

2010 Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program Allocation Recommendations

Date:	June 9, 2010
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report provides allocation recommendations for 2010 allocations the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program (SNOW) totalling \$391,380.00, and recommends that the program be administered as part of the Community Service Partnership program, starting with the 2011 funding year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council approve 2010 Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program allocation recommendations of \$358,325.00 to 12 organizations and an amount of \$33,055.00 for subsidy and transition issues, as described in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report;
2. Council delegate authority to the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to redirect a portion of the 2010 Snow Shovelling budget of \$33,055.00 set aside for transition issues, to a suitable community organization to expand snow shovelling coverage in underserved areas of the City;
3. City Council direct that the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program be administered as part of Community Service Partnerships program, starting with

the 2011 funding cycle; that the Snow program grant size cap be maintained within the CSP envelope for currently funded Snow programs.

Financial Impact

The Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) 2010 Approved Operating Budget for the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program is \$391,380.00. This report recommends that \$358,325.00 be allocated to 12 organizations and an amount of \$33,055.00 be approved for subsidy and transition costs.

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

DECISION HISTORY

In 2005, Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care programs from different Divisions were consolidated within the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program within the Community Partnership and Investment Program. The funding is provided under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c11).

COMMENTS

Program overview

A group of 12 community agency partners support the delivery of snow removal for seniors and people with disabilities to enable them to maintain their independence and remain safely in their homes for as long as they choose. This program is a component of the continuum of supports available to seniors through community-based agencies and City services. About 6,500 seniors are served every year through these agency partners. Although the program is identified as providing snow shovelling and lawn care, in practice, the funding is directed at snow shovelling needs almost entirely. The level of funding is not sufficient to provide year-round services.

The key components of the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program are:

- ✓ Support for seniors and people with disabilities to maintain independence and remain safely in their home.
- ✓ Provide snow shovelling to ensure people's ability to come and go from their home safely. The program is for eligible seniors and provides clean walk-ways on their home property.
- ✓ Lawn care services ensure lawns are maintained to basic standards (some areas only)
- ✓ Ensure ongoing access to general services such as mail delivery and emergency services
- ✓ Program delivery is primarily through a brokerage model: community organizations recruit and screen workers. Seniors and people with disabilities

- pay a fee for the services they choose. The funding is provided for the administration of the program.
- ✓ York and East York were approved in 2005 to offer grand-parented subsidy services to eligible seniors, based on 2005 service recipients/addresses. New registrants may be served with a brokerage model.

In addition to the basic snow removal and lawn care services, the programs have added benefits for the participants and the community:

- ✓ Reduces isolation
- ✓ Helps people maintain access to other home-based programs such as meals on wheels
- ✓ Provides an additional “security check” function for people living alone
- ✓ Provides casual “first time” jobs for students and newcomers

Delivery organizations conduct ongoing outreach, with additional efforts at the beginning of a winter season to reach people in need of the service.

Approved in 2005, this consolidated funding program model includes a group of funding approaches, including grants, claims-based re-imbusement and several fee-based arrangements. The program models used by agency partners include a mix of brokerage and claims based delivery models, maintaining the practice of the former Toronto municipalities. The individual subsidies offered by two of the former municipalities were approved to be grand-parented based on 2005 service levels. Eligibility is based on a list of existing clients and service addresses as of 2005.

Program changes

Allocation recommendations are ordinarily forwarded to City Council for approval in the Fall of each year. As a result of the shortened Council schedule in 2010, this report is being presented mid year, and includes information on program administration changes as well as funding recommendations.

Transfer to Community Service Partnerships program:

Snow Shovelling program works to support seniors living in the community with a specific and time sensitive service during winter months. In order to be efficient and effective in the delivery of this type of program, organizations require a high degree of organizational memory and skills, and year round development of resources and opportunities for program improvement. Although the funding is focused on the direct support for seniors during winter months, organizations must plan and develop their activities during the course of the whole year. Snow program delivery also benefits from being offered in concert with other seniors services, to improve access to other resources to help people remain safely in their own homes as long as possible.

In order to reflect these requirements of delivering effective snow shovelling programs, it is recommended that the program be administered as part of Community Service Partnerships, and reclassified within CPIP as a partnership program (the CPIP model used for ongoing program funding approaches) instead of an Investment program (the CPIP model used for funding short term projects). This change will reduce the administration requirements for current funded organizations, 11 of which are currently in the CSP funding portfolio and already complete application information on an annual basis for City funding programs. This change will bring the delivery of this grant program in line with other funding programs, reducing the administrative burden while integrating the program within a strong accountability system for program reporting.

When funds become available for new and increased requests, the Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program will offer opportunities for funding new community organization partners and report on these to Council for approval.

