

Authority to receive and spend/allocate Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding for services to Newcomers

Date:	February 17, 2010
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to enter into an agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to receive funding for innovative pilot programs for newcomers in Toronto.

City staff have identified pilot programming in Children's Services, Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Health and Social Development, Finance and Administration designed to provide additional supports to newcomers in accessing City and community based services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. Council authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager to enter into agreement(s) with Citizenship and Immigration Canada for a total value of up to \$4,050,000.00 gross/ zero net.
2. The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the value of the final agreement between the City and CIC and the allocation of funds to Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Health, Children's Services and Social Development, Finance and Administration.

3. The CIC funds be used to support City settlement planning and community capacity building, contracting with community based service providers for settlement workers in identified child care centres, recreation centres and public health, newcomer programming in recreation centres, supporting family reunification and adaptation and understanding the needs and health status of recent immigrants living in Toronto.
4. Should an agreement be signed prior to Council consideration of the 2010 operating budget, staff report directly to Council on the required 2010 operating budget adjustments (including positions) for Children's Services, Toronto Public Health, Parks Forestry and Recreation, and Social Development Finance and Administration divisional budgets
5. The appropriate City officials be authorized to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

Implementation Points

CIC and City staff have identified five activities of common interest to both parties. This report seeks authority to formalize negotiations and enter into an agreement.

Once an agreement has been finalized, the five activities will be implemented by securing the required staff and program materials and issuing a request for proposals for the provision of settlement services. It is anticipated service provision will begin in May/June 2010 for an 11 month period, extending into 2011. CIC and City staff will evaluate the outcomes of the five activities and report as required.

Financial Impact

Staff will report to Budget Committee on all financial implications including budget adjustments and position requirements once the agreement to enhance City services to newcomers is finalized with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). This agreement will result in an one-time total increase of up to \$4,050,000 gross and \$0 net over two years impacting four programs with increases of up to \$3,037,500 gross and \$0 net in 2010 and up to \$1,012,500 gross and \$0 net for 2011.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) provides for significant investment in settlement and adaptation services and programs for newcomers to Ontario. Under the COIA agreement significant funding has flowed to community based settlement service providers for enhanced settlement supports and settlement service planning. CIC has

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engaged with the City to identify opportunities for enhanced City services for newcomers in Toronto.

While the City does not provide settlement services “per se”, it does provide a wide range of municipal services to all residents of Toronto regardless of citizenship status. Canada and Toronto have shared objectives in ensuring newcomers access available City and community services to support successful settlement outcomes.

COMMENTS

City Manager Office staff have coordinated a series of meetings with CIC staff and Divisional staff to identify opportunities for pilot programs designed to enhance the City’s ability to provide accessible and effective services and programs to newcomer residents. Through this process five, time limited, program activities have been identified as being of interest to both CIC and the City.

Activity	Divisional Responsible
1. City settlement planning and community capacity building	Social Development, Finance and Administration
2. Settlement workers in City facilities	Children's Services Parks Forestry and Recreation Toronto Public Health
3. Supporting Families during Reunification and Adaptation	Toronto Public Health
4. Understanding the Health Needs and Health Status of Newcomers in Toronto	Toronto Public Health
5. Newcomer programming in Recreation Centres	Parks Forestry and Recreation

The proposed activities are designed to enhance service planning and integration, provide additional supports to newcomers in access City services, strengthen the relationship between the community based settlement sector and the City, build on existing research regarding the health status and needs of newcomers in Toronto and support family reunification. The proposed activities have been reviewed to ensure there is no net drain on existing City resources, that they are consistent with current program priorities and that they are time limited projects.

The administration, monitoring and roll up reporting to CIC will be coordinated through the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division.

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