

## **Service Agreements Awarded and Executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2022**

**Date:** June 7, 2022

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Medical Officer of Health

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to provide information on the purchase of service contracts awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2022, according to the delegation of authority by City Council, and request City Council authority for the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend purchase of services contracts and capital funding agreements with organizations to deliver dental health programming and services that contribute to the health and well-being of Torontonians.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend, on an ongoing basis, purchase of service contracts for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program with the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, on such terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form approved by the City Solicitor.
2. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to enter into capital funding agreements for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program with Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities for the receipt and expenditure of funding on such terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form approved by the City Solicitor.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved by City Council in the 2022 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health. Attachment 1 outlines

\$8.192 million in service contracts awarded and executed by program to support delivery for 2022.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On July 14, 2021, City Council adopted the report from the Medical Officer of Health that outlined the service agreements awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2021/2022.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.HL29.5>

At its meeting on August 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2000, City Council delegated authority to the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute, and amend on an ongoing basis the purchase of service contracts.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2000/agendas/council/cc/cc000801/pof10rpt/cl037.pdf>

## **COMMENTS**

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Toronto Public Health (TPH) currently has service contracts with partner agencies that support service delivery in the community for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, the Sexual Health program, the Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults program, the Ontario Seniors Dental Care program, the Mobile Good Food Market program and the Community Food Works program.

Purchasing services from community agencies is an effective and efficient way to provide essential public health services. This approach builds on existing service infrastructure in the community, facilitates community partnerships, support continuity of service to clients, and maximize service efficiencies.

### **Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program**

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is a 100 percent Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) funded program that provides home visiting services to at-risk families. In an effort to support local community capacity and avoid service duplication, the family home visiting service contracts were awarded to and executed with four local agencies engaged in providing peer home visiting services. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

### **Sexual Health Program**

The Sexual Health Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health and the City of Toronto (the City). Purchase of service arrangements are in place with Hassle Free Clinic; the Birth Control and VD Information Centre; and the Immigrant

Women's Health Centre. These clinics deliver services that address the needs of specific client populations and can identify and respond quickly to gaps in service or emerging sexual health needs.

Toronto Public Health also has purchase of service agreements with five community agencies. These agencies deliver sexual health promotion services reaching specific high risk and hard to reach populations.

### **Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults Program**

City Council has approved funding for three agencies that use volunteer dental professionals to provide dental services to street youth and low/no income adults, 18-64 year olds, who are unable to pay for dental care in the private sector. These agencies are: Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre (an amalgamation of Central Toronto and Parkdale Community Health Centres), Evergreen Centre for Street Youth Yonge Street Mission; and The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care.

The agencies use the funds to purchase dental supplies, repair dental equipment, subsidize dental assistant salaries and provide honorariums for dental professionals such as dentists and dental hygienists. These funds assist with keeping the clinics operating and attracting volunteers. Agencies that provide free dental care to these residents also receive funds through charitable donations.

### **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program**

On November 20, 2019 the Government of Ontario launched the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), a 100 percent Ministry of Health funded program for low income Ontario seniors. Dental treatments for OSDCP eligible seniors are available through clinics located within Public Health Units (PHUs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs).

Under the Ministry of Health's Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement (the Agreement), TPH may enter into contractual partnerships with organizations to provide eligible OSDCP seniors with specialty dental services that are part of the OSDCP service schedule, but unavailable through PHUs, CHCs and AHACs.

Additionally, the Agreement allows TPH to enter into contractual partnerships with organizations such as CHCs and AHACs to build new clinics and expand the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. Two new partnerships for 2022 include Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, and the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre. Both capital renovations will further enhance services to OSDCP seniors. City Council authority is required to enable the Medical Officer of Health to enter into a capital funding agreement to enable renovations to the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities to accommodate the delivery of dental services and a purchase of service agreement with Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre to further support service delivery and access to care for the OSDCP.

## **Mobile Good Food Market Program**

The Mobile Good Food Markets Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health and the City. Mobile Good Food Markets are produce stores on wheels that bring low cost, fresh fruits and vegetables into low income communities underserved by traditional suppliers. They focus primarily on Neighbourhood Improvement Areas where a high proportion of newcomers, single-parent families and seniors living in high-rise apartments do not have ready access to healthy food.

Launched in 2012, the program is a collaboration between TPH and FoodShare Toronto. A donated Toronto Transit Commission Wheel-Trans vehicle was retrofitted as a Mobile Market, which operates at multiple locations in low-income neighbourhoods across the city throughout the year.

## **Community Food Works Program**

The Community Food Works (CFW) Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health and the City. Community Food Works integrates food handler training and certification, food literacy and employment skills development. This is achieved through training and support of low income community participants, including newcomers and refugees, using an adult education, learner-centred approach. Initiated in 2011, CFW had been delivered through TPH in collaboration with Working Women Community Centre (WWCC), other community partners, as well as, with Toronto Employment and Social Services.

To support program continuity and the ability to expand and garner additional resources, the City has entered into a Purchase of Service agreement with WWCC to operate the program. Toronto Public Health continues to support partnership development – both within City divisions and in the community – as well as strategic advice and evaluation support. As a well-established, not-for-profit community organization with considerable experience in project management, employment skills development, settlement services and community capacity building, WWCC is well positioned to operate the program and to provide considerable additional in-kind resources and external funding.

## **Creating Health Plus Program**

The Creating Health Plus (CHP) Program is a cost-shared program between the Ministry of Health and the City. Creating Health Plus is a partnership program between Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, North York Harvest, Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC), and TPH in response to research that identified considerable nutritional gaps in meals served at Toronto drop-ins. In a climate of rising food insecurity that is exacerbated by rising food prices and increasing cost of living, this program serves the city's most vulnerable people, many of whom are homeless or under-housed, have mental health or substance use issues and/or are street involved. For most clients the meal served at the drop-ins is their primary or only source of food for the day. Creating Health Plus intervenes by providing Toronto's drop-ins regular and reliable access to five fresh foods on a weekly basis, including fruits, vegetables, milk, yoghurt and eggs, which provides a preventative health intervention.

This funding will support a part-time project manager to oversee the CHP. In addition, TPH provides in-kind support through nutrition advice and participation on the CHP advisory committee, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration provides funding annually to cover the cost of food, and PARC has the role of trustee and overall project management of the program.

More information about programs, funding and contract amounts can be found in Attachment 1.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Medical Officer of Health

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1: Toronto Public Health – 2022/23 Service Contracts