



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.5.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: August 13, 2019		
Subject: Street Navigator Program		
Motion for Council to Consider: That Regional Council request a staff report on continuing the partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth and North End Business Improvement Districts for a street navigator program through multi-year funding in the amount of \$60,000 per year during the 2019-2022 period. Report to return to Council prior to the program running out of funding on November 1.		
Reason: In July 2018, HRM entered into a partnership with the Downtown Dartmouth and North End Business Improvement Districts to expand the street navigator program into the two business districts. The street navigator program expansion was made possible thanks to a provincial grant of \$50,000 and \$25,000 from HRM. Funding, however, was only for one year and is due to run out on November 1. The BIDS are seeking continued provincial support, but that may or may not be possible. Should Provincial funding not be forthcoming, the BIDS have requested that HRM provide a grant of \$60,000 to ensure the continuation and continuity of the program. Such a grant would be similar to the \$45,000 provided to the Downtown Halifax and Spring Garden Road BIDs for a Navigator, and the \$100,000 set aside in the 2019 budget for expanding street outreach into suburban and rural HRM.		
Outcome Sought: Staff recommendation report		
<i>Councillor</i> Sam Austin	<i>District</i> 05	

July 8, 2019

Mayor Michael Savage
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS
B3J 3A5

Dear Mayor Savage and Halifax Regional Municipality Councillors,

The Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission (DDBC) and the North End Business Association (NEBA) are requesting that the Halifax Regional Municipality support a shared Dartmouth/ North End Navigator Street Outreach Program (NSOP) for \$60,000 per year for each of the next three years 2019-2022. This funding would be pooled with funding from the business community.

Our districts have significant populations of street involved, homeless or precariously housed individuals that sometimes have difficulties accessing necessary services.

The attached report outlines the successes of the program over the past year. The DDBC/NEBA Navigator Street Outreach Program does not duplicate existing services offered by a variety of public agencies and not for profit organizations, but connects them in a real way with people on the street in our districts. The outreach program has also facilitated training and education for the business community to assist in resolving potential issues in a positive manner with street involved individuals.

The Navigator program has demonstrated results in North End Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth mirroring the success in Downtown Halifax and on Spring Garden Road and similar programs that exist in cities across North America. We feel that this proposal will address a need in our communities and assist in advancing Halifax's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Halifax Regional Municipality's financial support for the proposal will make it sustainable.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Cuttell Busby, BA, MURP, Executive Director
North End Business Association
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Tim Rissesco, Executive Director
Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission



The North End / Downtown Dartmouth Navigator Street Outreach Program

Mid Term Report

December 2018 - June 2019

OVERVIEW:

The North End/Downtown Dartmouth Navigator Street Outreach Program (NSOP) was founded on a belief that individuals who are facing challenges should have equal access to community services. By engaging with individuals who are homeless or street-involved, the NSOP looks to provide support through this challenging time in their life.

A significant role of the NSOP is to be an advocate for these individuals and meet them where they are at in the moment. NSOP seeks to encourage and support individuals and to cultivate their true potential as engaged and healthy members of the community.

NSOP offers support to secure employment, find sustainable housing solutions, prevent eviction, purchase medication, obtain addictions and/or mental health services, provide financial assistance with utility arrears, address food security, acquire essential/adequate clothing, provide transportation, connect with education institutions, obtain valid/mandatory identification, assist with relocation. Referrals are also made to the appropriate community services department.

PARTNERSHIPS:

NSOP and initiative of the North End Business Association and Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission. It works in collaboration with the greater Halifax community of agencies and organizations with the aim of creating long-term solutions to the challenges faced by those NSOP serves. Organizations which NSOP has worked with include:

Alderney Public Library

Adsum House

Canadian Mental Health Assoc

Community YMCA

Coordinated Access Housing

Dalhousie Legal Aid

Dartmouth Housing Helps

Dartmouth Non-Profit Housing

Mainline

Margaret's House

Metro Regional Housing Authority

Metro Turning Points

Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

North End Community Health Center

SERVICES PROVIDED:

From December 2018 to June 2019 the NSOP has connected with 275 individuals in North End Halifax and Downtown Dartmouth. Whether it was engaging folks in a conversation, guiding them in a direction that could best serve their needs, or following up to ensure a successful connection was made, below is a summary of the people connected with and the supports provided.

A) People Reached

Category	Clients(interactions)
Male	145
Female	53
Senior's	31
Youth (16-24)	46

B) Client Services Provided

NSOP has played a significant role in helping individuals obtain housing, eviction prevention, paying damage deposits, paying for medication, assist with residential moves, helped with obtaining employment, provided transportation fare, paid utility arrears and community services.

