



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Service Canada Funding for the Toronto Youth Job Corps Program

Date:	February 11, 2015
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Acting, Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS#20724

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to renew the agreement with Service Canada for the City-administered Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) program for the 2015 contract year.

TYJC provides pre-employment support, structured employment training, employer placement and follow up supports for youth most distant from the labour market. TYJC was initiated in 1983 and has been reviewed and updated to meet both changing youth needs and funding requirements.

TYJC is administered by the City of Toronto and delivered by three community agencies selected through an open request for proposals process: JVS Toronto, West Neighbourhood House (formerly St. Christopher House), and West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre.

On November 18, 2014, Social Development, Finance and Administration submitted a contract renewal application with an anticipated start date of April 13, 2015. Service Canada approval for the City's application is expected before March 31, 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the Acting, Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to sign a contract renewal agreement with Service Canada, upon Service Canada's approval for the City's renewal application, for the Toronto Youth

Job Corps program for up to \$2,176,898 in federal subsidy with a \$220,729 contribution from the City's tax base, and \$212,580 contribution from the Social Assistance Stabilization Reserve Fund (XQ1054).

2. The appropriate City Officials take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

As outlined in Table 1 below, Social Development, Finance and Administration has applied for a renewal contract for Toronto Youth Job Corps with a total contract value of up to \$2,176,898 gross and \$220,729 net for the April 13, 2015 – April 8, 2016 period.

The 2015 contract proposal includes an increase in the gross of \$86,133, an increase in the federal contribution of \$84,487 with an increase in the net of \$1,647, which is required to maintain the current service model.

Table 1: TYJC 2015 Funding Contract

TYJC Contract Value	2014 - 2015 Contract Year	2015 - 2016 Contract Year	Increase in Contract Period
Gross Expenditures	\$2,090,765	\$2,176,898	\$86,133
Federal Subsidy	\$1,659,102	\$1,743,589	\$84,487
Social Assistance Stabilization Reserve Fund (XQ1054)	\$212,580	\$212,580	\$0
City Net	\$219,082	\$220,729	\$1,647

The 2015 Recommended Operating Budget includes \$1,560,098 gross and \$158,229 net for the 2015 portion of the contract, with \$616,800 gross and \$62,500 net in the 2016 Plan.

The increase in the net is offset by other Program savings, resulting in no net increase in the 2015 Recommended Operating Budget or in the 2016 Recommended Plan for SDF. The uncommitted balance in the Social Assistance Stabilization Reserve Fund at December 31, 2014 is \$16,532,475.

The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council annually approves funding renewal with Service Canada for the City-administered Toronto Youth Job Corps program. At its meeting on December 16, 2013, City Council approved the report, "Service Canada Funding for Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.ED27.8>

At its meeting on February 19 and 20, 2014, City Council unanimously adopted the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy that targets young people (aged 13 to 29) who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime by taking steps to better coordinate youth service delivery in Toronto, and by identifying specific service enhancements to achieve equity in outcomes for these youth.

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

At its meeting on October 8, 2013, City Council adopted a report entitled “Changes to Federal Requirements for the Toronto Youth Job Corps Program” directing the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to comply with Service Canada's Call for Proposal process for the Toronto Youth Job Corps program and in doing so, to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Toronto Youth Job Corps program model. The report also directed that Council be informed of any change in support for 2014 and the implications for vulnerable Toronto youth.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.ED24.4>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Since 1983, the City of Toronto has been administering Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) as a cost-shared program with the federal government. Delivery of the TYJC program has been provided through a partnership between the City and community-based organizations. Contract renewals for TYJC have been carried out on an annual basis by both levels of government.

The current TYJC community-based delivery organizations are: West Neighbourhood House (formerly St. Christopher House) in the downtown core west, JVS in the Jane and Finch area, and West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre in Scarborough. These delivery organizations were selected through a City Request for Proposal process that allows annual contract renewals over a 5-year period (2011-2016).

For the 2014 contract year, the federal government changed its renewal procedure and required the City to comply with a Call for Proposal (CFP) process for its role in administering the TYJC program. As directed by Economic Development Committee at its meeting on September 17, 2013, Social Development, Finance and Administration staff complied with the Call for Proposal which closed on September 30, 2013. The City was selected as the successful proponent for the 2014 - 2017 contract years through this competitive process.

