



REPORT FOR ACTION

2019 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

Date: April 18, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report outlines recommendations for the 2019 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success total \$14,930,117 which includes \$100,000 held in reserve for appeals/late applications and \$270,000 held in reserve for expansion to eligible independent schools meeting needs-based assessment criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements totalling \$14,930,117 with the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$4,004,313) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$10,925,804) to administer the 2019 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto.
2. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation 1 above, including the execution of legal agreements with the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, on behalf of the City of Toronto.
3. The Board of Health and City Council request the provincial government to increase its grant funding investment proportionally to match the increased City of Toronto investment.
4. The Board of Health and City Council request the federal government to provide core funding for a national school food program.
5. The Board of Health forward this report to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Education, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil

scolaire Viamonde, le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, the Angel Foundation for Learning, and FoodShare Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The 2019 Approved Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health (TPH) includes funding of \$14,960,117 gross and net for municipally-funded Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs), delivered as follows:

1. SNP - Existing Programs: \$14,660,117 toward the cost of nutritious food for eligible existing programs at 634 schools/communities across the City of Toronto. Funding will help existing programs maintain their funding level amid program growth from increased student participation levels and offering more food groups per meal.
2. SNP - Expansion to Independent Schools: \$300,000 in new funding to support eligible independent schools which meet needs-based assessment criteria to start a student nutrition program. This funding is allocated as follows: \$230,000 toward the cost of nutritious food; \$40,000 to support program success through capacity building of expansion sites and oversight of municipal grants; and \$30,000 to support the assessment of eligibility of interested independent schools. An outreach process is underway to promote and launch the new funding opportunity. Applicants will be notified of their results in September of 2019 and funding will flow for the 2019/20 school year.

This report recommends an allocation of \$14,930,117, where \$4,004,313 will be allocated to the Angel Foundation for Learning and \$10,925,804 will be allocated to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, as indicated in Tables 1 and 2.

There is no financial impact associated with this report beyond what has been approved in the 2019 Approved Operating Budget for TPH.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on March 7, 2019, City Council approved 2019 municipal funding for student nutrition programs of \$14,960,117.

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

Annually, the Medical Officer of Health submits a report to the Board of Health after the City budget has been finalized, to begin the process of allocations to student nutrition programs for the upcoming school year.

COMMENTS

Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto (SNO-Toronto) recommends the allocation of municipal and provincial funding to Toronto's student nutrition programs, provides program support and monitors program quality and accountability. SNO-Toronto is made up of a committee and two sub-committees, including an Allocations Sub-Committee. The SNO-Toronto Committee is comprised of student nutrition stakeholders, including representatives from Toronto Public Health (TPH), Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), FoodShare Toronto and two community representatives. Standardized meal costs per student are used to estimate program costs and are adjusted annually for food inflation, when applicable.

Applications Are Reviewed Annually

The joint application process for municipal and provincial student nutrition program grants began in December 2018, when all currently funded student nutrition programs in Toronto were notified of the grant opportunity. Staff from each SNO-Toronto partner agency, except for Toronto Public Health, provided individual program sites with assistance to complete grant applications.

Annually, applications are reviewed by a panel of staff from Toronto Public Health, the TDSB, the TCDSB and SNO-Toronto community development staff, using standardized review forms and following conflict of interest guidelines. Applications recommended for funding are forwarded to the SNO-Toronto Committee for approval. The process satisfies the requirements laid out in the City of Toronto Community Grants Policy.

In its continued efforts to apply grants best practices and to maximize benefits to community members, SNO-Toronto implemented a renewal application process starting with the 2019 grant cycle. Previously funded programs, in good standing and which were not changing their program model other than an adjustment to the number of participating students, were eligible to submit a renewal application. Other applicants completed a full application. Anticipated for the 2020 grant cycle, the student nutrition program will be implementing the City's new on-line grant management system, a project led and coordinated through the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, which aligns with the SNO-Toronto's direction of continuous quality improvement.

Year-Round Accountability for Student Nutrition Program Grants

The charitable foundations which administer the municipal grant to student nutrition programs in Toronto, Toronto Foundation for Student Success and Angel Foundation for Learning, enter into legal agreements with the City of Toronto in advance of receiving municipal funds. Legal agreements include a requirement that each foundation provide the City with consolidated financial reports detailing its administration of municipal funds to student nutrition programs, with associated performance measures, twice a year, as well as annual audited financial statements. On a monthly basis, the foundations also collect detailed reports from individual student nutrition

programs receiving municipal grants. Both foundations consistently meet all of their contractual requirements.

