



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services Funding for the
Development of a Youth Asset Mapping Tool**

Date:	February 13, 2015
To:	Budget Committee
From:	Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to amend the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) to receive a one-time Provincial grant for the development of a Youth Asset Mapping Tool.

The 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for SDFA prior to the announcement of the additional Provincial grant is \$46.707 million gross and \$30.416 million net. The incremental impact will increase the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for SDFA by \$0.130 million gross, \$0 net, and increase the Recommended Staff Complement by 1 temporary position.

The development of a Youth Asset Mapping Tool will support improved planning and delivery of youth-serving programs and services, supporting the implementation of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to develop a Youth Asset Mapping Tool.

2. City Council amend the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for SDFa to reflect the following:
 - a. a one-time \$0.130 million increase in gross expenditures and \$0.130 million increase in Provincial funding with \$0 net; and
 - b. an increase of one temporary position.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The development of the Youth Asset Mapping Tool initiative is fully funded by the Province, and the delivery of this service requires an amendment that will increase the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for SDFa by \$0.130 million gross and \$0 net, and will add 1 temporary position to the Recommended Staff Complement. The impact of this amendment is summarized in the following table:

	(in \$000s)			
	Gross	Revenue	Net	Complement
2015 Recommended Operating Budget	46,707.0	16,290.6	30,416.4	127.5
Amendment for Youth Asset Mapping Tool	130.0	130.0	0.0	1.0
Amended 2015 Recommended Operating Budget	46,837.0	16,420.6	30,416.4	128.5

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

EQUITY IMPACT

Youth in Toronto face significant vulnerabilities within a youth service system that does not currently provide equitable access and outcomes for this population, such as an inability to find supportive services that leave youth exposed to social and economic marginalization. The Youth Asset Mapping Tool will help youth in Toronto to discover and utilize existing supportive assets in their community. The tool will also provide the City, other orders of governments, service providers and residents with a new open information resource about youth to support collaborative local planning around addressing gaps in youth services.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 19 and 20, 2014, City Council approved the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy which seeks to support youth (aged 13 - 29) who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime both by taking steps to better coordinate youth

service delivery in Toronto and by identifying specific service enhancements directed at those youth who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD26.2>

At its meeting on October 8, 9, and 10, 2013, City Council adopted the Review of City Service Levels Supporting Toronto's At Risk Youth report, which reviewed City service levels for at risk youth and found that information about programs and services needs to be better maintained and better available to the public and other service providers.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD23.8>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In March 2013, a sub-group of the Collective Impact Toronto group of funders, agencies and governments, including United Way Toronto, Success Beyond Limits, the City of Toronto, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), and Ontario Trillium Foundation, began discussions to develop a digital asset map, combining the geography of youth programs and service data. This digital asset map would include programs and services available for youth in Toronto (asset mapping) and information on how youth in Toronto are doing (indicator data).

On February 9, 2015, MCYS confirmed grant funding to the City of Toronto to develop the proposed digital asset map to support the youth-focused service sector. The key deliverable for this project will be to implement a publicly accessible Youth Asset Mapping Tool that will combine youth service and asset data from established partners such as 211 Toronto, with socio-demographic and other youth-related indicator data from sources such as Statistics Canada.

The provincial grant will provide one-time funding for the following activities to be carried out by the City of Toronto:

- Hire one temporary full-time Planning Analyst to support the development of a Youth Asset Mapping Tool;
- Establish data sharing agreements with MCYS and other Government of Ontario Ministries serving youth;
- Acquire neighbourhood-level indicator data on youth and youth service listings;
- Establish and implement a Youth Advisory Council which will guide the work;
- Enhance the City of Toronto's Wellbeing Toronto open-analysis tool to host the Youth Asset Mapping Tool; and
- Engage in knowledge dissemination to assist the community in effectively using the Youth Asset Mapping Tool.

COMMENTS

There is a desire among partners in the youth-serving sector in Toronto to plot the assets (e.g., after-school tutoring programs) available for youth across the city and overlay existing statistical indicator data in a publicly accessible online tool. This tool will

provide a helpful information resource for youth who are seeking services in Toronto and will assist youth-serving agencies and public sector institutions to better connect young people to the services available in the city. The youth asset map will also inform decision-making about gaps in youth services by geography and by program type.

As the developer of the Wellbeing Toronto platform, the City has in place an award-winning platform that can be leveraged to deliver a Youth Asset Mapping Tool. Wellbeing Toronto already meets the needs of a variety of users, including: decision-makers that need data to support neighbourhood level planning; residents that want information to better understand the communities they live, work, and play in; and businesses needing indicators to learn more about their customers or planning their business. Wellbeing Toronto has won three awards: the Municipal Information Systems Association of Canada- Excellence in Municipal Systems- 2012 Partnership Award; the City of Toronto Corporate IT Award of Excellence- 2011 Project Team; and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada- 2011 Leadership Finalist Award.

The development of a Youth Asset Mapping Tool will support the implementation of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy. This strategy identifies six service planning principles to guide decisions on priorities and service improvements: equitable access and outcomes, complexity of vulnerability, positive youth development, age-friendly cities, collaborative action and accountability. The Youth Asset Map will help to ensure that service planning along these principles will be informed by sound evidence and that valuable, neighbourhood-aware information about youth and youth services will be available to all residents.

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SIGNATURE

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