

## **2017 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies**

**Date:** May 3, 2017

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Medical Officer of Health

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report outlines recommendations for the 2017 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success total \$12,235,979 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 \$12,235,979 with the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$3,201,246.86) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$9,034,732.14) to administer the 2017 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;
3. City Council request that the Province of Ontario increase its grant funding investment proportionally to match increased City investment;
4. City Council urge the Province of Ontario to provide annual adjustments to provincial Student Nutrition Program funding in consideration of the impact of food inflation;
5. City Council reiterate its request to the federal government to provide core funding for a national student nutrition program; and

6. 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, the Ontario Ministry of Education, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, Toronto Foundation for Student Success, Angel Foundation for Learning and FoodShare Toronto.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Toronto Public Health (TPH) 2017 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$12,235,979 gross and net for the Student Nutrition Program. This report recommends allocation of \$3,201,246.86 to the Angel Foundation for Learning and \$9,034,732.14 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 600 schools/communities across the City of Toronto.

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in TPH's 2017 Approved Operating Budget resulting from adopting this report.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting held on February 15/16 2017, City Council approved 2017 municipal funding for student nutrition programs of \$12,235,979. 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.

## **COMMENTS**

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Student Nutrition Toronto (SNT) recommends the allocation of municipal and provincial funding to Toronto's student nutrition programs, provides program support and ensures program quality and accountability. Student Nutrition Toronto is made up of a committee and two sub-committees, including an Allocations Sub-Committee. The SNT Committee is comprised of student nutrition stakeholders, including representatives from Toronto Public Health (TPH), Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) and FoodShare Toronto. Standardized meal costs per student are used to estimate program costs. The costs are adjusted annually for inflation based on the Nutritious Food Basket survey results for Toronto.

## **Application and Review Process**

The joint application process for municipal and provincial student nutrition program grants began in December 2016, when all currently funded student nutrition programs in Toronto were notified via email to access the full application package from the Toronto Public Health website. Those sites identified for expansion were notified individually as part of a tailored outreach approach by representatives of SNT. The TPH website includes supporting documents with instructions on how to complete the application. Staff from each SNT partner agency, except for TPH staff, provided individual program sites with assistance to complete grant applications.

An applications review panel, comprised of staff from TPH, the TDSB, the TCDSB, and SNT community development staff met to review applications. Reviewers were instructed on consistent review of applications, used standardized review forms, and followed appropriate conflict of interest guidelines. Applications that were recommended for funding were forwarded to the SNT Committee for final approval. The process satisfies the requirements laid out in the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy.

## **Year-Round Accountability for Student Nutrition Program Grants**

The charitable foundations which administer the municipal grant to student nutrition programs in Toronto, TFSS and AFL, enter into detailed legal agreements with the City of Toronto in advance of receiving municipal funds. Legal agreements include a requirement that each foundation provide the City with consolidated financial reports detailing its administration of municipal funds to student nutrition programs, with associated performance measures, three times a year, as well as annual audited financial statements. On a monthly basis, the foundations also collect detailed reports from individual student nutrition programs receiving municipal grants.

Both foundations consistently meet all of their contractual requirements.

## **Summary of Allocations and Recommendations**

The SNT committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of municipal funds:

<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
Angel Foundation for Learning (159 schools/communities)	\$ 3,201,246.86
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (441 schools/communities)	\$ 8,934,732.14
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (reserve for appeals/late applications)	\$ 100,000.00
Total (600 schools/communities reaching 197,785 participants)	\$12,235,979.00

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, 2017. 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 2017, December 2017 and March 2018. 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 2017**

The municipal funding plan continues to work toward the vision endorsed by the City in 2012, to strengthen and grow student nutrition programs in Toronto, by:

- Focusing investment on breakfast/morning meal programs
- Strengthening existing programs
- Extending municipal funding to higher need schools currently operating student nutrition programs without municipal support
- Strengthening the partnership funding model

In 2016, Toronto Board of Health and City Council approved the extension of the multi-year municipal funding plan by one year to 2018. City Council approved an enhancement of \$2,243,613 to total \$12,235,979 for the TPH 2017 Operating Budget, the fifth year of its municipal funding plan (2013-2018). This funding aligns with the 2017/18 school year. The budget enhancement will help existing programs offset increased food costs, give them a greater ability to increase the number of meals served and improve nutrition quality of meals. While the 2017 municipal grant contribution rate projection was 18% of program costs (based on 2016/17 participation levels), the projected actual municipal grant contribution rate for 2017 is reported at 17% of student nutrition programs' costs in the 2017/18 school year, which may be adjusted slightly once the funds held in reserve for the late applications and appeals are dispersed. The municipal contribution rate falls below the projected target of 18% due to increases in student participation levels and programs operating more days each week.

The 2017 municipal funding for student nutrition programs will also extend municipal core funding to 48 publically funded schools serving higher need students and currently running a morning meal program without the essential support and stability of municipal funding. To enhance program viability, municipal funding expansion for student nutrition programs has been aligned with the provincial program expansion plan. The additional municipal funding will bring these 48 programs to an equal funding level as other student nutrition programs operating in Toronto.

### **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 TFSS. Toronto Foundation for Student Success then allocates provincial funding for the Catholic program sites to be administered by the AFL. Programs will receive their provincial funding at the same time as their municipal funding.

In 2016/17, the final Government of Ontario's investment in Toronto's student nutrition programs was as follows.

#### *2016 funding*

\$6,902,508	base funding for new and existing programs towards food cost
150,000	one-time top up towards the cost of food
1,744,900	community development and administration

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\$8,797,408 total 2016 provincial investment

The 2017 provincial investment for Toronto's Student Nutrition Programs has not been confirmed to date, however, it is not expected to be greater than the current base funding for 2016 (\$8,647,408).

Core government funding maximizes the viability of programs. There is no federal funding for student nutrition programs. The Board of Health has a long history of advocacy to the federal government for a national student nutrition program. A call to the federal government to share in the cost of a national student nutrition program remains a vitally important action.

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

Parental contributions, local fundraising, and corporate donations contributed approximately \$4 million to the budgets of these community-based programs during the 2015/16 academic year. In-kind contributions such as school space and staff, volunteer time to operate the programs, food, equipment and other supplies are not captured in this dollar amount. However, higher needs school communities are not able to raise enough local funds to operate their programs to the fullest potential. Government funding helps to ensure stability against variable funding from parent, community, and corporate sources.

#### **CONTACT**

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#### **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Barbara Yaffe  
Acting Medical Officer of Health

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Dr. Eileen De Villa  
Incoming Medical Officer of Health