



REPORT FOR ACTION

Update - Engagement of Non-Profit Organizations to Provide Mentoring Programs for Children Ages 7-11

Date: November 19, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director Social Development Finance Administration

Wards: Ward(s) affected: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the Economic and Community Development Committee motion to explore funding opportunities to develop a replicable pilot for a community based mentoring program based on the 40 developmental assets framework for school aged children between the ages of 6 and 12 years in Scarborough's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Social Development, Finance and Administration will develop and award one (1) grant to a not-for-profit organization currently delivering mentorship services in Scarborough Neighbourhood Improvement Areas to develop and deliver a collaborative, two year pilot that will increase the availability of mentorship programming for vulnerable six (6) to twelve (12) year old children while also activating or increasing the capacity of agencies who do this work to collectively extend their efforts. Social Development, Finance and Administration will consult with staff in Children's Services to ensure this work is in line with the Toronto Middle Childhood Strategy, as well as City staff working in the area of violence prevention to ensure this pilot contributes to positive youth development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, recommends that: 1. Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$175,000 gross and net to develop a replicable pilot for a community based mentoring program in the Scarborough Neighbourhood Improvement Area is included in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance & Administration.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has been provided with the financial impact information.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The development of this grant call has been analysed for potential impacts on equity-seeking groups and vulnerable residents of Toronto and is determined to have a positive impact on vulnerable children and youth.

Vulnerable children and youth will be recruited as participants in the mentorship project. Mentorship helps children succeed in school, access community programs and develop conflict resolution skills.

DECISION HISTORY

On September 5, 2019 the Economic and Community Development Committee amended Engagement of Non-profit Organizations to Provide Mentoring Programs for Children Ages 7-11 and requested the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services to explore funding opportunities to develop and pilot a community based mentoring program based, on the 40 Developmental Assets, for school aged children in Scarborough's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas; and to report back to the November 6, 2019 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC7.4>)

On April 29, 2019, Economic and Community Development Committee adopted EC4.5 Engagement of Non-profit Organizations to Provide Youth Mentoring Programs, directing the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report on opportunities to engage non-profit organizations to pilot mentoring programs for children living in Scarborough's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, provide a summary of City of Toronto mentoring programs in the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas in Scarborough and report on how organizations can implement the 40 Developmental Assets to help children thrive.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC4.5>)

COMMENTS

Not-for-profit organizations currently providing mentorship programming to youth in Scarborough Neighbourhood Improvement Areas would be invited to apply for one time two-year grant of \$175,000 per year to:

- Convene a group of not-for-profit organizations currently providing services to children and youth 6-12 years old in Scarborough Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.
- Lead the convened group in the development of:
 - a.) A pilot project that will build on individual organizational strengths and assets to increase the availability of mentorship services, based on a developmental

assets framework, for children between the ages of 6 and 12 years in Scarborough Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

b.) Sector supports that may include, but are not limited to, shared measurement tools; coordinated mentor and mentee recruitment; coordinated referrals; guidelines for capitalizing on existing community space; and streamlined mentor training.

c.) An evaluative component that will assess the effectiveness of the pilot and make recommendations for moving beyond the pilot phase, which may include plans for replicating the model.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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