

budget - budget input session

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The Sudbury Coalition Against Poverty (S-CAP) requests that the City of Sudbury increase the budget of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) to the extent that CHPI can resume funding families and individuals at the same rate that the Community Start Up and Maintenance Program (CSUMB) used to, particularly with regards to restoring full funding to the exceptional circumstances clause.

In December 2012, the City of Greater Sudbury Council passed a motion requesting that the Ontario Provincial Government maintain the the 2012 level of funding for homelessness programs and benefits and that this be reflected in the new CHPI funding allocation. Sudbury city staff pointed out that Sudbury was scheduled to receive \$1.3 million less for homelessness prevention in 2013 than they had in previous years. The province did not fulfill this request but gave instead a one time grant of \$42 million dollars divided between the provinces municipalities to assist in the transition year.

Louisa Vale informed S-CAP in January that the process for applying, and the amounts given out to individuals and families, under CHPI would remain the same as under the CSUMB. In May we were informed that the amounts for exceptional circumstances would be drastically reduced with only \$200 for individuals (down from \$799) and \$300 for families (down from \$1500). We sought out council's support then in raising the amounts but before the motion could be voted upon the city staff have temporarily raised the amounts, pending a review. We ask that this be made permanent and that appropriate funds be made available for this purpose.

We are requesting that the city allocate municipal resources to make up the missing \$1.3 million so as to be able to continue offering Sudbury's poorest residents the same assistance that they have in the past. This would mean funding available to assist in paying moving costs, replace essential furniture,

pay rent or hydro arrears and pay last months rent. For too many people it would mean the difference between homelessness with all the related personal and societal costs associated with that and maintaining a home. Provincial and municipal budgets must not be balanced on the backs of the poor.