



## **STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED**

### **Budget Adjustment to the Toronto Public Health Approved 2012 Operating Budget**

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| <b>Date:</b>             | November 19, 2012                                      |
| <b>To:</b>               | City Council   |
| <b>From:</b>             | Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer |
| <b>Wards:</b>            | All  |
| <b>Reference Number:</b> |  |

#### **SUMMARY**

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Toronto Public Health (TPH) is the lead agency for Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services (TPSLS). The program is 100 percent funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). This report requests approval from Council for an increase to the TPH Approved 2012 Operating Budget so that a new one-time grant can be used immediately in December 2012 to adjust current purchase of service contracts and provide service to more children in order to reduce the list waiting for assessment and treatment in Toronto. No additional TPH staff is required to implement this increase in service.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer recommends that:**

1. Council approve a one-time funding increase of \$219,550 gross and \$0.0 net to the Toronto Public Health Approved 2012 Operating Budget for a 100 percent grant from the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services for the Toronto Preschool Speech and Language program that is to be used to reduce the wait list of children needing speech and language assessment and treatment.

## **Financial Impact**

The one-time increase of \$219,550 gross/\$0 net to the TPH Approved 2012 Operating Budget is fully funded by a grant received from the Ontario Ministry of Children of Youth Services (MCYS) to be used prior to the provincial fiscal year-end of March 31, 2013. No additional TPH staff is required to implement this increase in service.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The TPH Approved 2012 Operating Budget includes base funding of \$7,271 thousand gross/\$0 net provided by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to TPH as the lead agency to coordinate Toronto Preschool Speech and Language services (TPSLS).

## **COMMENTS**

Funding for this program has been frozen since 2007, making it challenging to address the growing demand for service. TPH has worked extensively with the community and service partners to maximize the value of services received. However, the long wait list for service has become the normal state over the past several years. TPH identified to the Ministry that additional funding is necessary in order to reduce the wait list. MCYS responded in the 2011/12 provincial fiscal year by providing TPSLS with a one-time grant of \$500,000 to initiate assessments for the children on the wait list. With that grant, the wait list was reduced by 700 children.

However, in the absence of increased base funding, the wait list has once again grown and there are currently more than 1000 children on it. In response, MCYS is providing TPSLS with another one-time grant of \$219,550. Once again, this will be used to support the provision of additional speech and language assessment and treatment for children that are currently on the wait list. This funding will allow TPSLS to reduce that list by approximately 350 children between December 2012 and March 31, 2013. While not a permanent solution to the growing demand for service, it will significantly reduce the wait time for those children already on the wait list and support their transition to school.

Speech and language services are provided through purchase of service agreements. The additional service funded by this new grant will be done through an adjustment to an existing purchase of service agreement. No added TPH staff is required to implement this increase in service.

## **CONTACT**

Susan Makin  
Healthy Families Director  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-338-7832  
Email: [smakin@toronto.ca](mailto:smakin@toronto.ca)

Shirley MacPherson  
Director, Finance & Administration  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-392-7467  
Email: [smacphe@toronto.ca](mailto:smacphe@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Giuliana Carbone  
Acting Deputy City Manager  
and Chief Financial Officer