

Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose:

Toronto Public Health has used Review Panels since 1987 to bring citizen expertise and participation in the allocation of funds for community-based HIV and substance misuse initiatives. The Review Panel works with staff to review each application and makes recommendations to the Board of Health.

Appointments to the Review Panel are made by the Board of Health annually following a public call for members to ensure the panel has the expertise, representation from equity-seeking groups and representation from diverse neighbourhoods across the city. The Medical Officer of Health ensures the Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel receive the appropriate support to assist in the review process.

Composition:

- a) A minimum of one member from the Board of Health;
- b) A minimum of one member from City Council;
- c) A minimum of one technical expert member in each of the fields of epidemiology and evaluation. Technical expert members must be knowledgeable of HIV and substance issues in the City of Toronto;
- d) A minimum of one member from the Indigenous Community
- e) A minimum of five citizen expert members in each of the fields of HIV prevention; harm reduction; and child and youth resiliency. Citizen expert members must be residents and/or work in the city of Toronto and knowledgeable of community-based best practices.

A minimum of one alternate member in each of the fields of HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency will be recommended for appointment, effective only in the event that a vacancy occurs prior to the first meeting of the Review Panel.

Membership will include people living with HIV, substance users, youth, people from ethno-cultural communities, and residents of the diverse neighbourhoods across the city.

The Review Panel will elect a Chair and Vice Chair at its first meeting.

Quorum:

- a) Quorum of the Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel is 50 percent of the community members (Community members include the citizen and technical experts and the member of the Indigenous Community.)
- b) The Board of Health and City Council members will be counted to make up quorum if they are present.
- c) A vacant position will not be counted to calculate quorum.

Role of the Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel:

That the role of the Review Panel is as follows:

- (a) Review and evaluate program proposal submissions.
- (b) Make allocation recommendations to the Board of Health with the assistance of Public Health staff.
- (c) Attend program training and information session(s).
- (d) Attend all program application review meetings.
- (e) Attend all program application appeal hearings.
- (f) Declare all potential and real conflicts of interest (i.e. membership, employment and other affiliations with Toronto Urban Health Fund applicants).

Term of Service for the Review Panel:

A term on the TUHF Review Panel is one year, renewable.

The number of consecutive terms served by Review Panel members will be considered in the appointment process in order to maintain corporate history and continuity and take into consideration required knowledge that is associated with HIV and substance use.

Time Commitment for the Review Panel:

A minimum of five to seven days per year, which includes training, review/assessment of applications, hearing of appeals and/or debriefing and community consultation. This also includes a minimum of eight to 10 hours for the independent review of applications.