



REPORT FOR ACTION

Extension of Federal Funding for Toronto Youth Job Corps Program

Date: October 21, 2019
To: Economic and Community Development Committee
From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards: ALL

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request City Council authority to receive \$1,346,318 in additional funding from Employment and Social Development Canada for the Toronto Youth Job Corp that allows for the extension of the contract from March 30, 2020 to September 25, 2020.

Toronto Youth Job Corps is a youth employment program cost shared by Employment and Social Development Canada and the City of Toronto. Toronto Youth Job Corps provides pre-employment support, structured employment training, employer placements and retention supports for youth most distant from the labour market. The Toronto Youth Job Corps program started in 1983 and continues to meet the changing employment needs of youth.

Toronto Youth Job Corps is administered by the City of Toronto and delivered by five community agencies selected through an open request for proposals process. Toronto Youth Job Corps is currently delivered by: Jewish Vocational Services Toronto, Tropicana Community Services, West Neighbourhood House, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Youth Employment Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to receive \$1,346,318 from Employment and Social Development Canada for the Toronto Youth Job Corp contract extension.
2. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to extend the contract with the five (5) Service Delivery Agencies: Jewish Vocational Services Toronto, Tropicana Community Services, West Neighbourhood House, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Youth Employment

Services in the amount of \$1,346,318 for the period from March 30, 2020 to September 25, 2020 under the same terms and conditions of the current contract.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

On August 19, 2019, Social Development, Finance and Administration was awarded a six-month extension contract for the period from March 30, 2020 to September 25, 2020 by Employment and Social Development Canada, following the expiry of the existing contract for the period from June 5, 2017 – March 27, 2020.

The extension will provide funding over the contract period of \$1,346,318, fully funded by Employment and Social Development Canada as outlined in the chart below, to five community agencies: Jewish Vocational Services Toronto, Tropicana Community Services, West Neighbourhood House, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Youth Employment, that provide pre-employment support, structured employment training, employer placements and retention supports for youth most distant from the labour market.

Toronto Youth Job Corps Contract Value	March 30 – September 25, 2020
Gross Expenditures	\$1,346,318
Federal Subsidy	\$1,346,318

The gross expenditures and federal subsidy of \$1,346,318 have been included in the 2020 Budget submission for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

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

DECISION HISTORY

City Council authorized the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into and administer a contract renewal agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, upon Employment and Social Development Canada's approval of the City's annual renewal application, for the Toronto Youth Jobs Corps program for up to \$8,650,858 in federal subsidy for the period April 3, 2017 to March 27, 2020.

City Council authorized the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to have delegated authority to extend future contracts contingent on continued funding from Employment and Social Development Canada and to receive and expend those funds as specified through annual contract renewals to support the Toronto Youth Job Corps program, with funding and service levels to be approved through the annual budget process.

COMMENTS

Since 1983, the City of Toronto has administered Toronto Youth Job Corps as a cost-shared program with the federal government. Delivery of the Toronto Youth Job Corps program is provided through community-based organizations through funding disbursement.

The current Toronto Youth Job Corps community-based delivery organizations serve all quadrants of Toronto. These delivery organizations (Jewish Vocational Services Toronto, Tropicana Community Services, West Neighbourhood House, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Youth Employment) were selected through a City Request for Proposals process (No. 9101-17-7118) that allows annual contract renewals over a 5-year period (2017-2021). The 3-year Toronto Youth Job Corps contract will end on March 27, 2020. On August 19, 2019, Social Development, Finance and Administration was awarded a contract extension for the period of March 30 – September 25, 2020. Authority is needed to sign the non-competitive extension agreement with the five delivery organizations to ensure program continuity.

The Toronto Youth Job Corps program prepares youth for employment. Youth who face barriers to the labour market may lack a high school diploma, have little work experience, and have few financial resources to seek employment or training opportunities. Being marginalized from the labour market can influence the choices youth make; some may pursue criminal activity or substance abuse, or may experience isolation, depression and feelings of hopelessness and anxiety.

The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy 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. The Toronto Youth Job Corps program supports the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy objectives by assisting vulnerable youth who face multiple barriers to access and maintain employment, education and training opportunities through: in-house workshops tailored to participant needs; community projects to simulate work environments and develop basic employment skills; work experience with employers; and individualized client centred case management to meet participant needs and career goals. The program also supports improved youth service coordination by partnering 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 Toronto Youth Job Corps 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 address youth unemployment in the city. Toronto Youth Job Corps is a valuable part of the City's employment services for vulnerable youth who are most distant from the labour market.

In a ten year period from 2009 to 2019, Toronto Youth Job Corps provided pre-employment training to 2,714 youth: 1,225 youth obtained employment, and 487 youth returned to school. The Toronto Youth Job Corps continues to exceed program targets as set by Employment and Social Development Canada.

Year	# of Youth Served	# of Youth Employed	# of Youth Returned to School
2009 - 2010	157	68	30
2010 - 2011	160	70	30
2011 - 2013	182	71	47
2013 - 2014	251	127	37
2014 - 2015	266	135	61
2015 - 2016	265	136	66
2016 - 2017	265	163	41
2017 - present	1168	455	175

Toronto Youth Job Corps 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 Toronto Youth Job Corps model while addressing youth unemployment in Toronto.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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