



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

2013/2014 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

Date:	May 30, 2013
To:	City Council
From:	Deputy City Manager, Chief Financial Officer Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report outlines the recommendations of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) Steering Committee regarding the 2013/2014 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations from the 2013 Approved Toronto Public Health Operating Budget to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success total \$5,300,380 including \$50,472 held in reserve for appeals/late applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Medical Officer of Health recommend that:

1. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements totalling \$5,300,380 with the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$1,111,587) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$4,188,793) to administer the 2013 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;
2. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation (1), including the execution of legal agreements with the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success on behalf of the City; and
3. City Council direct the Board of Health to forward this report for information to the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District

School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, and le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud.

Financial Impact

The Toronto Public Health 2013 Approved Operating Budget includes funding of \$5,300,380 gross and net for the Student Nutrition Program. This report recommends allocation of \$1,111,587 to the Angel Foundation for Learning and \$4,188,793 to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success which includes \$50,472 held in reserve for appeals/late applications. These funds will be used for eligible student nutrition programs at 476 schools/communities across the City of Toronto.

The recommendations in this report will have no financial impact beyond what has been approved in TPH's 2013 Approved Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meetings held on January 15/16, 2013, City Council approved 2013 municipal funding for student nutrition programs of \$5,300,380. Annually, the Medical Officer of Health submits a report to the Board of Health after the City budget has been finalized and once the application process and funding recommendations are confirmed, to begin the process of allocations to student nutrition programs for the upcoming school year. However, due to a scheduling change with the June Board of Health meeting date, this report has been submitted directly to Council to meet a critical timeline which would ensure that funding allocations are approved and legal contracts are executed before the end of the current school year. Meeting this timeline will ensure that the first instalment of the grant will flow to the Foundations in time to complete their funding preparations for September 2013, when the programs resume.

At this same meeting, City Council requested the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health to review the accountability framework for the city's financial investment in student nutrition. At its May 7/8, 2013 meeting, Council adopted a report from the City Manager which outlined the accountability and controllership regarding City contributions to Student Nutrition Programs by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX31.5>.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) was established in 1998 to allocate municipal and provincial funding to Student Nutrition Programs, to provide program support and to ensure program quality and accountability. TPSN is made up of a Steering Committee and three sub-committees, including an Allocations Sub-committee. Funds are allocated to programs by the TPSN Steering Committee, comprised of student nutrition stakeholders, including Toronto Public Health, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), and community representatives. Standardized meal costs per student are used to estimate program costs. The costs are adjusted annually for food inflation based on the Nutritious Food Basket survey results for Toronto.

COMMENTS

Application and Review Process

The allocation process began in January 2013, when all currently funded Student Nutrition Programs were notified via email to access the full application package from the Toronto Public Health website. For 2013, an invitation to apply was also mailed to the 19 schools identified for an expansion of the Student Nutrition Program for 2013. The website and the supporting documents included instructions on how to complete the application. Non-city staff members of the TPSN assisted individual program sites in preparing applications.

An applications review panel, comprised of staff from Toronto Public Health, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and community partner representatives, met to review applications. Reviewers were instructed on consistent review of applications, using standardized review forms, and followed appropriate conflict of interest guidelines. Applications that were recommended for funding were forwarded to the TPSN Steering Committee for final approval.

Summary of Allocations and Recommendations:

The TPSN Steering Committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of funds:

Foundation	Funding Amount
1. Angel Foundation for Learning (122 schools/communities)	\$ 1,111,587
2. Toronto Foundation for Student Success (354 schools/communities)	\$ 4,138,321
3. Toronto Foundation for Student Success (reserve for appeals/late applications)	\$ 50,472
Total (476 schools/communities reaching 147,622 participants)	\$ 5,300,380

The money held in reserve for appeals/late applications will be used to make adjustments to the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2013. The entire municipal grant is distributed to programs and directed towards the cost of nutritious food; none of the grant is used for administration or overhead. Local programs that are approved for funding will receive their allocated municipal funds in three instalments: one in early September 2013, one in December 2013 and one in March 2014. Programs must submit detailed monthly financial reports to their respective Foundation and address all program requirements to receive subsequent instalment cheques.

