

## **Student Nutrition Program Proposed Expansion in High Need Schools 2013-17**

<b>Date:</b>	October 12, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health
<b>From:</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### **SUMMARY**

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This report outlines a proposed expansion component to extend municipal funding to higher need schools that currently do not have a student nutrition program. The proposed expansion component supplements the proposed multi-year plan to stabilize existing student nutrition programs endorsed by the Board of Health on September 24, 2012 <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.5> and outlines an additional request for municipal Student Nutrition Program funding in the 2013 Operating Budget process.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:**

1. City Council approve the Board of Health's previous request for a \$1,257,416 gross/net increase to municipal funding in 2013 towards stabilizing existing Student Nutrition Programs; including \$247,616 for the inflationary cost of food in 2012/13;
2. City Council approve \$222,912 gross/net towards expanding Student Nutrition Programs into 19 additional schools beginning in the 2013/14 school year;
3. The Board of Health endorse, in principle, a proposed five year plan for expansion of the Student Nutrition Program in Toronto in high need schools, with an incremental increase in municipal investment over the next five years to provide up to 20% of estimated program costs;

4. The Board of Health forward this report to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2013 Operating Budget process;
5. The Board of Health forward this report to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care, and Education, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, the Angel Foundation for Learning, United Way Toronto, and the Greater Toronto Civic Action Alliance.

### Financial Impact

The Toronto Public Health (TPH) 2012 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$3,819,580 gross and net for Student Nutrition Programs. This report recommends an allocation of \$1,480,328 for the 2013 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget, comprised of \$1,257,416 to stabilize current student nutrition programs and \$222,912 to support program expansion and extend funding to 19 schools which currently do not have a student nutrition program, at the proposed level of funding of 11.5% of total program costs. The new recommended base budget will be \$5,299,908 in 2013.

The report also recommends the approval, in principle, of a proposed 5 year funding plan for program expansion that will result in an estimated increase in funding by the City from \$3,819,580 gross and net in 2012 to \$5,299,908 in 2013; \$7,035,924 in 2014; \$8,741,726 in 2015; \$10,661,849 in 2016 and \$12,811,168 in 2017 (Appendix 1). The proposed plan will need to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis for consideration in future budget processes.

Focus of Investment in 2013	Recommendation	Net Increase
<b>Expansion to New Programs</b> (Extend funding to 19 schools that are ready as of 2012 to begin a program)	Endorse additional municipal funds of \$222,912, at a 11.5% contribution rate, to support 19 additional schools, reaching 5,890 students.	\$222,912
	<b>Net increase for stabilization</b> <b>Note:</b> This request has already been put forward for consideration in the 2013 operating budget process.	<b>\$1,257,416</b>
	<b>Total net increase for stabilization and expansion</b>	<b>\$1,480,328</b>
	<b>Recommended base budget in 2013:</b> \$3,819,580 + \$1,480,328	<b>\$5,299,908</b>

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its June 25, 2012 meeting, the Board of Health endorsed the report *Nourishing Young Minds – A Review of the Student Nutrition Program in Toronto* <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL15.3>. The Board of Health also endorsed a request for a \$247,616 net increase to the 2013 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget to be distributed to existing municipally funded student nutrition programs to cover the inflationary impact of increased food costs and forwarded the report to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2013 Operating Budget process. The report was approved at the Council meeting on July 11, 12 and 13, 2012.

The report *Nourishing Young Minds* recommended that a long-term funding strategy be developed that would bring stability to existing programs and support expansion over time to new schools that would benefit from having a nutrition program. On September 24, 2012, the Board of Health endorsed a funding partnership model to bring greater stability to existing student nutrition programs. The model also proposed an incremental increase in the City's investment over five years, beginning with an enhancement request for the 2013 operating budget process. A plan for expansion was not included, recognizing the immediate need to stabilize existing programs in light of the current fiscal restraint at the City.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.5>

At its September 24, 2012 meeting, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee, at its meeting on September 27, 2012, on expanding the Student Nutrition Program to higher needs schools which currently do not have a program, but where a need has been identified based on school board information. At its meeting on September 27, 2012, the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee requested that the Medical Officer of Health bring a proposal for expansion forward to the October 22, 2012 Board of Health meeting for consideration.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

As concluded in the report *Nourishing Young Minds*, evidence demonstrates that children and youth who start their day with a nutritious breakfast are more likely to succeed in school and experience positive health and education outcomes, regardless of socio-economic family status. Furthermore, the evidence indicates that children and youth of lower socio-economic status have more irregular breakfast habits and would potentially benefit the most from a breakfast program at school.

Currently, the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition Steering Committee is unable to extend the current available municipal and provincial funding to schools wishing to start new programs because existing funded programs would have to take a funding cut if new programs were also funded within the same funding envelope.

Based on an analysis of publically funded Toronto schools that currently do not have a student nutrition program, there are 127 schools that would be considered higher need schools (i.e. defined by the school boards as having a significant proportion of students coming from low income areas) and have students who would benefit most from having

access to a nutritious breakfast each day at school. In 2012, 19 of these schools (5,890 students) applied for municipal and provincial funding and were not approved due to funding restrictions. The priority for the 2013 Operating Budget request for an expansion component in the 2013/14 school year is to allow the 19 schools (10 elementary, 9 secondary) that already expressed a need for a breakfast/morning meal program to access municipal funding in line with the municipal funding levels for existing programs (i.e., 11.5% of total program costs or \$222,912). For the remaining 108 higher need schools (96 elementary and 12 secondary, representing 36,485 potential additional students), it is proposed that, pending school readiness, municipal funding be expanded during the years 2014-17 to reach approximately 27 additional schools each year and increased to 20% of program costs by 2017 (see Appendix 2). The proposed expansion component is consistent with the five-year stabilization plan endorsed by the Board of Health (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.5>).