Housing	7
Employment	14
Eviction Prevention	14
Damage Deposit	7
Apartment set up	4
Relocation	7
ID's	8
Food	21
Transportation(Bus)	180
Medication Support	4
Clothing	12
Addictions	7
Mental Health	5

C) 7 Month NSOP Expenditure Tracking

	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019	Apr 2019	May 2019	Jun 2019	End of June
SERVICE								
Transportation (Bus)	\$14.45	\$100.00	\$40.00	\$98.00	\$78.00	\$158.00	\$180.00	\$668.45
Coffee Vouchers		79.00	69.75	44.00	20.00	40.00	218.80	471.55
Clothing/boots		103.47					248.50	351.97
Phone/Bill			149.00			176.60	388.00	713.60
Identification				33.00	37.00			70.00
Food/ Vouchers	30.28	67.54	25.00	165.00	215.00	317.54	218.00	1,038.36
SUBTOTAL	\$44.73	\$350.01	\$283.75	\$340.00	\$350.00	\$692.14	\$1,253	\$3,313.93
HOUSING								
Expenditures								
Aparment Set up				91.99				91.99
Damage Deposit		125.00	100.00			200.00		425.00
Eviction Prevention		125.00	120.00	100.00	650.00	370.00	650.00	2,015.00
Power Arrears				100.00	225.00		328.50	653.50
Relocation/Movers		28.81	100.00	49.32	100.00	180.00	335.00	793.13
Mental Health								0.00
Medication Support		100.00		26.00	112.42		63.00	301.42
Addiction Support								0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$0.00	\$378.81	\$320.00	\$367.31	\$1,087.42	\$750.00	\$1,376.50	\$4,280.04
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT								
Heallthy Bags							2,536.65	2,536.65
Training Naloxone X 2							536.47	536.47
North End Is Llstening					389.00			389.00
Dartmouth Is Listening				874.25				874.25
SUBTOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$874.25	\$389.00	\$0.00	\$3,073.12	\$4,336.37
TOTAL								\$11,930.34
*expense tracking includes HST. Only 50% HST posted to NEBA journal entries where applicable.								

D) Community Engagement:

NSOP conducted 2 community workshops, North End is Listening and Downtown Dartmouth Is Listening. Both events were well attended (30+ participants). The topic of discussion was Mental Health, Addictions and Housing. Bringing the businesses and service providers together for this dialogue on these challenging issues facing North End and Downtown Dartmouth was very much appreciated and welcomed by those in attendance. The feedback NSOP received from these sessions.

- Need specific mental health & addiction training for employment service providers to better understanding and ability to help members with these barriers
- More access to mental health & addictions services needed
- Transition programming needs to be provided to people that are being released from prison
- Sharps containers in public and business washrooms
- Less barriers for youth needing to obtain mental health services
- Sensitivity training for business owners and staff to have better understanding of mental health and addictions
- Cultural sensitivity training for business owners to have more awareness of the African Nova Scotian Community
- Covered bus shelters
- Creative ways to effectively deal with panhandlers

WORK PLAN (NEXT 6 MONTHS)

Work will continue to enhance the relationships made with the business, agencies, organizations and the members within the community that need and can benefit from the service of the North End / Downtown Dartmouth NSOP. Specific deliverables over the next 6 months include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| ● Naloxone Training - North End Halifax & Dartmouth | June |
| ● Distribute "Healthy Bags" Resource Packages | July-Aug |
| ● Northend Is Listening II | Sept |
| ● Downtown Dartmouth Is Listening II | Sept |
| ● Final Report | Oct |
| ● End Contract | Nov |

SUCCESS STORY

Success would typically be measured by the support the NSOP provides to people whether it's housing, preventing eviction, keeping their electricity on during the winter months, obtaining ID's, paying for medication, bill payment, food and transportation. But I truly feel it's more about the relationships that are cultivated and having people know that there is someone who will advocate on their behalf and help to eliminate some of the barriers that they face.

During one of my regular stops at the Salvation Army, I met an individual standing outside. We had a conversation which lead me to ask him to go for a coffee. Once we sat down he started to tell me his story. He was just released from the Burnside Correctional facility and he wanted to get back on 'his feet'. Through the conversation I found out that he had no ID and he wanted to get his own place to live. Our first mission was to obtain ID which we did. We then moved on to our next goal, a place to live. With some hard work, this individual secured housing with financial help from NSOP (the damage deposit).

The program also helped him find a job. He calls me on a regular basis to let me know how he's doing and how thankful he is of the support from the NSOP.

This is one of many examples of how the NSOP has assisted in helping individuals navigate through these barriers.