
2020 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Investments in Youth and Community Violence Prevention and Intervention

Issue/Background:

- This briefing note responds to a request from the January 17, 2020 meeting of the Budget Committee for the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to provide a breakdown and update of funding investments to the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, as well as a list of actions from the July 2018 Immediate Steps to Reduce Gun Violence report that remain unfunded by the Government of Canada. The note also clarifies the context for eleven (11) unfilled positions in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration Division.

Key Points:

Section 1: Investments in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy

- The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) was unanimously adopted by City Council in 2014 as a five-year strategy to provide more accessible and relevant supports to youth who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence, within the City's authority to plan, manage, deliver and advocate. TYES included 110 actions.
- Between 2015 and 2019, the City of Toronto made a total cumulative investment of \$103.3M which includes City of Toronto's own investment of \$48.6M and funds leveraged from Provincial and Federal governments of \$41.6M and \$13.0M respectively, as illustrated in Table 1.
- The City's investments were across the five TYES program streams: Prevention, Alternatives to Criminalization, Community-Based Investments, Policy Reform and the Intervention, with the majority of funding going to Intervention initiatives and initiatives that created Alternatives to Criminalization.
- Capital investment in Youth Shelters and Drop-in Centres in Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) accounts for all the Federal investment of \$41.6M with City of Toronto's investment of \$20.3M or 50% of Federal investment; to a total investment of \$61.9M.

Table 1. Cumulative Investment in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, 2015-2019

TYES Actions (\$'000)	Division	City Funded	Funded by Provincial Govt.	Funded by Federal Govt.	Cumulative Investments 2015 - 2019
Total Budget (Gross)		48,657.7	41,607.8	13,019.1	103,284.6
Prevention Stream		10,520.8	0.0	13,019.1	23,539.9
Storybook Parents Program	TPL	250.0			250.0
Community Healing Program	SDFA	250.0		1,161.3	1,411.3
Employment Readiness Program	SDFA	50.0			50.0
Employment and Wellness	SDFA	115.7			115.7
Support for Parents	SDFA	200.0			200.0
Toronto Youth Job Corp. (TYJC)	SDFA	3,283.2		11,857.8	15,140.9
Specialized YOWs (TYPE)	SDFA	3,355.2			3,355.2
Teen Zones & Innovation Hubs	TPL	2,490.0			2,490.0
Toronto Public Library Digital Innovation Hubs Expansion	TPL	400.0			400.0
TYES Frontline Workers' Workshop Series	SDFA	50.0			50.0
YouthWorx	SDFA/TCH	76.7			76.7
Community Based Investments		15,889.6	0.0	0.0	15,889.6
Restorative Justice	SDFA	250.0			250.0
Pre-Charge Diversion	SDFA	1,213.5			1,213.5
FOCUS	SDFA	1,100.0			1,100.0
Project Prosper	SSHA	516.3			516.3
TPL Open Hours	TPL	5,303.9			5,303.9
Enhanced Youth Spaces	PFR	7,506.0			7,506.0
Community Based Investments		1,045.0	0.0	0.0	1,045.0
INI Youth Grants	SDFA	1,045.0			1,045.0
Policy Reform Stream		470.0	0.0	0.0	470.0
TYES Table	SDFA	440.0			440.0
TYES Town Halls	TPH	30.0			30.0
Intervention Stream		20,732.3	41,607.8	0.0	62,340.1
Youth Violence Intervention	SDFA	444.4			444.4
Youth Shelters and Drop-in Centres	SSHA	20,287.9	41,607.8		61,895.7

