



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Toronto Public Health 2010 Operating Budget Adjustment for Youth Engagement

Date:	July 27, 2010
To:	Board of Health and Budget Committee
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a one-time budget increase of \$289,973.00 gross and \$0.00 net, and an increase of two temporary positions in the Toronto Public Health (TPH) staff complement, fully funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion for the Smoke-free Ontario Youth Engagement Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council increase the TPH 2010 Operating Budget by \$289,973 gross and \$0.0 net, and two temporary positions, to reflect confirmed one-time funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion for the Smoke-free Ontario Youth Engagement Strategy; and
2. the report be forwarded to the Executive Committee meeting of August 16, 2010.

Financial Impact

The Ministry of Health Promotion will provide 100 percent funding of \$289,973.00 to TPH to coordinate and carry out community based activities using a youth engagement approach to reduce tobacco use and other related risk factors. The table below summarizes the requested one-time budget increase of \$289,973.00 gross and \$0.00 net to TPH’s 2010 Approved Operating Budget.

For the three components of the Smoke Free Ontario Program: Tobacco Control Area Network; Youth Action Alliance and Tobacco Control Coordination, the one time additional funding of \$289,973.00 is in addition to the base funding of \$786,450.00. The total approved provincial funding is \$1,076,423.00 for this program.

	Gross	Revenue	Net	Temporary Positions
Operating budget for Smoke Free Ontario Youth Engagement Strategy	\$298,973.00	\$289,973.00	\$0.00	2

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In 2005 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care introduced 100 percent provincial funding to support tobacco control programs in public health units across the province. Existing tobacco inspection and enforcement activities which were previously cost shared became 100% provincially funded under the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy, administered by the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP). In addition, MHP established seven regional Tobacco Control Area Networks (TCANs), each led by a Coordinating Public Health Unit. These networks are 100% funded for tobacco control activities. TPH coordinates the Toronto Tobacco Control Area Network which is staffed by a TCAN Coordinator and Youth Development Specialist.

From 2005 to 2009 TPH had three Youth Action Alliances focusing on peer leadership called T-DOT (Tobacco Don't Own Toronto). However, in August 2009 MHP discontinued funding for Youth Action Alliances as well as a High School Grants program. This was a major setback to TPH's progress in tobacco control, youth engagement and leadership, civic engagement and community mobilization.

COMMENTS

In fall 2009, the MHP provided youth engagement transitional funding which allowed TPH to build on momentum started by the T-DOT Youth Action Alliances, and to further strengthen relationships with community organizations working with youth. TPH used the funds to establish a grants program to support community youth serving agencies to plan and deliver integrated, multi-risk factor health promotion initiatives. This approach encourages new partnerships and strengthens existing ones, resulting in improved access to priority health promotion programs and services. To date 24 youth groups have benefited from the TPH youth grants, enabling them to work at a local level on health promotion initiatives identified in their communities. Representatives from each organization supported by a youth grant are also part of

an Area Youth Coalition, coordinated by the Youth Development Specialist. The TPH youth grant program has been well-received by the Toronto community and the MHP.

TPH will use these new funds to hire two temporary positions to work with the Youth Development Specialist to establish a Regional Youth Engagement Coalition, support youth engagement in community-based health promotion activities and enhance relationships with community and youth serving agencies.

CONCLUSION

The Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy has now been expanded to enhance public health efforts in preventing youth from starting to smoke, helping smokers to quit and protecting people from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. The funds awarded will enhance TPH's comprehensive tobacco control and youth engagement work by expanding staffing resources and providing opportunities to work in partnership with community agencies to empower youth and to support at-risk groups to reduce tobacco use and other highly related risk factors.

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SIGNATURE

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