



2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Allocations and Review Process

Date: June 28, 2018

To: Board of Health

From: Chair, 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report outlines the Toronto Urban Health Fund funding priorities, review process, and funding recommendations for Board of Health approval. The Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel is recommending the allocation of \$662,727 for twelve one-year projects that focus on HIV Prevention, Harm Reduction and/or Child and Youth Resiliency to be used between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019; \$6,081 for 2018 to address minimum wage compliance.

This report also recommends that the Board of Health approve the second year of funding for 40 three-year projects approved in 2017. It should be noted that funding for the three-year projects (i.e., funding for 2019) will require City Council's approval through the 2019 Operating Budgets.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel recommends to the Board of Health that:

1. The Medical Officer of Health allocate \$662,727 for twelve one-year projects in 2018 as recommended by the 2018 TUHF Review Panel, and as outlined in Appendix B and Appendix C of this report;
2. The Medical Officer of Health allocate \$6,081 in 2018 from the Toronto Urban Health Fund to 2018 projects to address minimum wage compliance requirements.
3. The Medical Officer of Health allocate a total of \$2,617,421 in 2018 from the Toronto Urban Health Fund to carry out second year activities of the 40 three-year projects approved by the Board of Health in 2017.
4. The Medical Officer of Health execute Funding Agreements with the approved applicants.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the 2018 allocation is included in the approved 2018 approved Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health (TPH).

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

DECISION HISTORY

On May 28, 2018, the 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel adopted [HF 12.1: Review of Appeals to the 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Grants applications](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HF12.1) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HF12.1>) and heard appeals and made funding allocations recommendations to the Board of Health.

At its meetings on March 20, April 18, 23, 27 and the 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel adopted [HF 11.1: Review of 2018 Applications](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HF11.1) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HF11.1>) and made funding allocations recommendations to the Board of Health

On January 22, 2018, The Board of Health adopted item [HL 24.3: Board of Health Committees and Appointments](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL24.3) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL24.3>) and appointed 16 members and 3 alternate members to serve on the 20183 TUHF Review Panel.

On June 12, 2017, The Board of Health adopted item [HL 20.6: 2017 Toronto Urban Health Fund Allocations and Review Process](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL20.6) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL20.6>) and approved six one-year and 40 three-year projects to receive funding from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 (one-year projects) and from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020 (three-year projects)

COMMENTS

HIV/AIDS prevention as well as the prevention of illicit substance misuse (including harm reduction strategies) is mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the Ministry) through the modernized Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS; 2018) under the Health Promotion and Protection Act (HPPA). The Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) supports the Board of Health (BOH) and Toronto Public Health (TPH) in meeting the OPHS, as the mandate of the TUHF is to provide funding for community-based non-profit organizations in Toronto to build individual and community capacity that will support local HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency initiatives.

Due to cultural and language barriers, stigma and discrimination, and distrust of government organizations, people at risk of acquiring HIV, people who use illicit substances, and/or those who are at-risk of engaging in high-risk behaviors, are often amongst those least likely to access preventive public health services. Community agencies providing HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency programming in Toronto are uniquely positioned to provide accessible, relevant, timely and culturally safe services to these marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Funding Criteria and Priorities

Toronto Urban Health Fund provides opportunities for one and three-year funding. The objective of the one-year funding is to fund innovative interventions that address emerging or short-term public health issues or to conduct needs assessment to increase understanding of the health and programming needs of high risk populations. The objective of the three-year funding is to fund demonstration projects based on effective interventions and community-based best practices that are flexible and responsive to long-term trends. In June 2017, 40 three-year projects were recommended by the Review Panel and approved by the BOH to be funded for the period of July 2017 through June 2020.

Funded projects must address the needs of TUHF priority populations through resiliency building, organizational capacity building, community capacity building and health promotion strategies including: creating supportive environments, strengthening community action, re-orienting health services, and developing personal skills. Funding criteria and priority populations are outlined in Appendix A.

In addition, consideration is given to projects servicing high-needs geographic areas, such as City-designated Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) or neighbourhoods with a high incidence of HIV, Hepatitis C, or overdose. Similarly, further consideration was provided to projects working with African, Caribbean and Black populations, services targeting youth residing in NIAs and organizations that primarily serve First Nations, Métis, or Inuit groups. Emphasis is also placed on reducing the duplication of services by other community agencies, funders, and TPH.

Finally, the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017* that was passed on November 2017 raised the minimum wage to \$14 per hour on January 1, 2018. Two three-year projects that were approved funding in 2017 did not account for the increase in wage rates in their original budgets and the organizations are not able to find in-kind sources to cover the additional staffing costs. It is, therefore, recommended that these two projects receive a total enhancement \$6,081 for the second year of funding.

