, Community
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	p.p.
Jenna Morley, City Solicitor	Not required
Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services	Not required

December 16, 2025

Page 4 of 6

Options/Discussion:**Background**

In November 2024, the Housing & Social Services Department submitted a proposal under the Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF), administered through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). The proposal was in response to the temporary closure of the Integrated Care Hub/Consumption Treatment Services and the need to ensure continued and enhanced provision of ongoing critical supports to assist displaced unsheltered individuals. Although the City's initial application was not approved due to high demand during the 2024 Call for Proposals, Health Canada has since secured additional resources to address ongoing needs. The City's original proposal included a budget totalling approximately \$1,140,000 and focused on repositioning programming at the Integrated Care Hub and addressing issues related to the adjacent encampment, both of which were major issues at the time the application was developed. Staff have now submitted an updated proposal that includes initiatives that address current community challenges and that align with the intents of the original application. This continued alignment was a requirement of the funding. This proposal has been approved along with confirmed funding of approximately \$710,000.

Analysis

The updated proposal builds on the City's original 2024 application and reflects current challenges following the closure of the Integrated Care Hub and the displacement of unsheltered individuals across the City. While the core objectives remain the same, the revised plan focuses on practical measures to help people living with addiction and mental health challenges move into emergency shelters and, ultimately, access programming where they can begin recovery.

After discussions with Health Canada, the approved initiatives target outreach and engagement for individuals at risk of substance-related harm and improve access to recovery services and treatment. These include:

- Street outreach services providing health, mental health and harm reduction supports, wellness checks and essential supplies such as hygiene items, and cell phones for client communication and emergency medical contact. Funding also includes gift cards to support the purchase of winter clothing, food and basic needs from local retailers.
- Purchase of two street outreach vans (one accessible) to distribute materials and supplies, provide transportation and engage with vulnerable populations. The two vans will be owned and operated by Home Base Housing and support Street Outreach activities.

These initiatives align with ETF objectives by reducing barriers to care, enabling access to critical services and addressing urgent substance-use risks through evidence-based interventions. Activities that were proposed in the initial application and primarily related to housing stabilization, shelter operations or security were not eligible under ETF criteria, as the

December 16, 2025

Page 5 of 6

program is intended to provide short-term, rapid-response funding focused on substance use treatment and harm reduction.

The funding will be administered through a Contribution Agreement between the City and Health Canada, requiring all funds to be fully expended by March 31, 2026. Progress will be monitored through a midway update and a final evaluation report to ensure accountability for expenditures and outcomes. Staff and service provider partners believe these initiatives will provide critical support to vulnerable individuals during the winter months and enhance the City's local winter response plan.

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

The funded initiatives are designed to support vulnerable community members, including individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and mental health challenges, by improving access to health and wellbeing services. Activities such as expanded street outreach, mental health and harm reduction supports, and culturally appropriate engagement aim to reduce barriers and ensure equitable access to care.

Existing Policy/By-Law

The initiatives outlined in this report are consistent with the objectives of the City's 10-Year Municipal Housing and Homelessness Plan and align with the City's Strategic Priorities. These actions support improved access to health and wellbeing services for vulnerable populations and contribute to broader goals of community safety.

Notice Provisions

None

Financial Considerations

The funding requirements outlined in this report are fully covered by Health Canada through the Emergency Treatment Fund. The City has been awarded up to \$710,621, which will be used to implement the approved initiatives. No additional municipal funding is required for these activities.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Troy Beharry, Partnership & Grant Development Manager, Office of Strategy, Innovation & Partnership

Julie Lambert, Manager, Homelessness Services, Housing & Social Services

December 16, 2025

Page 6 of 6

Exhibits Attached:

None