

Expansion of the Children In Need Of Treatment Dental Program

Date:	January 14, 2009
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer Of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

On December 18, 2008, the Minister of Health Promotion announced that effective January 1, 2009, the provincial Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) dental program is expanded to include children up to their 18th birthday. This expansion was announced as part of the provincial poverty reduction strategy.

To implement the expansion of the CINOT dental program, Toronto Public Health will be receiving funds totalling \$5,253,442 to cover 100% of treatment costs in 2009. However, beginning in 2010, the expansion will be cost shared 75:25 percent between the Province and the City, respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Toronto Public Health 2009 Operating Budget be increased by \$5,253.4 thousand gross and \$0.0 net, to reflect confirmed funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion for the expansion of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) dental program to children aged 14 to 17.
2. this report be forwarded to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 operating budget process.

Financial Impact

The table below summarizes the budget adjustment required to Toronto Public Health's 2009 Operating Budget resulting from the confirmation of base funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion. For 2009 the program will be funded at 100 percent by the Province. In 2010, the Provincial cost sharing formula will be reduced to 75 percent.

Toronto Public Health - Confirmed Funding for 2009 (\$000)						
	2009 Financial Impact Incr. / (Decr.)			2010 Financial Impact Incr. / (Decr.)		
Program	Gross	Revenue	Net	Gross	Revenue	Net
CINOT	5,253.4	5,253.4	0.0	0.0	(1,313.4)	1,313.4

The Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

For many years the Toronto Board of Health, the Toronto Oral Health Coalition and other stakeholders and agencies have advocated to the provincial government to improve access to dental care for low income Ontarians.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Access to dental care is a benefit of employment and wealth and consequently people living in poverty have no or very limited access to necessary dental care. This has a detrimental effect on general health and wellbeing and may limit employment opportunities.

In the 2008 budget the provincial government committed to spending \$135 million over three years to provide access to dental care for low income working families as part of the provincial poverty reduction strategy. The expansion of the CINOT dental program to include children up to their 18th birthday is the first phase in implementing this provincial commitment.

COMMENTS

The CINOT program expansion is designed to assist in ensuring that no child goes without emergency dental care as a result of an inability to pay for dental services.

The expansion includes the following changes:

- An increase in coverage from the current maximum eligibility age of 13, or the last day of the Grade 8 school year (whichever is later) to a child's 18th birthday;
- General anaesthetic coverage for children four years old and under is increased to children up to their 18th birthday; and
- An addition to services provided through the program of the new speciality of Dental Anaesthetists.

Funding allocations for public health units were based on the number of children (0-17 years) living in low income households, as defined by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cutoff, in the health unit jurisdiction. The 2009 funding allocation for Toronto Public Health is \$5,253,442. This funding is to cover 100 percent of treatment costs. Provincial funding will be reduced to 75% of treatment costs beginning 2010. There are no funds allocated for administrative costs i.e. processing and payment of claims to dental practitioners.

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SIGNATURE

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