Community Outreach, Request for Proposals and Support – 2018 Project Solicitation Process

Proposals submitted to TUHF undergo a two-phase review process. During the first phase, potential applicants were invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). In October 2017, TUHF received 49 LOIs (11 from the HIV prevention stream, 13 from the harm reduction stream, and 25 from the Child and Youth Resiliency stream). Letters of Intent were independently reviewed and ranked in accordance with the TUHF project criteria.

Those organizations whose LOI achieved a mark of 50% or higher were then invited to submit proposal(s) in February 2018 (phase 2).

A total of 21 proposals were received in February 2018 (1 from the North, 3 from the East, 14 from the South, and 3 from the West region of the City). Of the 21 proposals submitted, six were from the HIV Prevention stream, four from the Harm Reduction stream, and 11 from the Child and Youth Resiliency stream.

Toronto Urban Health Fund staff supported potential applicants by providing four LOI writing workshops and three proposal writing workshops. In addition, TUHF staff were available to applicants for consultation around the applications, review, and allocations process as well to provide technical support regarding the application forms.

Review Process

The review process of the applications occurred in two stages, with TPH staff conducting an initial review of applications followed by independent reviews by TUHF Review Panel members. Each review panel member was assigned to review between two and three proposals. Proposal assignments were determined based on reviewers' knowledge, expertise and experience with the priority population groups, as well as any declared conflicts of interest.

Both TUHF staff and Review Panel members used an assessment matrix to determine proposal merit based on the following established criteria: 1) evidence informed/based approaches; 2) project planning and development; 3) target population reach; 4) needs and population risks addressed; and 5) cost effectiveness. In addition, the Review Panel took into account distribution of funding across the three funding streams, priority populations, geographic, and epidemiological needs.

Summary of Recommendations

Preliminary funding recommendations included nine projects at \$511,310. As such, a total of \$151,417 remained available for successful appeals.

On May 28, 2018, the TUHF Review Panel considered appeal submissions from two applicants requesting \$114,756. The TUHF Review Panel considered both appeals and further discussed projects with merit that were not initially recommended. Three additional projects were recommended from the appeal meeting for a total of twelve projects (two from the North, five from the East, three from the South, and two from the West regions of the City). Table 1 provides a summary of the distribution of funding to TUHF target populations.

Table 1: 2018 TUHF Target Population Funding Distribution

Population	HIV Prevention	Harm Reduction	Child and Youth Resiliency	Total \$	Proportion of \$
Injection drug users	\$ 0	\$60,176	\$ 0	\$60,176	9%
Men who have sex with men	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Youth	\$ 0	\$0	\$164,587	\$164,587	25%
Indigenous	\$ 0	\$0	\$35,486	\$35,486	5%
African Caribbean Black	\$152,517	\$0	\$62,917	\$215,434	33%
People who use drugs	\$ 0	\$66,394	\$ 0	\$66,394	10%
Street-Involved	\$ 0	\$39,284	\$ 0	\$39,284	6%
Sex Work	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Sex Partners	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
People Living with HIV/AIDS	\$81,366	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$81,366	12%
Trans	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Prison	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Total	\$233,883	\$165,854	\$262,990	\$662,727	100%

Funding Oversight and Management

In order to ensure compliance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy, all organizations applying for funding are required to submit an audited financial statement. Projects were not recommended for funding if the organization: 1) demonstrated risk according to the City of Toronto Risk Management Framework; or 2) did not have reasonable unrestricted reserves. Toronto Public Health staff oversee and monitor project budgets throughout the lifecycle of the funding. Should the organization not meet the conditions of the Funding Agreement at any point, TPH will discontinue the funding.

Project Monitoring

Funded projects are bound by the terms and conditions outlined in their Funding Agreement. Material changes to the budget and nature of the contracted activities for which funding has been approved require prior written approval by TPH staff. Project monitoring is conducted by TPH staff through site visits, consultations, and face-to-face, phone and communications with the funded organization. Toronto Public Health staff also observe workshops, presentations, and community events, and assess resources developed by funded agencies. Organizations must complete all contracted services to qualify for future funding. All projects are required to submit interim and year-end progress and financial reports in each year of funding.

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SIGNATURE

Davis Mitchell
Chair, 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: TUHF Priority Populations and Funding Objectives
Appendix B: 2018 TUHF Funding Allocation Recommendations for One-Year Projects
(2018-2019) and Three-Year projects (2017-2020)
Appendix C: Recommended Activities for each Project Recommended for Funding