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# PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING: SENIORS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INITIATIVE

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## Overview

Across our communities, a growing number of low-income seniors are struggling to maintain safe, healthy, and dignified lives as they age. Many live on fixed incomes that do not keep pace with rising housing and service costs. They are increasingly facing challenges related to mobility, dementia, diabetes, and other age-related health conditions – yet they cannot afford the supportive services required. Long-term care waitlists continue to grow, leaving many seniors without viable options for appropriate care or accommodation.

## Current Challenges

Within our Community Housing portfolio, we are witnessing more seniors “aging in place.” Requests for accessibility-related modifications such as grab bars, ramps, or bathroom conversions have increased substantially. However, aging building infrastructure and limited budgets restrict our ability to meet these needs. At the same time, our Homelessness By-Name List shows a troubling rise in the number of seniors experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Without intervention, these trends will continue to place strain on healthcare, emergency, and housing systems.

## Proposed Initiative

To address these urgent needs, we are proposing the **Seniors Supportive Housing Initiative**, a program designed to help low-income seniors age with dignity, stability, and appropriate supports in their own communities.

We have secured a **long-term lease with Carefor Health & Community Services Renfrew County** for a dedicated block of rooms within the facility to serve as the foundation of this initiative. Carefor’s mandate – to provide home-centred, community-based, fiscally responsible nursing and health care services – aligns perfectly with our vision to promote the health and wellness of seniors in our region. This partnership will allow us to deliver wrap-around housing and health supports in a safe, supportive, and accessible environment.

Through this initiative, we will:

- **Expand our Rent Supplement Program** to increase access to affordable rental units for low- and fixed-income seniors.
- **Leverage our successful Community Paramedicine (CP) Program** to provide on-site health and wellness supports to residents within the Carefor facility and other community-based housing settings.

- **Integrate comprehensive health supports** to address common conditions such as diabetes, dementia, cardiovascular disease, and mobility challenges.
- **Facilitate rapid access to medical care** through our CP infrastructure, including transport to hospital when required, triage to the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (VTAC) for physician access, and referrals to specialists or other health services as needed.
- **Leverage Carefor's existing supports and amenities**, including access to a cafeteria, opportunities for social connection, recreational programming, and community activities—helping reduce isolation and promote overall well-being among participating seniors.

## Funding Request

We are seeking financial support from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to launch and sustain this initiative. Funding will be directed toward rental supplements, accessibility modifications, CP staffing expansion, and coordination of health and housing supports. This investment will reduce pressure on long-term care and hospital systems, support reductions in chronic homelessness among seniors reflected on our By-Name List and improve the overall quality of life for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

## Conclusion

With your support, we can ensure that seniors in our communities are not left behind – empowering them to age safely, independently, and with dignity in the homes and communities they know. This initiative represents a cost-effective, compassionate, and sustainable solution to the growing challenges of senior housing and care.