



REPORT FOR ACTION

Enhancement to Toronto Public Health's 2019 Operating Budget for Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

Date: August 29, 2019
To: Board of Health Budget Committee
From: Medical Officer of Health
Wards: All

SUMMARY

On April 11, 2019, the Government of Ontario announced a \$90 million investment for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), a new publicly-funded dental program for low-income Ontario seniors.

On June 7, 2019, Toronto Public Health (TPH) received a letter (see Appendix A) indicating that the City of Toronto will receive \$15,543.3 thousand in additional base funding for 2019-2020 from the Ministry of Health (formerly the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care) (the Ministry) to implement OSDCP.

On August 20, 2019, the Ministry provided the 2019 Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement stating that the above funding would be prorated at \$11,657.4 thousand for the period of April 1 to December 31, 2019. The Ministry has not provided full implementation details for the new program; however, they have expressed their desire to begin implementation in October 2019. The Ministry has also indicated that the OSDCP will be delivered by public health units, Community Health Centres (CHC), and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHAC), where public health units will be responsible for coordinating the delivery of the program with CHC and AHAC.

This staff report seeks City Council's approval to increase TPH's 2019 Operating Budget by \$2,111.0 thousand for pre-implementation and implementation costs associated with delivering the program starting in October 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health request City Council increase Toronto Public Health's 2019 Operating Budget by \$2,111.0 thousand gross, \$0 net, and 52 permanent positions to

be used for pre-implementation and implementation costs associated with delivering Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Ministry is providing \$15,543.3 thousand in additional base funding for their 2019-2020 funding year to support the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, a new dental program for low-income seniors. On August 20, 2019, the Ministry provided the 2019 Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement stating that the above funding would be prorated at \$11,657.4 thousand for the period of April 1 to December 31, 2019.

Toronto Public Health is requesting an increase of \$2,111.0 thousand gross, \$0 net, and 52 permanent positions to its 2019 Approved Operating Budget to commence the implementation of the OSDCP.

An additional \$13,432.3 thousand will be included as part of the 2020 Operating Budget Submission, to fully implement and run the OSDCP on an annual basis.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its November 27, 2017 meeting, the Board of Health requested that the Premier and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care implement a dental program for low-income adults, including seniors.

HL23.2 Impact of the Implementation of the Integrated Healthy Smiles Ontario Program on Toronto Public Health Dental Program

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL23.2>

COMMENTS

On April 11, 2019, the Province announced a new publicly-funded Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) for low income seniors. Under OSDCP, the City of Toronto has been allocated \$15,543.3 thousand in funding from the Ministry for the 2019-2020 provincial fiscal year (see Appendix 1).

The Ministry has indicated that the new program is expected to begin in October 2019 using existing infrastructure in public health units, Community Health Centres and Aboriginal Health Access Centres. The program will be fully implemented in the winter of 2020 as new infrastructure is procured or constructed across the city.

Key aspects of the OSDCP are as follows:

- The Ministry is funding the program at 100 per cent.
- The program is for eligible Ontario seniors, and allows eligible seniors to seek treatment services anywhere in Ontario where OSDCP is provided.
- Eligible seniors can access the program more than once and from any public health unit or its partners.
- The Ministry has indicated that private dental providers will be eligible to provide services under the OSDCP if they are a contractual partner with the local public health unit and the compensation for the service provided is based on salaries and not a fee guide.
- Program administration (application, eligibility determination and enrollment) will be centrally managed by the Ministry.
- Toronto Public Health will be responsible for program management, client navigation, and service delivery, including coordinating delivery through CHC, AHAC and private dental providers; and reporting to the Ministry. Further details on this role are forthcoming from the Ministry.

In 2018, approximately 10,000 low income seniors were treated under the TPH Municipal Dental program. On full implementation of OSDCP, operating capacity will allow for an additional 17,000 eligible low income seniors, thus increasing treatment capacity in Toronto to 27,000.

As part of the Ministry's implementation, TPH will be applying for capital funding to procure or construct infrastructure to support program delivery. As additional details about OSDCP are made available, TPH will update the Board of Health on the impact of the program on Toronto's low income seniors, as well as, on how the 100 per cent provincially-funded low income seniors dental program will affect the City's 100 per cent funded Municipally Dental program. The annual budget for the City of Toronto Municipal Dental program is \$6,600 thousand.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Letter from Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated June 7, 2019 regarding Funding for the New Dental Program for Low-Income Seniors