Program analysis and impact on 2010/2011 season:

Within the Snow Shovelling program budget an amount has been designated for individual subsidy payments and to address transition issues related to agency administration of the services and the operation of the claims based subsidy portion of the program. This portion of the budget also supports the management of unusual service demands due to unpredictable snowfall levels. Over the past 5 years, the variation in annual snowfall has been significant, and this situation creates challenges in anticipating the annual subsidy and transition requirements. In reviewing the budget performance over the past several years, it appears that part of the \$33,055.00 subsidy and transition component of the budget may be able to be redirected to providing additional service in underserved areas of the City. This would be done through a brokerage model with a community-based organization.

During 2010, an in-depth review of the use patterns of the subsidy and transition portion of the program will be undertaken to determine how best to allocate funds for maximum service coverage, while maintaining the capacity to meet subsidy requirements in high snow-fall seasons. It is recommended that Council delegate authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to re-direct a portion of the subsidy and transition portion of the budget to a suitable community organization, for the purpose of expanding services to seniors in underserved areas of the City. This delegated authority will provide an opportunity to implement any potential changes for increased services for the 2010/2011 winter season.

2010 Allocation Recommendations

An amount of \$391,380.00 has been approved for the delivery of this program within the Community Partnership and Investment Program budget, representing an increase

of 2% over the 2009 budget level. The individual grant recommendations for the program delivery organizations have been adjusted by 2% each for a total of \$358,325.00 as listed in Appendix A. The remaining portion of the budget is designated to address transition and subsidy issues.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: 2010 Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program Recommendations
Appendix 2: 2010 Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program delivery organizations

Appendix 1

2010 Community Based Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program Recommendations

<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>2009 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2010 Recommended Allocation</u>
1. Better Living Health and Community Services	\$86,700.00	\$88,435.00
2. CANES Community Care	\$32,130.00	\$32,775.00
3. Community Care East York	\$6,120.00	\$6,250.00
4. George Syme/Syme 55+ Centre	\$21,621.00	\$22,055.00
5. Humber Community Seniors Services Inc.	\$11,416.00	\$11,645.00
6. Neighbourhood Centre	\$64,095.00	\$65,380.00
7. Scarborough Support Services for the Elderly Inc.	\$30,600.00	\$31,215.00
8. Storefront Humber Inc.	\$16,830.00	\$17,170.00
9. Student Assistance in North Toronto for Seniors	\$10,097.00	\$10,300.00
10. West Hill Community Services	\$23,402.00	\$23,870.00
11. York Community Services	\$16,639.00	\$16,975.00
12. York-Fairbank Centre for Seniors	<u>\$31,620.00</u>	<u>\$32,255.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$351,270.00	\$358,325.00
Transition and Subsidy Costs	\$32,350.00	\$33,055.00
Total	\$383,620.00	\$391,380.00

Appendix 2
Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care program delivery organizations

Organization	Type of organization	Service Area	Website	Client Contact information
Scarborough Support Services for the Elderly	Seniors services	Scarborough	www.ssse.ca	416-750-9885
West Hill Community Services	Multi-service organization	Wards 43 and 44	www.westhill-cs.on.ca	416-286-7774 x 3
CANES Community Care	Seniors Services	Steeles Ave W-Dundas St W/Bloor St W; Humber River-Indian Line	www.canes.on.ca	416-743-3892 x 247
Community Care East York	Seniors services	East York	www.ccey.org	416-422-2026 (ask for intake)
Better Living Health and Community Services	Seniors services	Sheppard Ave E-North York southern boundary; west side of Victoria Park Ave-Yonge St	www.betterlivinghealth.org	416-447-7244 x 745
Syme 55+ Centre	Seniors services	Former City of York, boundaries flexible	www.syme55.com	416-766-0388
Humber Community Seniors Services	Seniors services	Former City of York northern and southern boundaries; Dufferin St-Humber River	www.humberseniors.org	416-249-7946
Neighbourhood Centre	Multi-service organization	East York, east Toronto	www.neighbourhoodcentre.org	416-698-1626
SAINTS	Seniors services	Hwy 401-Bloor St; Bayview Ave-Bathurst St	www.saintstoronto.ca	416-481-6284
York Community Services	Multi-service organization	Former City of York	www.ycservices.com	416-653-5400 x 1306
York-Fairbank Centre for Seniors	Seniors services	Ward 21	(email only) yorkfairbank@on.aibn.com	416-651-8300
Storefront Humber	Seniors services	Dundas St W/Bloor St W-Lake Ontario; Humber River-Etobicoke Creek	www.storefronthumber.ca	416-259-4207

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