



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Service Canada Funding Renewal for the Youth
Employment Toronto (YET) Program**

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| Date: | April 1, 2010 |
| To: | Community Development and Recreation Committee |
| From: | Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration |
| Wards: | all |
| Reference Number: | |

SUMMARY

To seek authorization to renew an agreement with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) program for an amount of up to \$562,500 gross and \$148,500 net.

The YET program is an on-going cost shared program providing a city wide mobile employment assessment, referral and case management service to unemployed, out of school youth 16 to 29 years of age. The current contract with Service Canada for the YET program ends on June 30, 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to sign a renewal agreement with Service Canada for the YET program for up to \$562,500 gross and \$148,500 net, dependant on City and federal budget approval processes.

Financial Impact

The 2010/2011 renewal agreement with Service Canada for the YET program has a total value of up to \$562,500 gross and \$148,500 net for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

The City's share of \$148,500 net in 2010/2011 represents approximately a 6% increase over the 2009/2010 City contribution of \$140,285. This increase is primarily due to salary pressures and increased transportation costs for clients. This increase will be absorbed within the Community Resources Section budget, resulting in no net pressure on the 2010 operating budget.

The 2010 (July 1 – December 31) impact of \$281,250 gross and \$74,250 net is included in Social Development, Finance and Administration's 2010 Recommended Operating Budget. The 2011 (January 1 – June 30) impact of \$281,250 gross and \$74,250 net will be included in the 2011 operating budget submission for the Social Development Finance and Administration Division.

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

DECISION HISTORY

As a long-standing cost-shared program with the City of Toronto, City Council annually approves a renewal of funding with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto program. Most recently, at its meeting on February 23-26, 2009, City Council authorized the 2009 agreement renewal for the 2009-2010 contract period:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-18640.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Youth Employment Toronto program is an on-going program in its 27th year of operation and has a current contract that ends on June 30th, 2010. Authorization is required now to enter into an agreement for the YET program for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

COMMENTS

The purpose of the YET program is to provide a mobile employment assessment, referral and case management service to youth who face significant barriers to employment and have difficulty accessing services and resources in order to establish a vocational plan to attach themselves to the labour market or obtain further education, or skill development. This program employs six specialized workers who cover different geographic locations across the City and together are able to provide services to youth throughout the City of Toronto.

The YET workers actively reach out to youth in locations in the community such as hostels, housing complexes, youth drop-in centres, ethno-specific agencies etc. The program serves youth aged 16-29 who are out of school and unemployed, who have little or no work experience, and have a high school diploma or less. In this economy these youth face significant barriers to employment.

A variety of supports are provided to youth ranging from employment assessments, career planning and counselling as well as referrals to employment services, skill development and educational opportunities. Through case management, the staff take a holistic approach and assist youth in addressing other issues that may get in the way of their employability by linking them to resources such as housing, substance use treatment, legal advice etc.

The YET staff have been very effective at supporting youth and linking them to the resources they require to meet their vocational goals. During the last full contract period of January 2008 to March 31, 2009 (most recent full project report available), the Program targets were met and in some areas they were exceeded. During this period, 748 youth participated in YET case management support, exceeding the target of 669. In summary, 600 youth found employment, obtained training, or returned to school. The detailed outcomes of the 748 youth can be found below.

Youth Employment Toronto 2008/09

Results for the 748 Youth who Were Case Managed

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| 1. Youth who have entered education and training options | 164 (22%) |
| 2. Youth who participated in pre-employment preparation programs* | 148 (20%) |
| 3. Youth who found employment | 288 (38%) |
| Total Positive Outcomes of those youth who received case management support | 600 (80%) |

*these programs often include paid internships with employers

The program will provide case management services to 750 youth for the up coming contract period. Program staff will continue to take on the role of empowering youth by facilitating access to services, resources and programs that will support their aspirations. The many working partnerships in the community enhance the ability of YET staff to serve the youth they support.

City staff are finalizing negotiations with Service Canada for the 2010/11 YET contribution agreement and require Council authority to enter into a new agreement prior to the current contract end date of June 30, 2010. Salary and youth transportation costs associated with the YET program will increase in 2010, increasing both the City and Service Canada contributions to the program. The City increases will be absorbed within the Community Resources Section 2010 operating budget. The 2011 budget impact will be included in the 2011 operating budget submission for the Social Development Finance and Administration Division.

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SIGNATURE

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