- Through the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Social Development, Finance and Administration and its divisional and community partners, designed, incubated and implemented a number of programs and initiatives that focus on intervening in the lives of vulnerable young people, preventing them from engaging in violence, and helping them prepare for a promising future with youth education and employment opportunities
- Examples of the impact of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy include:
 - Delivery of over 100 life skills workshops for 1,000+ youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence and aided an additional 364 youth to secure employment and education upgrading.
 - Provision of case management for 30 youth on remand for gun possession throughout the period of their sentencing, incarceration and reintegration.
 - Training to 500 City staff from Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Library and Toronto Employment and Social Services to work effectively through conflict with youth who are vulnerable to serious crime and violence.
 - Delivery of 8 workshops and toolkits for City and community-based frontline youth workers on how to reach and support youth vulnerable to violence and crime (topics include: employment for youth with criminal records, educational attainment for incarcerated and recently released youth, trauma-informed practice & self-care, mentorship, and outreach).
 - Support to the Employment Connections Central Intake Process to connect youth on probation to Employment Ontario partners.
 - Support to secure full-time trades employment for 120 youth on probation or parole or who identify as having a conflict with the law.
 - Development of a database to track service delivery for over 500 youth, while maintaining confidentiality for participants.

TYES Legacy Initiatives in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget

- In 2019, the five-year mandate of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy was achieved. Not only has TYES helped the City achieve impactful outcomes for a complex group of Toronto youth whose needs have historically been unmet by traditional City and community service practices, but in doing so, it introduced and demonstrated new effective approaches for youth violence prevention and intervention and enhanced several existing models to better serve youth most vulnerable to involvement in crime and violence.
- Social Development, Finance and Administration continues 15 such legacy initiatives for TYES through 2020 as part of the staff recommended base budget for the Youth Development Unit.

- Table 2 outlines the \$8.4M of base budget resources committed in Social Development's 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget to advance these promising, impactful initiatives arising from the Strategy and to help sustain the progress made over the previous five years. These initiatives are being monitored in preparation to scale and replicate to achieve the strongest outcomes for vulnerable youth.

Table 2. TYES Legacy Initiatives in the 2020 Staff Recommended Base Budget for Social Development

TYES Legacy Initiatives	2020 Staff Recommended Base Budget
Community Healing Program	1,380.3
Employment and Wellness	115.7
Support for Parents	200.0
Toronto Youth Job Corp. (TYJC)	2,460.4
Specialized YOWs (TYPE)	1,647.0
TYES Frontline Workers' Workshop Series	20.0
YouthWorx	76.7
Restorative Justice	50.0
Pre-Charge Diversion	745.7
FOCUS	345.9
INI Youth Grants	245.0
TYES Table	88.0
Youth Violence Intervention: 3 CDO, Social Media Content Development, Violence Threat Risk Training and Protocol	454.1
Employment Readiness Program	10.0
Project Prosper	516.3
Total	8,355.2

Section 2: Investments in the Immediate Steps to Reduce Gun Violence

- By most measures, Toronto is a safe city. However, escalating gun violence in 2018 remains a persistent concern. The roots of community violence stem from inequities in our city and diminishing social determinants of health that often leave young people and their families vulnerable. If left unattended these inequities can manifest into complex conditions including community violence.

- In July 2018, City Council considered a report, Immediate Steps to Address Gun Violence arising out of discussions between the City, Toronto Police Service, and Toronto Community Housing Corporation. Council authorized staff to submit applications to the National Crime Prevention Centre for \$32.7M of new investment over five years to grow community safety initiatives primarily impacting youth.
- A number of the applications were based on initiatives arising from the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, as well as the work of Social Development's Community Safety and Well-being Unit. Authorization was also given to the Police Service to apply for \$15M in enforcement funding.
- These intergovernmental applications were based on the recognition that the City of Toronto, through its commitment and best efforts, could not effectively address the root causes of gun violence on its own and needed federal and provincial partnerships.
- The staff complement of Social Development, Finance & Administration was increased in anticipation of Federal investment in the requested initiatives over a five year period.
- In 2019, Social Development received a five year federal commitment of \$6.8M towards one of the six applicant initiatives, Community Healing. The Community Healing Project is a trauma-informed and peer-based approach to tackling the impact of exposure to community violence on youth. As a TYES legacy initiative, it was showing promising outcomes. To date, the model has been developed and is being refined, leading to 53 youth being trained as healers, 10 youth employed and 20 communities impact. As the initiative continues to grow through the federal investment, it is being monitored and evaluated as a promising practice that can be scaled or replicated.
- Table 3 outlines the \$26.2M in initiatives that remain unfunded by the Government of Canada.