Summary of Allocations and Recommendations

The SNO-Toronto committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of municipal funds for existing programs as outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations: Existing Programs

Foundation	Funding Amount
Angel Foundation for Learning (170 schools/communities)	\$ 4,004,313
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (464 schools/communities)	\$10,555,804
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for late applications and appeals)	\$ 100,000
Total (634 schools/communities reaching 211,000 participants)	\$14,660,117

The money held in reserve for appeals and late applications will be used to make adjustments to the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2019. The entire municipal grant for existing programs is distributed to programs and directed towards the cost of nutritious food; none of the grant is used for administration or overhead. Programs approved for funding will receive municipal funding in three instalments; they must meet program requirements, including monthly financial reporting to their respective Foundation, to receive subsequent instalment cheques.

Table 2: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations: Independent Schools

Foundation	Funding Amount
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for expansion to independent schools)	\$230,000
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for community capacity building)	\$ 40,000
Sub-Total	\$270,000
Administered by TPH to support the assessment process	\$ 30,000
Total	\$300,000

The money held in reserve by the Foundation for expansion will be allocated prior to December 31, 2019. The funds held in reserve for expansion to independent schools will be distributed to programs to be used towards the cost of nutritious food. The funds

held in reserve by the Foundation for community capacity building will be allocated to align with the current capacity and program coordination model used by the SNO-Toronto partnership with a focus on supporting the start-up needs of new programs.

Use of Municipal Budget Enhancement for 2019

The 2019 allocation of the municipal investment continues to support the vision endorsed by the City in 2012 to strengthen and grow student nutrition programs in Toronto, by:

- Focusing investment on breakfast/morning meal programs
- Strengthening existing programs
- Strengthening the partnership funding model.

For the Toronto Public Health 2019 Operating Budget, City Council approved an increase of \$600,000 to total \$14,960,117 for student nutrition programs, in two components. First, \$300,000 in enhanced funding will help existing programs maintain their funding level amid program growth from increased student participation levels and offering more food groups per meal. Second, \$300,000 in new funding for expansion to independent schools will be applied to support eligible independent schools which meet needs-based assessment criteria to start up a student nutrition program. Currently, an outreach process is underway to promote and launch the new funding opportunity. Interested applicants will be guided through a screening and assessment process using the methodology approved by the Board of Health in 2017. Applicants will be notified of their results in September and funding will flow for the 2019/20 school year. At this time, it is not known how many new programs will be funded or how many students will be reached.

Provincial Funding

The Toronto Foundation for Student Success is the Lead Agency for the Ontario Student Nutrition Program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and is accountable to ensure provincial program criteria is met. The Toronto Foundation for Student Success subcontracts with the Angel Foundation for Learning to administer the provincial funding for programs located in TCDSB sites. Programs will receive their provincial funding at the same time as their municipal funding.

The 2019 provincial investment for Toronto's student nutrition programs has not been confirmed to date, however, it is not expected to be greater than the current base funding for 2018. In 2018/19, the Government of Ontario's investment in Toronto's student nutrition programs was as follows (Table 3):

Table 3: Summary of 2018 Provincial Funding Investment

Funding Use	Funding Amount
Base funding for new and existing programs towards food cost	\$6,496,289
Community development and administration funding	\$1,991,519
Total	\$8,487,808

Federal support for national school food program

Core government funding maximizes the viability of programs. The Board of Health and City Council have a long history of advocacy to the federal government for a national student nutrition program. In June 2018, City Council endorsed Senate Motion 398 that recommended consultations with interested stakeholders to develop a national cost-shared universal healthy school food program. While no federal funding for student nutrition programs was outlined, on March 20, 2019, the 2019 Federal budget outlined commitments to a Canada Food Policy, including the government's intentions to work with provinces and territories towards the creation of a National School Food Program.

Parental Contributions, Local Fundraising, and Corporate Donations

Parental contributions, local fundraising and corporate donations contributed approximately \$6.4 million to student nutrition programs during the 2017/18 school year. In-kind contributions such as school space and staff, volunteer time to operate the programs, food and equipment are not included in this estimate. However, higher-needs school communities are not able to raise enough local funds to operate their programs to the fullest potential. In the face of variable funding from parent, community and corporate sources, government funding helps to provide stability for student nutrition programs in Toronto.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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