

Responses to City Council's March 7, 2019 Requests

At its meeting on March 7, 2019, City Council requested the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to consider the following in the development of the 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Term Action Plan:

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX2.5>)

1. An evaluation of additional youth spaces and/or youth hubs;

- The deliverables of the Youth Service Review will be presented in a staff report to Economic and Community Development Committee in the second quarter of 2020. Recommendations will be made to optimize youth service delivery to meet the needs of youth most vulnerable to serious crime and violence. As part of the Youth Service Review, the impact of youth spaces and youth hubs will be considered. Activities 5.2.2 and 5.2.4 support this work.
- The 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Term Action Plan does contain Activity 5.2.4 in support of the City Council approved planned expansion of Youth Hubs (Toronto Public Library) and Enhanced Youth Spaces (Parks, Forestry and Recreation) in 2020.
- It is important to note that there is a distinction between the provisions of inclusive and welcoming places such as youth hubs and youth spaces, as opposed to services that are targeted to youth most vulnerable to serious crime and violence. The Poverty Reduction Strategy highlights initiatives to provide a strong foundation for low-income youth to succeed, and thus contributes to addressing the root causes of violence and crime, while other strategies that focus on community safety and well-being are designed to deliver services to those youth who are at the most risk.

2. An evaluation of the current Toronto Public Library Open Hours program;

3. The utility and feasibility of implementing the Toronto Public Library's Open Hours program;

- The Toronto Public Library has conducted an evaluation of their operating hours and is recommending a plan to continue to implement the Toronto Public Library Open Hours Plan. The 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Term Action Plan contains Activity 4.4.1 to implement the plan to expand availability of programs and services for low-income residents.

4. Opportunities to partner with community agencies already operating youth spaces and youth hubs, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada;

- At its meeting on September 15, 2019, Economic and Community Development Committee received a report from the Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration responding to Committee directions on opportunities to engage non-profit organizations to provide

Attachment F

youth mentoring programs for children ages 7-11 living in Scarborough's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-136644.pdf>)

5. A timeline to deliver the next phases of the Fair Fare Pass; and

- A detailed discussion on the current phases of the Fair Pass Discount Program and opportunities to continue expansion into future phases is contained in this report.

6. The amount of the base budget as a result of the Strategy by 2035

- The Poverty Reduction Strategy is not a program itself, with its own budget, rather it is a corporate-wide strategy that provides overall direction on the City's strategic poverty reduction priorities.
- Divisions and Agencies deliver discrete programs and services that are reflected in the prioritized activities. The resources required for implementation are either contained within their existing base budgets or are subject to new and/or enhanced requests through the budget process.
- Many programs and services that the City provides to low-income residents are funded in part or in whole by other orders of government. These funding relationships are always subject to change.
- Between 2015 and 2019, City Council approved approximately \$181M (net) in new and enhanced programs and services as part of the City's investments for the first Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan. These investments were made to stabilize and strengthen programs and services supporting low-income Torontonians, and to create a foundation for further systemic change.
- New and/or enhanced resources that are required for implementation of activities contained in this and future Action Plans will be submitted through the 2020 and future budget processes.
- By design, the 20-year Poverty Reduction Strategy contains 5 distinct phases where a new Action Plan is developed. This allows the City to build on learnings from previous phases and adapt to current contexts. Therefore, it is neither realistic nor advisable to predict what the total amount of funding will be to achieve the objectives of the Strategy over the course of 20 years.