

To: Corporate and Finance Services Committee

From: Stephanie Sinnott, Commissioner,  
Corporate and Finance Services Department

Report Number: CF-23-32

Date of Report: April 12, 2023

Date of Meeting: April 17, 2023

Subject: Information Report on 2022 Actions Taken to Address Poverty

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

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## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to respond to the following direction of the City Council through report CS-20-24 from its meeting of April 27, 2020:

“That staff report to City Council, through the Chief Administrative Officer, annually on actions and investments planned to be taken and that have been undertaken to address poverty in our community.”

Attachment 1 is the full list of City actions taken to address poverty in 2022.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

That the Corporate and Finance Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report CF-23-32, “Information Report on 2022 Actions Taken to Address Poverty”, dated April 12, 2023 be received for information.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

Not applicable.

## **4.0 Input From Other Sources**

The following have provided input to this report:

- Chief Administrative Officer
- Commissioner, Economic and Development Services
- Commissioner, Community and Operations Services
- Oshawa Seniors Community Centres 55+

## **5.0 Analysis**

### **5.1 Actions Undertaken to Address Poverty by the City of Oshawa in 2022**

During 2022, both City Council and city staff across all departments across the organization took several actions related to addressing poverty in the community. These specific actions are outlined in Attachment 1.

### **5.2 Actions Undertaken to Address Poverty by the Oshawa Seniors Community Centres 55+ in 2022**

In addition to the actions outlined in Attachment 1, the following actions aimed at addressing poverty in the Oshawa community were taken by the Oshawa Seniors Community Centres 55+ in 2022:

- Participated in the second annual food drive benefitting Simcoe Hall Settlement House;
- Continued to provide free online activities such as meditation, yoga, music entertainment and seminars to address seniors' issues, as well as providing online programs for a fee;
- Continue to provide tablets to older adults free of charge and staff/volunteers provided free tutoring on the use of technology;
- Provided assistance to older adults in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations, including hosting two COVID-19 vaccination clinics and providing free transportation to vaccine appointments; and
- OSCC55+ is a registered organization to provide free income tax clinics.

## 6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications with the recommendations in this report.

## 7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report addresses the Oshawa Strategic by responding to the specific action within the goal of “Social Equity” and theme of “An Active, Healthy and Safe Community”, which states “continue to help address economic disparity and poverty in our community and measure our actions, investments and report annually, at a minimum, to Council.”



Julie Maclsaac, Director,  
Innovation & Transformation



Stephanie Sinnott, Commissioner,  
Corporate and Finance Services Department

**Inventory of City of Oshawa Actions and Investments to Address Poverty in 2022**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost or Investment</b>
1. Inclusion of information on City website and social media to support Oshawa's unsheltered community	This information includes information on emergency shelters, food banks, community resources, programs and a Support Calendar.  <a href="https://www.oshawa.ca/en/fire-services-community-support/unsheltered-or-homelessness.aspx">https://www.oshawa.ca/en/fire-services-community-support/unsheltered-or-homelessness.aspx</a>	Staff time; no additional cost
2. Participation in Senior Leadership meetings with the Region of Durham regarding Downtown Oshawa	Regular meetings held between Senior Leadership in Oshawa and Durham Region.	Staff time; no additional cost.
3. Provision of safe needle disposal units	The City in collaboration with John Howard Society of Durham Region, provides and installs safe needle disposal units in priority City parks and greenspaces. There are currently 14 needle units in place.	\$2,000 for the replacement of unit liners.
4. Adopt-a-Garden Program	For a third year in a row the City's Adopt-a-Giving Garden program transformed annual garden beds on the north side of City Hall to vegetable gardens. The gardens were adopted by volunteers and members of the Oshawa Garden Club who planted, maintained and harvested approximately 185 lbs. of food which was donated to Feed the Need.	Staff time; no additional cost
5. Support for community gardens	Through the City's Community Garden Program the City provides in-kind support to Harmony Community Garden at Delpark Homes Centre, the Field Community Garden at Airport South Field, the Pepper Patch Garden on the corner of Albert and John and Mary Street Community Garden at North Oshawa Park.	Staff time; no additional cost.

Action	Description	Cost or Investment
6. Proclamations – September 2021: Hunger Action Month	<p>The proclamations in 2022 that related to residents living in poverty included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunger Action Month – September 2022</li> </ul>	Staff time; No additional cost.
7. Participation in Feed the Need Durham’s Push for Hunger event	Members of City Council and City staff participated in this event raising awareness & funds for Feed the Need Durham.	Staff time; no additional cost.
8. Expansion of Active Transportation network	<p>Specific expansion projects in 2022 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of 14.1 km of on-road bike facilities (either signed or painted lines)</li> </ul>	Investment included as part of multi-year Capital Budgets.
9. Parks Development in Priority Neighbourhoods	<p>Construction was completed in 2022 on the following parks in priority neighbourhoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingside Park – in the Central Park neighborhood</li> <li>• Dr. Blake Parkette – in the Downtown Oshawa neighbourhood</li> </ul> <p>Construction began in 2022 on the following parks in priority neighbourhoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Point Wildlife Reserve – in the Lakeview neighbourhood</li> <li>• Cordova Park – in the Lakeview neighbourhood</li> </ul> <p>Design started on the following parks in priority neighbourhoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotary Park – in Downtown Oshawa neighbourhood</li> <li>• Sunnyside Park – in Downtown Oshawa neighbourhood</li> <li>• Conant Park – in Lakeview neighbourhood</li> </ul>	Investment included as part of multi-year Capital Budgets or separate reports.