Table 3: Initiatives to Reduce Gun Violence Unfunded by the Federal Government

City of Toronto Funding Requested for National Crime Prevention (July 2018 Applications)		
Initiative Title ('000s)	NCP Grant Status (Total over 5 Years)	Year One Status
Community Healing A trauma-informed and peer-based approach to tackling the impact of exposure to community violence on youth. As a TYES legacy initiative, it was showing promising outcomes.	6,492.6 Funded	1,281.3 Funded
More Life Skills Community based diversion from violence for youth ages 12 to 17 including life skills development and mentoring programs, with a focus on Black and Indigenous young people to serve 5,000 youth.	3,765.6 Unfunded	752.8 Unfunded
Community Safety & Wellbeing Expansion Expansion of the SDFA base program ¹ , Community Crisis Response which supports communities affected by violence through mobilizing local resources to address needs and coordinates community debriefings and community healing; and of the capacity to identify responses to current and emerging issues that precipitate youth violence.	5,506.2 Partially City Funded: 275.0 ²	1,052.3 Partially City Funded: 275.0 ²
TO Wards Peace Develop and implement an integrated violence interruption model for those most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence. Adapts a best practice from NYC.	6,550.0 Year One City Funded: 1,500.0	1,500.0 ³ City Funded
Violence Prevention: Programming to Support Vulnerable Youth Enhancements to Toronto Youth Partnerships and Employment Program (TYPE) and YouthWorx training and employment programs.	5,610.4 Unfunded	1,089.4 Unfunded
Youth Recreation Expansion Enhancements to the Toronto Sport Leadership Program (TSLP) ⁴ by 300 youth annually and Recreation Drop-In Expansion and Youth Recreation Spaces that recreation programming and skill development.	4,725.2 Unfunded	890.5 Unfunded
Total Federal Funding Requested	32,650.0	6,566.3
Total Unfunded by Federal Gov.	26,157.4	5,285.0
Total Included in 2020 Staff Recommended Budget		3,056.3

¹ Community Crisis Response is funded in the base budget of SDFA for \$799K Gross and \$610K Net (including 7 FTEs) in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget.

² This initiative is titled, Community Crisis Response Expansion in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget.

³ Year One of TO Wards Peace includes \$300K in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget and additional \$1.2M in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for SDFA.

⁴ Toronto Sport Leadership Program is funded in the base budget of PFR's 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for \$110K.

- Table 3 also indicates City investment in two of the applications: TO Wards Peace (\$1.5M) and the Community Safety and Well-being Extension (\$275K).
- On October 2, 2019, City Council approved a \$300K investment³ from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (MM10.2) for Social Development to begin work on TO Wards Peace, an integrated violence interruption model for those most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence, adapted from a best practice from New York City. Immediately, Social Development entered into partnership agreements with Black Creek Community Centre to further develop the model in preparation for implementation.
- These two new and enhanced initiatives for youth violence interventions in the 2020 Staff Recommended Operating Budget, totaling \$1.8M, are reflected as Federal investments while advocacy continues for intergovernmental investments into them and the other immediate initiatives to reduce gun violence whose year one requirement amounts to \$6.6M as show in Table 3. For example, Mayor Tory has met with, written to and called upon Federal and Provincial Ministers to advocate for improved funding partnerships and increased gun controls. However, Social Development’s budget notes stipulates that the “division will proceed with implementing the initiative and continue to advocate for Federal funding in 2020.” In the interim, the City will backstop these initiatives with reserve funding in order that they can proceed.

Eleven Staff Positions Unfunded by the Federal Government

- The 2020 Staff Recommended Operating for Social Development, Finance & Administration show a reduction in 11 staff positions. These positions were created in the division’s 2019 Approved Operating Budget in anticipation of Federal funding for five youth safety initiatives for which the division applied but did not receive funding.
- Through the deletion of these 11 positions, the 2020 Operating Budget reflects the fact that there are no federal funds for those positions nor the initiatives they were meant to advance. Since there was not funding confirmation from the federal government, these positions were unfilled and the deletion of these positions remains strictly a budget adjustment and does not cause any loss of employment.

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Date: January 23, 2020