



## REPORT FOR ACTION

**2018 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies**

**Date:** June 4, 2018

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Medical Officer of Health

**Wards:** All

**SUMMARY**

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This report outlines recommendations for the 2018 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success total \$14,360,117 including \$100,000 held in reserve for appeals/late applications.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Medical Officer of Health recommends:

1. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements totalling \$14,360,117, with the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$3,922,199) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$10,437,918) to administer the 2018 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. The Board of Health and City Council request the Province of Ontario increase its grant funding investment proportionally to match increased City of Toronto investment;
4. The Board of Health and City Council request the Province of Ontario provide annual adjustments to provincial Student Nutrition Program funding in consideration of the impact of food inflation;
5. The Board of Health and City Council request the federal government to provide core funding for a national student nutrition program; and
6. The Board of Health forward this report to the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ontario Minister of Education, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School

Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, Toronto Foundation for Student Success, Angel Foundation for Learning, and FoodShare Toronto.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Toronto Public Health 2018 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$14,360,117 gross and net for the Student Nutrition Program. This report recommends allocation of \$3,922,199 to the Angel Foundation for Learning and \$10,437,918 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 609 schools/communities across the City of Toronto.

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in Toronto Public Health's 2018 Approved Operating Budget resulting from adopting this report.

The Interim Chief Financial Officer has reviewed the report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting held on February 12 2018, City Council approved 2018 municipal funding for student nutrition programs of \$14,360,117 (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EX31.2>).

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. The most recent report adjusted by the Board of Health and City Council was from May 17 and 28, 2017 respectively <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL19.8>

## **COMMENTS**

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Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto (SNO-Toronto) recommends the allocation of municipal and provincial funding to Toronto's student nutrition programs, provides program support and monitors program quality and accountability. Note that in 2017, the partnership changed its name from Student Nutrition Toronto to Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto to align with the provincial branding directions for the Ontario student nutrition program. Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto is made up of a committee and two sub-committees, including an Allocations Sub-Committee. The Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto 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), Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), FoodShare Toronto and two community representatives. Standardized meal costs per student are used to estimate program costs and are adjusted annually for food inflation.

### **Applications Are Reviewed Annually**

The joint application process for municipal and provincial student nutrition program grants began in December 2017, when all currently funded student nutrition programs in Toronto were notified of the grant opportunity. Staff from each Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto partner agency, except for Toronto Public Health staff, provided individual program sites with assistance to complete grant applications.

Annually, applications are reviewed by a panel of staff from Toronto Public Health, the TDSB, the TCDSB and Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto community development staff, using standardized review forms and following conflict of interest guidelines.

Applications recommended for funding are forwarded to the Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto Committee for approval. The process satisfies the requirements laid out in the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy.

Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto is currently exploring options such as multi-year and expedited grant application processes in its continued efforts to apply grants best practices and to maximize benefits to community members.

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

The charitable foundations which administer the municipal grant to student nutrition programs in Toronto, Toronto Foundation for Student Success and Angel Foundation for Learning, enter into 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 Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of municipal funds:

*Table 1: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations*

<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
Angel Foundation for Learning (161 schools/communities)	\$ 3,922,199
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (448 schools/communities)	\$10,337,918
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (reserve for appeals/late applications)	\$ 100,000
Total (609 schools/communities reaching 209,420 participants)	\$14,360,117

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, 2018. 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. Programs approved for funding will receive municipal funding in three instalments; they must meet all program requirements, including monthly financial reporting to their respective Foundation, to receive subsequent instalment cheques.

### **Use of Municipal Budget Enhancement for 2018**

Now in its final year, the 6-year municipal funding plan for student nutrition programs (2013-2018), continues to support 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 public schools currently operating student nutrition programs without municipal support
- Strengthening the partnership funding model.

For the Toronto Public Health 2018 Operating Budget, City Council approved an enhancement of \$2,124,138 to total \$14,360,117 for student nutrition programs. This funding aligns with the 2018/19 school year. The budget enhancement will help existing programs offset food costs, allowing them to serve more meals and healthier foods. While the 2018 municipal grant contribution rate projection was 20% of program costs (based on 2017/18 participation levels), the projected actual municipal grant contribution rate for 2018 is reported at 19% of student nutrition programs' costs in the 2018/19 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 20% due to increases in student participation levels and programs operating more days each week.

The 2018 municipal funding for student nutrition programs also extends municipal funding to 19 publicly-funded schools serving higher need students and currently running a morning meal program without municipal funding. To enhance program viability, municipal funding expansion for student nutrition programs has been aligned with the now-complete provincial program expansion. These 19 programs will now be at an equal funding level as other municipally-funded student nutrition programs operating in Toronto.

### **Provincial Student Nutrition Program Guidelines have been updated**

In 2018, the Province of Ontario released updated program guidelines for student nutrition programs including revised key performance indicators and updated directions for funding allocations allowing the flexibility to allocate enhanced funding to programs in communities with a greater demonstrated level of need based on socioeconomic and education data. In addition, although no new provincial funding was announced, the Province will now consider eligibility of independent schools for new provincial funding on a case-by-case basis.

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success is the Lead Agency for the Ontario Student Nutrition Program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services and is accountable to ensure provincial program criteria is met. The Toronto Foundation for Student Success subcontracts with the Angel Foundation for Learning to administer the provincial funding for programs located in TCDSB sites.

The 2018 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 2017. In 2017/18, the Government of Ontario's investment in Toronto's student nutrition programs was as follows:

*Table 2: Summary of 2017 Provincial Funding Investment*

<b>Funding Use</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
Base funding for new and existing programs towards food cost	\$6,652,408
Community development and administration funding	1,835,400
Total	\$8,487,808

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 \$4.2 million to student nutrition programs during the 2016/17 school year. In-kind contributions such as school space and staff, volunteer time to operate the programs, food and equipment are not included in this estimate. However, higher-needs school communities are not able to raise enough local funds to operate their programs to the fullest potential. In the face of variable funding from parent, community and corporate sources, government funding helps to provide stability for Student Nutrition programs in Toronto.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Eileen De Villa  
Medical Officer of Health