## **COMMENTS**

### **Limitations**

At this time, it is not known whether the Ministry of Children and Youth Services intends to allocate Student Nutrition Program provincial funding for expansion. Therefore, the potential new 19 programs for 2013 and up to 108 additional programs over 2014-17 may not be eligible to receive matching provincial funds within these time periods. Without provincial funding, new programs would be in a less stable position compared to programs which have both municipal and provincial core funding.

### **Expansion to Other Higher Needs Schools**

Other than the 19 schools that have expressed their interest to start a student nutrition program, it is not known how many of the identified 108 higher need schools would be ready and willing to begin a student nutrition program as early as 2014 (for the 2014/2015 school year). Also over time, changes in the environment of the schools identified as reaching higher need students (i.e., enrolment, school closures/mergers/expansions, school catchment areas, neighbourhood gentrification, etc.), may affect whether the current list of schools would continue to be eligible in the future. Over the next few years, the readiness of these schools to begin a program can be determined, which can inform a more accurate plan for expansion. The proposed municipal funds to support expansion into higher needs schools are estimates and will require updating, depending on how many schools are ready to start a program within the proposed time frame. See Appendices 1 and 2 for further details.

### **Proposed Cost-shared Partnership Funding Model**

As with the proposed funding model for a fully implemented program where 20% of total program costs would be contributed by each of the five sectors (federal, provincial, municipal, private, and local) by 2017, any expansion would also need to achieve the optimal funding model in order to be most successful.

## **CONCLUSION**

The long-term vision endorsed in *Nourishing Young Minds* is for student nutrition programs to be available in any Toronto school with children and youth who would benefit and can achieve the positive health, learning and behavioural outcomes that result from this key nutrition strategy. This does not, however, mean that every school in Toronto would necessarily implement a nutrition program. At a time when childhood obesity is threatening the health of our children, in conjunction with the increasing cost of nutritious food and difficult economic situations faced by many families in this City, an investment of municipal funds to enable additional higher need schools to meet the nutrition needs of their students would bring Toronto a step closer towards this vision.

## **CONTACT**

Carol Timmings  
Director  
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-392-1355  
Email: [ctimming@toronto.ca](mailto:ctimming@toronto.ca)

Denise Vavaroutsos  
Supervisor, Student Nutrition Program  
Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-338-8605  
Email: [dvavarou@toronto.ca](mailto:dvavarou@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. David McKeown  
Medical Officer of Health

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix 1: Summary of Proposed Municipal Investment to Stabilize and Expand Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto
- Appendix 2: Timeline of Proposed Plan for Stabilization and Expansion

**Appendix 1**

**Summary of Proposed Municipal Investment to Stabilize and Expand Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto**

2012 Base Budget: \$3,819,580

	5-Year Stabilization Plan of Existing Programs			5-Year Potential Expansion Plan			Combined	
Budget Year (School Year)	Description of Proposed Stabilization Requests	Projected Net Increase in Municipal Funding Requested for Stabilization	Sub-total of New Projected Annual Base Operating Budget Requested for Stabilization of Existing Programs	Description of Proposed Expansion Requests	Projected Net Increase in Municipal Funding Requested for Expansion	Sub-total of New Projected Funding for Expansion Component	Projected Net Increase in Municipal Funding Requested for Stabilization AND Expansion	New Projected Annual Base Operating Budget Requested for Stabilization AND Expansion
2013 (2013/14)	Increase investment to 11.5% of program costs Extend funding to 25 programs with only provincial funding	\$1,257,416	\$5,076,996	Extend funding to 19 schools, ready to start a program, at 11.5% of program costs	\$222,912	\$222,912	\$1,480,328	\$5,299,908
2014 (2014/15)	Increase investment to 14% of program costs	\$1,289,116	\$6,366,112	Increase investment to 14% of program costs Extend funding to ~ 27 higher need schools	\$446,900	\$669,812	\$1,736,016	\$7,035,924
2015 (2015/16)	Increase investment to 16% of program costs	\$1,127,711	\$7,493,823	Increase investment to 16% of program costs Extend funding to ~ 27 more higher need schools	\$578,091	\$1,247,903	\$1,705,802	\$8,741,726
2016 (2016/17)	Increase investment to 18% of program costs	\$1,189,644	\$8,683,467	Increase investment to 18% of program costs Extend funding to ~27 more higher need schools	\$730,479	\$1,978,382	\$1,920,123	\$10,661,849
2017 (2017/18)	Increase investment to 20% of program costs	\$1,254,279	\$9,937,746	Increase investment to 20% of program costs Extend funding to remaining ~ 27 higher need schools	\$895,040	\$2,873,422	\$2,149,319	\$12,811,168
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,118,166</b> (estimated)			<b>\$2,873,422</b> (estimated)		<b>\$8,991,588</b> (estimated)	

Note: All projections include estimated annual food cost increase of 3%, to be adjusted annually based on Nutritious Food Basket survey results.

**Timeline of Proposed Plan for Stabilization and Expansion**

Stabilize existing municipally funded programs						Stabilization of Existing Programs
Stabilize 25 programs with only provincial funding by extending municipal funding	plus 25					
Expand funding to 19 schools ready to start a program	plus 19					Expansion to 127 Additional Higher Need Schools
Expand funding to 108 other higher need schools		plus ~27	plus ~27	plus ~27	plus ~27	
<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	
<b>Municipal Funding Level</b>	<b>11.50%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>	