



Dear Budget Committee,

As a service user and President of the Toronto and Central Ontario Regional Hemophilia Society, I wish to bring your attention to how the proposed cuts to the Community Service Partnerships Program would negatively affect our organisation and the bleeding disorders community in Toronto.

TCOR is a registered non-profit organisation that provides programs and services to people with inherited bleeding disorders in the Toronto region. We strive to improve the health and quality of life of over 1500 clients affected by these chronic disorders. The populations we serve include newly diagnosed families, youth transitioning to independent medical care, people infected with HIV and/or hepatitis C through tainted blood products, and other men, women and children affected by inherited bleeding disorders who often face numerous challenges. Without proper care and treatment, inherited bleeding disorders can be fatal.

In 2011, TCOR received a \$31,845 grant from the City of Toronto through the Community Service Partnerships Program. The grant made up 27% of TCOR's annual operating budget. We have been funded through this program for over 15 years. We are gravely concerned by the Budget Committee's recommendation that 83 out of the existing 777 grants under the CSP program be cut. Without this grant, it would be impossible to maintain our current level of service. TCOR is the only local organisation serving the bleeding disorders community by providing support groups, educational events, psychosocial support, financial support for medical needs, individual advocacy, referrals and much more.

An important aspect of our programming is reducing isolation and providing peer support for people affected by bleeding disorders. An excellent example is TCOR's Families in Touch program which connects families from across the GTA to share experiences while benefiting from educational workshops on topics ranging from traveling with a bleeding disorder to navigating the Emergency Department. Recently, this program has attracted many newcomer families from diverse backgrounds who learn from established families about accessing care and support in their new communities. This program is entirely dependent on CSP funding.

As a representative of TCOR, but especially as a service user, I ask you to reconsider the proposed cuts. Cuts to the CSP program will be detrimental to the services on which our community depends; we believe that budget cuts should not be made on the backs of those most in need.

Sincerely,

Maury Drutz
President, Board of Directors
Toronto and Central Ontario Regional Hemophilia Society