Use of Municipal Budget Enhancement for 2013

The priorities outlined in the Student Nutrition Program Five-Year Plan, endorsed by the Board of Health September/October 2012, include:

- Focus investment on breakfast programs in higher need schools
- Stabilize existing programs
- Expand into additional higher needs schools
- Strengthen partnership funding model

City Council approved \$1,480,800 for the enhancement and expansion of Student Nutrition Program as part of the Toronto Public Health 2013 Approved Operating Budget. This funding aligns with the 2013/14 school year. The budget enhancement will help existing programs offset increased food costs, increase the number of operating days, improve nutrition quality of meals, and extend municipal funding to 25 existing programs which received only provincial funding in 2012/13. It will also enable 19 schools with an identified need for a student nutrition program to start a breakfast/morning meal program beginning in September 2013.

Provincial Funding

The municipal application review also serves as the review for provincial funding applications. In Toronto, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services administers the provincial funds via the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS). TFSS then allocates provincial funding for the Catholic program sites to the Angel Foundation for Learning to administer. Programs will receive their provincial funding at the same time as their municipal funding.

The provincial contribution for 2013/14 grants for Student Nutrition Programs in Toronto has not been confirmed to date, however, it is not expected to be less than that in 2012/13 (\$4,117,508). Furthermore, in March 2013 there was an additional one-time funding of \$380,000 applied to the 2012/13 program year, with a portion for existing programs and a portion for the identified 19 new programs to assist in their start-up. The 2012/13 provincial funding also provided \$1,219,000 for community development and administration, bringing the total 2012/13 provincial funding to \$5,716,508.

Toronto's five-year plan to stabilize and expand student nutrition programs calls upon financial support from five key sectors: municipal, provincial and federal governments, and local and private/corporate sectors. Endorsed by the Board of Health, it recognizes that all parts of the community and all governments share in the educational and health benefits of improved child and youth nutrition. In support of the Ontario Healthy Kids Panel report *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy*, released March 2013, the Toronto Board of Health has urged the Government of Ontario to demonstrate the same leadership displayed by the City of Toronto and to increase its investment in Student Nutrition Program funding starting with the 2013/14 provincial funding year. New funds would bring greater stability to existing Toronto programs and provide core provincial funding for the 19 new programs starting in September 2013. The *Healthy Kids Strategy* presented a comprehensive three-pronged strategy to address the issue of preventing childhood obesity and promoting the health and well-being of children and youth in Ontario. It included recommendations to

establish a universal school nutrition program for all Ontario publicly funded elementary and secondary schools and for First Nations communities in the Province.

Parental Contributions and Local Fundraising

Parental contributions and local fundraising contribute to local Student Nutrition Program budgets. There are also in-kind contributions such as school space and school staff and volunteer time to operate the programs. However, higher needs school communities are not able to raise enough local funds to operate their programs to the fullest potential.

Student Nutrition Program Accountability

In January 2013, City Council requested the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health to review the accountability framework for the city's financial investment in student nutrition. At its meeting on May 7/8, 2013, Council adopted a report from the City Manager which confirmed the accountability and oversight of the portion of the city's contribution to the Student Nutrition Program administered by the TFSS by resuming the appointment of a City Council member to the Board of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) through the the Striking Committee, to maintain linkage with the TFSS Board and oversight of the City's contribution to the Student Nutrition Program <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX31.5>. The Medical Officer of Health concurs with the City Manager's findings and is confident that the same level of accountability and oversight are demonstrated by both the TFSS and the AFL in regards to the administration of the City's financial contribution to the student nutrition programs.

The Deputy City Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Medical Officer of Health recommend allocation of municipal funds from the 2013 approved Toronto Public Health operating budget to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success for the 2013/2014 school year to support eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto.

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