Action	• Description	Cost or Investment
10. Provision of Grant Funding to organizations serving vulnerable populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City provided \$25,000 in funding to St. Vincent's Kitchen (Durham Outlook for the Needy), as the final year of a 4-year commitment of \$200,000.</li> <li>• The City provided \$5,000 in funding to Catholic Family Services, as the final year of a 5-year commitment of \$25,000.</li> <li>• The City provided Partnership Grant funding of \$5,000 to Durham Alliance Outreach</li> </ul>	\$35,000 in 2022.
11. Programs under the Property Tax Rebates, Reductions and Refunds Policy	<p>Property Tax Rebates and Reductions including the following are aimed at low-income residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax Relief for Low Income Seniors</li> <li>• Tax Relief for Low Income Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• Property Tax Deferral for Low Income Seniors/Low Income Persons with Disabilities</li> </ul>	A total of 329 tax rebates were issued in 2021, representing a total value of \$176,015
12. Property Tax Relief Program	Tax Relief Program, approved in 2020 was implemented in 2021. This program is aimed at those living in poverty as well as procedures and eligibility criteria.	This program was not accessed in 2022.
13. Participation in the Region of Durham's Funders Table	The City of Oshawa has city staff representation on this table, led by the Region of Durham. The purpose of this table is for municipalities, the United Way Durham Region and the Durham Community Foundations to share information, data and funding allocations in an effort to ensure the funds made available to the community reach as many as possible.	Staff time; no additional cost.

Action	Description	Cost or Investment
14. Provision of subsidy programs for Recreation & Culture Programs specifically designed for those living with low income or poverty	In 2022, Recreation & Culture issued a total of 743 individual subsidies through the Recreation Fee Assistance Program (100% City funded), Recreation Program Cards (shared funding between Region of Durham and City of Oshawa) and JumpStart (third party funded).	In 2022, the value of City funding was \$39,161.25, with an additional \$22,373.52 in external funding.
15. The Special Events team encouraged participants to donate food toward Feed the Need Durham	The Bright and Merry Market encourage event goes to bring a non-perishable food item or make a monetary donation at the event. All food and monetary donations were collected by Feed the Need Durham.	Staff time; no additional cost.
16. Support for Habitat for Humanity	Economic and Development Services staff have continued to work with and assist Habitat for Humanity to advance in a timely fashion the proposed development of the former City-owned lands located at 485 and 501 Normandy Street for the development for 50 stacked townhouse units. Habitat for Humanity is exempt from Development Charges and Parkland Dedication charges as a non-profit organization. Fall building permits have been issued for all four buildings (50 residential units combined) and all four buildings are currently under construction.	The value of the DC exemption is approximately \$633,232. The value of the exemption from Parkland Dedication charges is approximately \$58,900.
17. Support for Regional micro-home pilot project	Development Services staff have worked with the Region of Durham to advance a micro-home pilot project in Oshawa on lands owned by the Region of Durham, providing an alternative form of affordable housing. The Region is exempt from Development Charges and Parkland Dedication charges as a public authority.	The value of the DC exemption is approximately \$213,350. The value of the exemption from Parkland Dedication charges is approximately \$40,300.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost or Investment</b>
18. Support for The Refuge Youth Outreach Centre	City Council approved a zoning by-law amendment to permit the conversion of the former Holy Cross Elementary School to a residential mixed-use building containing 27 apartment units and a youth outreach centre. Subsequent to the rezoning, an application for Site Plan Approval was submitted by the applicant and staff continue to work toward the execution of an appropriate site plan agreement.	Staff time; no additional cost.
19. Support for Affordable Housing	Planning Services continue to advance site plan approval for a ten unit apartment building at 750 King St E. The owner will be providing two barrier free, one bedroom units at an affordable rent rate supported by the Region. Four of the remaining 8 units will also be affordable.	Staff time; no additional cost.
20. Support for Sedna Women's Shelter and Support Services Inc.	Planning Services have worked with the applicant to advance an application for site plan approval at 1356 Simcoe Street South to construct a women's shelter/ personal support building with offices. The operator will be providing 1 barrier-free one bed unit, 3 one bed units, 8 two bed units, 3 three bed units and 1 four bed unit.	Staff time; no additional cost.



Action	Description	Cost or Investment
<p>21. Support for Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corp</p>	<p>Planning Services have worked with the applicant to advance an application for site plan approval at 1050 Simcoe Street South. The purpose of the application is for an intensification of the number of affordable rental units on the existing property, with the intention of providing necessary housing for seniors and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The following is a summary of the proposed development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The demolition of four (4) Townhouse Blocks consisting of twenty (20) units, in order to allow for the new construction;</li> <li>2.The retention of five (5) Townhouse Blocks consisting of twenty-three (23) units; and,</li> <li>3.The construction of a new three-storey Apartment Building with fifty-three (53) rental suites plus one (1) superintendent unit, for a total of fifty-four (54) units.</li> </ol> <p>Based on the above, the overall the number of affordable rental suites will increase from forty-three (43) units to seventy-six (76) units with a mix of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and family housing.</p>	<p>Staff time; no additional cost.</p>
<p>22. Incentives to Advance Affordable Housing</p>	<p>The City is a participant in the Investment in Affordable Housing (I.A.H.) Program.</p>	<p>Seven properties have received a reduced tax rate under the I.A.H. Program, for a total of 167 units. The total value of City levies saved in 2022 under the I.A.H. Program is approximately \$106,000.</p>