The first of the three year TYJC contract will end on Friday April 10, 2015. On November 18, 2014, Social Development, Finance and Administration submitted a contract renewal application with an anticipated start date of Monday April 13, 2015. Authority is needed to sign the renewal agreement with Service Canada upon their approval of the City's application to continue this long-standing youth employment program.

COMMENTS

The youth unemployment rate in the Toronto region is near 20%, over 5% higher than the national rate. It is also higher than the youth unemployment rate for Ontario (17.1%).¹ In this climate, young people find it is extremely difficult to gain access to jobs. Their employment prospects become more challenging if they lack a high school diploma, have little work experience or have few financial resources to seek employment or training opportunities. Being marginalized from the labour market in this manner can begin to influence the choices these youth make; some may pursue criminal activity or substance abuse, or may experience depression and feelings of hopelessness.

The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) recognizes that not all of Toronto's youth live in the same context of opportunity and support. TYES targets young people who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime by taking steps to better coordinate youth service delivery in Toronto, and by identifying specific service enhancements to achieve equity in outcomes for these youth.

The Toronto Youth Job Corps supports the TYES objectives by assisting vulnerable youth who face multiple barriers to access and maintain employment, education and training opportunities through: (1) in-house workshops tailored to participant needs; (2) community painting projects to simulate work environments and develop basic employment skills; (3) work experience with employers; and (4) individualized client centred case management to meet participant needs and career goals.

The program also supports improved youth service coordination by working in partnership with employers, training providers, community organizations, schools and governments in providing group-based employment skills intervention to youth who have a sporadic or non-existent employment history.

The decision in 2014 by the federal government to cancel the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) program, a funding partnership of 30 years with the City of Toronto, was regrettable as YET provided a unique and mobile approach to connect youth to employment supports and services. The loss of the YET program eliminated yet another valuable service that was critical in engaging the most vulnerable youth in Toronto.

TYJC Connecting Youth to Jobs

The TYJC program supports the objectives of the City's Work Force Development Strategy that connects employers to job seekers, and is aligned with the Mayor's priority to tackle youth unemployment in the city. TYJC is a valuable part of the City's employment services for vulnerable youth who are distant from the labour market. It provides an important foundation for the work currently underway by Toronto

¹ *Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, September 2014..*

Employment and Social Services (TESS), Economic Development and Culture (EDC) and Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFS) to develop a more comprehensive youth employment strategy for the City that will address a broad spectrum of youth employment needs.

In a seven year period from 2006 to 2013, TYJC provided pre-employment training to 1,362 youth: 608 youth obtained employment, and 272 youth returned to school or participated in skill development opportunities.

As detailed in Table 2, for the 2013-2014 contract year, TYJC exceeded the federal targets for securing positive outcomes for youth participants: 106% obtained education/training and/or secured employment. 129% secured employment.

Table 2: Detailed Performance Statistics – Toronto Youth Job Corps (2013-2014)

TYJC Participation Rate	Federal Target	City Achievement	% of Target Met
	# of youth supported to access the labour market		
Youth who started the program	246	251	102%
Youth who left program – medical, moved/lost contact	37	22	59%
Youth who completed pre-employment	209	229	110%

TYJC Outcomes	Federal Target	City Achievement	% of Target Met
Education/Training Obtained	57	37	65%
Employment Secured	103	133	129%
TOTAL Positive Outcomes	160	170	106%

In 2013-2014, TYJC engaged 62 employers who provided 125 youth with on-the-job training opportunities through 153 subsidized job placements. Of the 62 participating employers, 8% are restaurants, 29% from the not-for-profit sector, 24% from retail, 23% from the service sector, 10% from construction/manufacturing, and 6% from other industries.

In the current 2014-2015 term, 184 (70%) out of 263 youth participants who enrolled in the TYJC program are expected to return to school or to secure employment.

TYJC employs a holistic case management approach that is client-centred and able to support youth facing multiple barriers with the comprehensive life skills support they need to prepare for employment, maintain their placements and navigate concerns in other areas of their lives. These program components are proven key success factors of the TYJC model.

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SIGNATURE

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