



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Built Environment and Health Project Funding

Date:	November 3, 2009
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of Health about Toronto Public Health's (TPH) participation in a partnership with a pan-Canadian group of agencies in the Built Environment and Health initiative. The initiative is funded through Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention (CLASP), overseen by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC). There is growing evidence that many features of the built environment affect the health of the public and have generated health inequalities within urban populations. The Built Environment and Health project will make health-based decision support tools available to policy makers and land use planners, improving understanding of the relationship between the built environment and health, and fostering collaboration among non-governmental organizations, the public health community and planning professionals in promoting urban sustainability and good health.

CLASP, through the lead agency, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, will provide TPH with total funding of \$199.9 thousand, covering the period October 2009 to March 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council approve an increase of \$25.4 thousand gross and \$0.0 net budget to Toronto Public Health's 2009 Operating Budget and the addition of one temporary position to reflect confirmed 2009 funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, the lead agency for Coalition Linking Action and Science Prevention (CLASP) funding.

Financial Impact

Funding for the CLASP project will be administered through the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. TPH's total share for the period October 2009 to March 2012 will be \$199,932.

The table below summarizes the annual cash flow for the duration of the project. For 2009, a budget adjustment of \$25.4 thousand gross and \$0.0 net is required to Toronto Public Health's 2009 Operating Budget. In 2010 an additional \$41.6 thousand gross and \$0.0 net will be added.

CLASP FUNDING 2009 – 2012			
Year	Gross \$	Revenue \$	Net \$
2009	25,404	25,404	0.0
2010	66,985	66,985	0.0
2011	84,039	84,039	0.0
2012	23,504	23,504	0.0
Total	199,932	199,932	0.0

The project will require the addition of one temporary position that will be funded 100 percent from the CLASP project.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is an active member of the Urban Public Health Network, which is comprised of health units associated with large urban centres across Canada. Through this network, TPH has partnered with other major health and planning organizations to develop a research and policy implementation initiative focused on the built environment and health. Other partners involved in this initiative include the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, the Canadian Institute of Planners, Smart Growth BC and the National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.

There is growing evidence that the built environment can have profound effects on population health and contribute to health disparities among urban populations. More needs to be done before health impacts can be routinely considered in land use planning processes. To address this need, TPH participated in the creation of a major grant proposal aimed at enhancing, field-testing and disseminating health-based decision support tools for use in the land use planning process. Another objective of the proposal

is to improve understanding of the relationship between the built environment and health, including how policy, programs and public engagement can be used to develop healthier environments that will, ultimately, prevent cancers and other chronic diseases. Lastly, the proposal seeks to foster collaboration among nongovernmental organizations, the public health community and planning professionals in order to translate evidence linking the built environment and health into useable and practical tools.

The Built Environment and Health grant proposal was developed in response to a CLASP (Coalitions Linking Action and Science for Prevention) Request for Proposals issued in June 1, 2009 by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada is the lead agency recipient.

COMMENTS

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Corporation has awarded the Built Environment and Health Initiative approximately two million dollars over 2.5 years. TPH will receive a total of \$199,932 through the lead partner Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, for its contributions to the project, as noted in Appendix 1. TPH will participate in the development of a residential preferences survey regarding transportation options, refinement and pilot testing of a decision-support software tool, development of a framework for health background studies applicable to development decisions, and knowledge translation activities in collaboration with the partnership.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. David McKeown
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Funding Confirmation Letter from Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada