



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**2014 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies**

<b>Date:</b>	April 3, 2014
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health
<b>From:</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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This report outlines the recommendations of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition Steering Committee regarding the 2014 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success total \$7,071,839 including \$100,000 held in reserve for appeals/late applications.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:**

1. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements totalling \$7,071,839 with the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$1,640,570) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$5,431,269) to administer the 2014 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;
2. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation (1), including the execution of legal agreements with the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success on behalf of the City; and
3. the Board of Health forward this report for information to the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Ministry of Education, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Toronto District

School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, and le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud.

### **Financial Impact**

The Toronto Public Health 2014 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$7,071,839 gross and net for the Student Nutrition Program. This report recommends allocation of \$1,640,570 to the Angel Foundation for Learning and \$5,431,269 to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success which includes \$100,000 held in reserve for appeals/late applications. These funds will be used for eligible student nutrition programs at 501 schools/communities across the City of Toronto.

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in TPH's 2014 Approved Operating Budget resulting from adopting this report.

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meetings held on January 29/30, 2014, City Council approved 2014 municipal funding for student nutrition programs of \$7,071,839. Annually, the Medical Officer of Health submits a report to the Board of Health after the City budget has been finalized, to begin the process of allocations to student nutrition programs for the upcoming school year.

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) was established in 1998 to allocate municipal and provincial funding to Toronto's student nutrition programs, to provide program support and to ensure program quality and accountability. TPSN is made up of a Steering Committee and two sub-committees, including an Allocations Sub-Committee. Funds are allocated to programs by the TPSN Steering Committee, comprised of student nutrition stakeholders, including Toronto Public Health, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Angel Foundation for Learning, Toronto Foundation for Student Success, and two community representatives – FoodShare Toronto and St. Felix Centre. Standardized meal costs per student are used to estimate program costs. The costs are adjusted annually for food inflation based on the Nutritious Food Basket survey results for Toronto.

### **COMMENTS**

#### **Application and Review Process**

The allocation process began in January 2014, when all currently funded Student Nutrition Programs were notified via email to access the full application package from the Toronto Public Health website. An invitation to apply was also mailed to the 27 schools identified for an expansion of the Student Nutrition Program for 2014. The website and the supporting documents included instructions on how to complete the

application. Non-city staff members of the TPSN assisted individual program sites in preparing applications.

An applications review panel, comprised of staff from Toronto Public Health, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and community partner representatives, met to review applications. Reviewers were instructed on consistent review of applications, using standardized review forms, and followed appropriate conflict of interest guidelines. Applications that were recommended for funding were forwarded to the TPSN Steering Committee for final approval.

**Summary of Allocations and Recommendations**

The TPSN Steering Committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of municipal funds:

<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
1. <b>Angel Foundation for Learning</b> (133 schools/communities)	\$ 1,640,570
2. <b>Toronto Foundation for Student Success</b> (368 schools/communities)	\$ 5,331,269
3. <b>Toronto Foundation for Student Success</b> (reserve for appeals/late applications)	\$ 100,000
<b>Total</b> (501schools/communities reaching 155,484 participants)	\$7,071,839

The money held in reserve for appeals and late applications will be used to make adjustments to the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2014. The entire municipal grant is distributed to programs and directed towards the cost of nutritious food; none of the grant is used for administration or overhead. Local programs that are approved for funding will receive their allocated municipal funds in three instalments: September 2014, December 2014 and March 2015. Programs must submit detailed monthly financial reports to their respective Foundation and address all program requirements to receive subsequent instalment cheques.

**Use of Municipal Budget Enhancement for 2014**

The priorities outlined in the Student Nutrition Program Five-Year Plan, endorsed by the Board of Health September 2012, include:

- Focus investment on breakfast programs in higher need schools
- Stabilize existing programs

- Expand into additional higher needs schools
- Strengthen partnership funding model

City Council approved an enhancement of \$1,771,460 for the Toronto Public Health 2014 Operating Budget, the second year of the five-year plan to stabilize and expand student nutrition programs in the City. This funding aligns with the 2014/15 school year. The budget enhancement will help existing programs offset increased food costs, increase the number of operating days, and improve nutrition quality of meals. It will also enable 27 higher need schools with an identified need for a student nutrition program to start a breakfast/morning meal program beginning September 2014.

### **Provincial Funding**

The municipal application review process also serves as the review for provincial funding applications. In Toronto, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services administers the provincial funds via the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS). TFSS then allocates provincial funding for the Catholic program sites to the Angel Foundation for Learning to administer. Programs will receive their provincial funding at the same time as their municipal funding.

As part of the Government of Ontario's response to the Healthy Kids Panel recommendations, an additional investment in Toronto's student nutrition programs was confirmed in December 2013. As a result, the 2013/14 provincial investment was increased as follows.

#### *Existing 2013 funding*

\$4,139,453	base funding for existing programs towards food cost
\$1,197,055	community development and administration

#### *Additional new 2013 funding*

\$ 322,000	base funding for 46 new programs* towards food cost
\$ 276,000	one-time start-up funding for 46 new programs
\$ 74,400	one-time capacity building funding by application
\$ 29,800	1 FTE Food and Logistics Coordinator (base funding pro-rated)

\*The Ministry of Children and Youth services defines new programs as those which do not already receive provincial funding at any level.

#### *Total 2013 provincial investment (including one-time funding)*

\$6,038,708

The 2014 provincial investment for Toronto's Student Nutrition Programs has not been confirmed to date, however, it is not expected to be less than the base funding for 2013 (\$5,688,308).

There is overlap between the higher risk schools identified in the municipal and provincial expansion targets to ensure that new programs will receive core government funding from both municipal and provincial sources.

## **Parental Contributions, Local Fundraising, and Corporate Donations**

Parental contributions, local fundraising, and corporate donations contribute to the budgets of these community-based programs. There are also in-kind contributions such as school space and staff and volunteer time to operate the programs. However, higher needs school communities are not able to raise enough local funds to operate their programs to the fullest potential.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Medical Officer of Health recommends allocation of municipal funds from the 2014 approved Toronto Public Health operating budget to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success for the 2014/2015 school year to support eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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