



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Extending Purchase Order #6041569 for the Longitudinal Study on the Impacts of Child Care Fee Subsidies - Additional Information

Date: December 16, 2019

To: City Council

From: General Manager, Children's Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides information regarding the expenditure of funding for research conducted by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in partnership with Toronto Children's Services. Expenditure claims for this research project largely contributed to the salaries of research staff, materials and supplies as well as travel. The longitudinal nature of the study, following an original sample of 900 children and families, often from hard-to-research populations requires intensive engagement from researchers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact contained in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 19 and 20, 2014, City Council adopted CD26.4, authorizing the General Manager, Children's Services to enter into a contract with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto for a five year longitudinal study.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD26.4>

At its meeting of December 4, 2019, Economic and Community Development Committee considered a report that requested authority to extend the research contract

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC10.4>

BACKGROUND

At the December 4, 2019 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting, staff were requested to provide information regarding the expenditure of funding for this contract.

COMMENTS

Expenditure claims to date for this research project largely contributed to the salaries of research staff, materials and supplies as well as travel. The longitudinal nature of the study, following an original sample of 900 children and families, often from hard-to-reach populations requires labour-intensive engagement from research staff. Since 2014, research staff responsibilities have been divided between data collection, including activities such as scheduling meetings with parents, conducting telephone interviews, and conducting face-to-face interviews along with training and managing the data collection team, as well as data analysis which includes managing the data, and data analysis including coding of qualitative survey information.

Funding is also used to cover participants' travel and/or parking costs, and activities to maintain consistent relationships with study participants throughout the length of the research study.

The research project has been conducting developmental assessments that will measure child outcomes including school readiness and cognitive outcomes. Early findings have also resulted in improved outreach to Children's Services clients and increased knowledge related to child care usage patterns among families with a child care fee subsidy.

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SIGNATURE

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