



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authority to Receive Service Canada Funding for the Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps Programs and to Enter into Service Agreements with three Community Agencies

Date:	October 25, 2012
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS# 16235

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to renew agreements with Service Canada for the City-administered Youth Employment Toronto (YET) program for up to \$435,975 in federal subsidy with \$154,553 in City net; and for the Toronto Youth Job Corp (TYJC) program for up to \$1,573,950 in federal subsidy and \$205,495 in City net. The annual budget commitments are dependent on both City Council and Government of Canada budget approval processes.

The YET and TYJC programs are on-going and cost shared with federal government. The YET program provides a city-wide mobile employment assessment, referral and case management service. The TYJC program provides an intensive six week pre-employment preparation program and subsidized job placements for 16 to 24 weeks. The two programs serve unemployed and out-of-school youth, 16 to 29 years of age who are experiencing barriers in gaining access to employment or other vocational-related opportunities. The current Service Canada contract for the YET program ends on November 23, 2012, and on January 4, 2013 for the TYJC program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to sign contract renewal agreements with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto program for up to \$435,975 in federal subsidy with \$154,553 in City net; and for the Toronto Youth Job Corp program for up to \$1,573,950 in federal subsidy and \$205,495 in City net, with annual budget commitments dependent on both City Council and Government of Canada budget approval processes.
2. The appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

As outlined in Table 1, the funding allocation from 2012 to 2014 and the 2012/13 renewal agreement for the Youth Employment Toronto program has a total value of up to \$56,782 gross and \$14,861 net for the period of November 24 – December 31, 2012. This funding is already included in the 2012 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

The remaining of \$533,746 gross and \$139,692 net for the period of January 1 – November 23, 2013 will be included in the 2013 Operating Budget Submission for Social Development and Finance Administration.

The 2013/14 renewal agreement for the Toronto Youth Job Corps program has a total value of up to \$1,758,913 gross and \$203,124 net for the period of January 5 – December 31, 2013; and will be included in the 2013 Operating Budget Submission for Social Development and Finance Administration.

Approval of the renewal agreements will create no additional operating budget pressure for 2013, as there is no net increase in the City's funding contribution. Funding for the 2014 portion of the TYJC Program agreement will be included in the 2014 Operating Budget Outlook for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

Table 1: Funding Allocation 2012 to 2014:

	YET Program	TYJC Program
2012	Nov 24 – Dec 31, 2012	
Gross Expenditures	\$ 56,782	
Federal Subsidy	\$ 41,921	
City Net	\$ 14,861	
2013	Jan 1 – Nov 23, 2013	Jan 5 – Dec 31, 2013
Gross Expenditures	\$ 533,746	\$ 1,758,913
Federal Subsidy	\$ 394,054	\$ 1,555,789
City Net	\$ 139,692	\$ 203,124
2014		Jan 1 – 3, 2014
Gross Expenditures		\$ 20,532
Federal Subsidy		\$ 18,161
City Net		\$ 2,371

Total Contract Value		
	YET	TYJC
Gross Expenditures	\$ 590,528	\$ 1,779,445
Federal Subsidy	\$ 435,975	\$ 1,573,950
City Net	\$154,553	\$ 205,495

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council annually approves funding renewal with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps programs. Last year, at its meeting on April 12, 2012, City Council approved the report, "Authority to Receive Service Canada Funding for the Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps Programs and to Enter into Service Agreements with three Community Agencies." <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.ED2.13>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto has been administering YET and TJYC as cost-shared programs for 29 years. Contract renewals have been carried out by both levels of government on an annual basis.

The two programs have contracts that end shortly: November 23, 2012 for YET and January 4, 2013 for TYJC. City-Service Canada negotiations for contact renewals are

underway. The renewal start dates are expected to be November 24, 2012 for YET and January 5, 2013 for TYJC.

Authority is needed to sign renewal agreements with Service Canada for the two long-standing employment youth programs.

