



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Supplementary report - Improving the Imagination, Manufacturing, Innovation and Technology (IMIT) Program Local Employment Requirement

Date: June 11, 2019

To: City Council

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the ability of staff to apply an Open Data approach for reporting on the impact of the Local Employment aspect of the IMIT program.

The report confirms that it is possible to integrate the IMIT local employment data into the City Open Data Program. Staff intend to harmonize reporting with City-wide reporting on community benefits when a structure is established.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Future operating and capital costs related to the City of Toronto's administration of the IMIT program and the associated online reporting system will be recovered from IMIT recipients in the form of administrative fees as approved by Council.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information

DECISION HISTORY

On May 27, 2019, the Economic and Community Development Committee amended item EC5.13 to include a request that the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture report directly to City Council on the ability of staff to take an Open Data approach for the reporting of the points-based system of the revised IMIT Local Employment Requirement.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC5.13>

At its July 23-30, 2018 meeting, City Council directed staff to consult with relevant stakeholders to determine what additional steps can be taken to ensure that those developments that receive IMIT incentives provide quality employment opportunities for Toronto residents, including: employment and training in building construction, a strategy to reduce precarious employment among building maintenance employees (including contract staff) and full participation by users of IMIT properties in City-supported programs intended to connect job seekers to job opportunities.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PG31.5>

COMMENTS

City of Toronto Open Data Policy

The purpose of City of Toronto Open Data Policy (2011) is to remove barriers and set the rules by which City of Toronto data is made available to the public as valuable, machine readable datasets.

The Policy outlines the principles, roles and responsibilities related to the City of Toronto's efforts to make data routinely available in machine readable format for any public use. The Open Data Policy supports the City of Toronto's commitment to Open Government.

Data is made available to the public, businesses, institutions, visitors, and other levels of government via www.toronto.ca/open. The City must comply with provincial and federal legislation and will not post datasets containing confidential, proprietary, and/or personal information.

Community benefits data tracking system

As part of the Community Benefits Framework in development as directed by Council (EX29.12), a community benefits data tracking system will monitor, track and report on the outcomes generated by City community benefits initiatives, which may include the IMIT program.

The data system design will allow for tracking of activities and outputs (e.g. number of hires, type of job, location), as well as social and economic outcomes. Integration of the community benefits data into the City of Toronto Open Data Catalogue will be considered.

Application of Open Data Policy to IMIT Program

The Open Data Policy applies across all City divisions and has the following 10 guiding principles for dataset management, which are applicable to reporting on the Local Employment Requirement of the IMIT Program:

1) Completeness; 2) Primacy; 3) Timeliness; 4) Accessibility; 5) Machine Readable; 6) Non-discrimination; 7) Non-proprietary; 8) Licence Free; 9) Long Term Preservation of

Datasets; and 10) Datasets are free-of-charge. For more information:
https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/969b-open_data_policy.pdf

The dataset from the local employment aspect of the IMIT program will consist of numerical indicators as outlined in the point-based system (e.g. number of hires from City-endorsed programs, number of contracts awarded to diverse suppliers) and will be presented by property receiving the incentive.

Potential benefits of applying an Open Data approach

The potential benefits of including employment data in the Open Data Catalogue, include:

- Increased engagement from policy and research groups, with a view to identifying opportunities to strengthen the impact of the program
- Data visualization can support public engagement and understanding of the program
- A version-controlled system allows for trends to be easily viewed internally and externally over time
- Ability for machine-reading of data presented (e.g. as opposed to a PDF or text format)

Potential risks and mitigation strategies

The dataset permanence principle (9) of the Open Data Policy means that datasets cannot be changed once uploaded. Should audits of the self-reported data show different activity or outcome levels, additional versions will need to be uploaded which may be a potential source of confusion for stakeholders.

To mitigate the potential risk, EDC will work in coordination with the Open Data team to enable appropriate version-tracking and archiving over time to ensure accuracy and timeliness of the information presented to the public.

Conclusion

The report confirms that it is possible to adopt an Open Data approach for reporting on the local employment aspect of the IMIT program, and was developed in consultation with Open Data program staff, and Social Development, Finance and Administration.

CONTACT

Ola Mirzoeva, Senior Policy Advisor, Economic Development and Culture
416-397-5417, ola.mirzoeva@toronto.ca

Rebecca Condon, Senior Business Development Officer, Economic Development and Culture
416-329-0626, rebecca.condon@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Mike Williams
General Manager, Economic Development and Culture