

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

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MEMORANDUM TO: Ontario Fire Chiefs

FROM: Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities Program

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I am writing to advise you of additional provincial COVID-19 relief funding for municipalities to ensure the delivery of critical services and enable capital projects to stay on track.

On March 4, 2021, the Ontario government announced that it is providing an additional \$500 million through the [2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities](#) program. The program is intended to help municipalities respond to ongoing and unprecedented 2021 COVID-19 operating pressures.

All 444 municipalities in Ontario are eligible for this program. The level of funding is based on a combination of a base amount using Municipal Property Assessment Corporation household data and an amount based on the proportion of provincial COVID-19 cases (from January 1, 2021 to February 18, 2021) in the municipality's respective Public Health Unit.

Municipalities have the flexibility to use this funding to address the specific priorities of their communities based on their unique COVID-19 related operating pressures. Examples may include, but are not limited to, personal protective equipment purchases, overtime incurred due to providing emergency response and frontline services as a result of the pandemic, and purchases required to do remote work.

The ministry encourages fire services to consult with its municipality to identify critical COVID-19 related operating pressures for fire services that can be addressed through this funding initiative.

Once again, thank you for your continued efforts to help keep our communities safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Jon Pegg  
Ontario Fire Marshal