COMMENTS

Over the past few years, the youth unemployment rate has been in the range of 15-18%. This rate has been double the unemployment rate of the general population. In this climate, young people find it is extremely difficult to gain access to jobs. Their employment prospects become more challenging if they lack a high school diploma, have little work experience and/or have few financial resources to seek employment and/or training opportunities. Being marginalized from the labour market in this manner can begin to influence the choices these youth make; some may pursue criminal activity or substance abuse, or may experience depression or feelings of hopelessness.

Youth Employment Toronto

The YET program provides a mobile employment service to youth who have difficulty accessing services and resources in order to attach themselves to the labour market. Through this program, the City directly employs six specialized employment workers who are assigned different geographic communities to provide services across the city.

YET workers actively reach out to youth in the most relevant locations in the community such as hostels, housing complexes, youth drop-ins and other community settings where vulnerable youth are naturally gathering. The program serves youth aged 16-29 who are out of school and unemployed. The primary target is young people who have not completed high school. Youth are provided a variety of supports ranging from employment assessment, career planning and counselling, as well as referrals to employment services, skill development programs and educational opportunities. The staff are holistic in their approach, and as such, also assist youth in dealing with other life issues that can get in the way of their employability. Youth are linked to resources such as housing support, substance abuse treatment, legal advice, etc.

The YET staff are effective at supporting youth with these interventions to achieve employability outcomes. The final program outcomes were met in the previous 12 month contract period of 2010/11 (the 2011/12 report not yet available). YET case workers case managed 17% more youth than required by the federal contract. As a result of YET interventions, a total of 402 secured employment, obtained training, or returned to school, (see Table 2 for performance statics).

Table 2: Detailed Performance Statistics – Youth Employment Toronto (2010 – 2011)

Type of Intervention	Federal Target	City Achievement	% of Target Met
	# of youth supported to access the labour market		
Assessment	950	874	92%
Case Management	700	817	117%
Prep Employment Preparation	n/a	370	n/a

Type of Outcome			
Education & Training Obtained	275	144	52%
Employment Secured	225	258	115%
TOTAL Positive Outcomes	500	402	80%

Toronto Youth Job Corps

The Toronto Youth Job Corps program is a 22-30 week pre-employment preparation program designed to help youth who face challenges in obtaining and maintaining employment. TYJC helps youth to build the skills necessary to make the transition into work or further education or training, by providing vocational counselling, life skills workshops, hands-on work experience and a job placement with an employer. The target group for this program are youth with less than a high school education, with little or no work experience and who may also be in the hostel system or in receipt of social assistance.

Since the program's inception in 1983, TYJC has operated as a partnership between Service Canada, the City, and community-based delivery organizations. The TYJC program is delivered by the following three agencies: St. Christopher House in the downtown west end, JVS in the Jane and Finch area, and West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre in Scarborough.

The last contract period that detailed statistics are available for is May 17, 2010 – September 30, 2011. During this period, a total of 150 youth completed the program and 100 youth secured employment, obtained training or returned to school.

Table 3: Detailed Performance Statistics – Toronto Youth Job Corps (2010 – 2011)

Participation Rate	Federal Target	City Achievement	% of Target Met
	# of youth supported to access the labour market		
Youth who started the program	152	160	105%
Youth who left due to person reasons – medical, moved/lost contact	20	10	50%
Youth who completed pre-employment	132	150	113%

Type of Outcome			
Education & Training Obtained	40	30	75%
Employment Secured	60	70	117%
TOTAL Positive Outcomes	100	100	100%

In the 2010-2011 contract year, TYJC exceeded federal targets for all participation measures. A greater amount of youth started the program, less youth left the program, and more youth completed the pre-employment aspects of the program than required by the federal targets.

Over the past year, City staff have been pro-actively improving the reporting framework for both programs in order to better capture, monitor and report on the various outputs that support youth education and employment outcomes. This continuous service improvement work will continue into the 2012/13 contract year for YET and TYJC.

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SIGNATURE

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