



**City of Lloydminster
Request for Decision (RFD)**

Subject Matter: The Olive Tree Homebase Funding Request

Department: Community Development Services

Presented By: Patrick Lancaster

Council Meeting Date: November 6, 2023

Recommendation:

That Council table the Olive Tree funding request until the completion of the Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy.

Issue: The Olive Tree Community Centre Inc. (Olive Tree) has requested funding and support for the Homebase Program.

Background: At the October 23, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, the Olive Tree presented to Council their proposal for the Homebase program. Homebase is a Housing First approach to addressing homelessness. Housing First is based on the principle of facilitating the process of moving individuals who are unhoused into housing and providing them with wraparound supports so that they can maintain this housing.

The Olive Tree has requested Outreach Worker Wages of \$60,000 annually for three (3) years. This position would provide case management to unhoused individuals, help them to acquire housing, and connect them with community supports and crisis intervention to ensure they are able to maintain housing. See Appendix "A" for a detailed description.

In 2022, the City of Lloydminster conducted a Social Needs Assessment. It was used to develop a Social Policy Framework which identified Housing and Homelessness as one of eight community priorities. The Social Policy Framework recommended conducting a housing needs assessment and building a comprehensive strategy which would include the development of coordinated intake and housing first models. Council adopted the Social Policy Framework December 5, 2022.

The City of Lloydminster is currently working on a Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy as directed by Council through the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan: 3.4.3 To allow all people in Lloydminster to live safely and recreate well. This project is expected to be completed Q1 of 2024.

While the Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy is not yet complete, several stakeholder engagement sessions have taken place with non-profits, realtors, persons with lived experience, and businesses. Housing First has consistently come up in community conversations as a viable approach in Lloydminster. However, as the project is not complete there is a risk that the program may not be in alignment with the final goals and recommendations of the strategy.

Housing First programs are in alignment with Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy and is part of an Outcome Based Approach. It has been adopted by several cities

across Alberta and Saskatchewan. The completion of a Housing Strategy and the deployment of Housing First program would strengthen requests for Provincial and Federal funding.

The Olive Tree submitted a funding application to the Community Services Advisory Committee for FCSS. This request was declined as it did not meet the requirements of the grant, however, the Committee did recognize the value of the program. The Olive Tree has received funding through FCSS for community outreach for the past eight years and has maintained compliance in its reporting.

By providing this funding to the Olive Tree, the City can help the program get established while maintaining accountability and cooperation through reporting requirements.

Options:

1. That Council table the Olive Tree funding request until the completion of the Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy.
2. That Council does not approve tabling the Olive Tree funding request.
3. That Council request further information and that the item be brought forward to a future Regular Council Meeting for decision.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This item is in alignment with the following strategic area: Providing a Safe Community. By supporting individuals to transition from homelessness to being housed they can experience safety. Reducing the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community should have a positive impact on safety in our community.

Legal Review: N/A

Governance Implications: N/A

Budget/Financial Implications: It would be significantly more costly for the Municipality to deliver this service directly. If approved, funds would need to be allocated in the 2024 Budget.

Environmental Implications: N/A

**Appendix "A"
Description of Homebase Outreach Worker Activities**

Assessment: Conducting assessments to determine the needs and vulnerabilities of individuals or families facing housing instability or homelessness. This may involve interviews and gathering information about their living situations, financial circumstances, and social support networks.

Housing Counseling: Providing guidance and counseling on housing options, including affordable housing, rental assistance programs, and temporary shelters. They help clients apply for housing subsidies and navigate the rental market.

Case Management: Developing individualized case plans for clients and helping them set and achieve housing stability goals. This involves connecting clients with services such as job training, mental health support, substance abuse treatment, or childcare assistance.

Referrals: Connecting clients to community resources and support services, including healthcare, food assistance, legal aid, and educational programs.

Advocacy: Advocating on behalf of clients to access housing resources and resolve housing-related issues. This may involve working with landlords, housing authorities, and government agencies.

Crisis Intervention: Providing immediate assistance to individuals and families facing eviction or homelessness crises.

Outreach: Identifying and engaging with individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the community. This can involve street outreach, visiting shelters, and collaborating with other organizations to locate and assist those in need.

Documentation and Reporting: Keeping detailed records of client interactions, progress, and outcomes.

Education and Prevention: Educating clients about their rights and responsibilities as tenants, as well as strategies for preventing homelessness in the future.

Community Engagement: Building relationships with community partners, local organizations, and government agencies to coordinate services and resources for clients.



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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	The Olive Tree Homebase Program Request.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 30, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracy Simpson

Doug Rodwell

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