



REPORT FOR ACTION

Service Agreements Awarded and Executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2019

Date: April 18, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the purchase of service contracts awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2019, according to the delegation of authority by City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute, and amend the purchase of service contract for the 2019 Community Food Works Program, as outlined in Appendix E to the report, within the approved budget and in accordance with established provincial criteria and fee structures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this report beyond what has already been approved in the 2019 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health. Appendix A summarizes the service contracts awarded and executed by program for 2019.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meetings of August 1 to 4, 2000, June 22-24, 2004, April 28 to 29, 2008, May 11 to 12, 2010 and May 24 to 26, 2017, City Council delegated authority to the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend on an ongoing annual basis the

purchase of service contracts for the Preschool Speech and Language program; the Infant Hearing program; the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program; the Sexual Health and AIDS Prevention programs; the Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention program; the Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults program and the Mobile Good Food Markets program within the Toronto Public Health approved budget.

The Medical Officer of Health is required to submit an annual report to the Executive Committee on the purchase of service contracts that have been awarded under the delegation of authority.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2000/agendas/council/cc/cc000801/cofa.pdf>
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2004/agendas/council/cc/cc040622/cofa.pdf>
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cc/decisions/2008-04-28-cc20-dd.pdf>
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/decisions/2010-05-11-cc49-dd.htm>
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=11859>

COMMENTS

Toronto Public Health currently has service contracts with partner agencies that support service delivery in the community for the Early Abilities program, which includes Preschool Speech and Language; Infant Hearing and Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention. There are also service contracts for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program; the Sexual Health program; the Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults program; and the Mobile Good Food Market program.

Purchasing services from community agencies is an effective and efficient way to provide essential public health services. This approach builds on existing service infrastructure in the community, facilitates community partnerships, support continuity of service to clients, and maximize service efficiencies.

Early Abilities Programs

Preschool Speech and Language

Toronto Public Health is the lead agency for the 100 per cent provincially-funded Preschool Speech and Language program. This program provides services to children up to school entry, and includes communication programming for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Current service contracts align with the provincial fiscal year for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Service contracts are based on projected service delivery targets from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for the 2019/20 fiscal year. See Appendix B.

Infant Hearing

The 100 per cent provincial-funded Infant Hearing Program provides: (1) universal screening of newborns at hospital discharge and at community clinics; (2) screening of high risk infants in hospitals and follow up audiologic surveillance at 12 months; (3)

audiology diagnostic assessment at community sites; (4) referral to the Preschool Speech and Language for auditory-oral communication programming and finally, the reporting of all four of these deliverables.

Service contracts have been established with two hospitals that have opted to hire their own dedicated staff for screening in the postpartum and/or neonatal intensive care units. Service contracts for four community-based diagnostic assessment clinics have been established with agencies that were designated by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. All contracts are on a fee for service basis using a fee structure established by the Ministry. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. See Appendix B.

Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention

This 100 per cent provincially-funded program is standard throughout Ontario for children who have low vision or are blind. Early childhood vision consultation services are provided in Toronto through the purchase of service from Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada, Ontario Division, which is a Canadian National Institute for the Blind organization and Surrey Place Centre. Family support is provided by Toronto Public Health staff. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. See Appendix B.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is a 100 per cent provincial-funded program that provides blended home visiting services by both Public Health Nurses and Family Home Visitors for high risk families. In an effort to support local community capacity and avoid service duplication, the Family Home Visiting service contracts were awarded to and executed with the four local agencies that were already providing peer home visiting services. See Appendix C.

Sexual Health Program

Purchase of service arrangements are in place with Hassle Free Clinic; the Birth Control and VD Information Centre; and the Immigrant Women's Health Centre. These clinics deliver services which address the needs of specific client populations and can identify and respond quickly to gaps in service or emerging sexual health needs. Contract amounts with clinics for 2019 are identified in Appendix D.

Toronto Public Health also has purchase of service agreements with five community agencies. These agencies deliver sexual health promotion services reaching specific high risk and hard to reach populations.

Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults Program

City Council has approved funding for three agencies that use volunteer dental professionals to provide dental services to street youth and low/no income adults, 18-64 year olds, who are unable to pay for dental care in the private sector. These agencies are: Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre (an amalgamation of Central Toronto and Parkdale Community Health Centres), Evergreen Centre for Street Youth

Yonge Street Mission; and The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care.

The 2019 budget for these agencies is \$80,040. The agencies that receive funding through a purchase of service contract use these funds to purchase dental supplies, repair dental equipment, subsidize dental assistant salaries and provide honorariums for dental professionals such as dentists and dental hygienists. These funds assist with keeping the clinics operating and attracting volunteers.

Agencies that provide free dental care to these residents are also funded by charitable donations. It is important for the City to continue to assist with funding these agencies so this service can be maintained. See Appendix E.

Mobile Good Food Market Program

The Mobile Good Food Markets (MGFM) Program is a 75 per cent Provincial and 25 per cent City funded program. Mobile Good Food Markets are 'produce stores on wheels' bringing low cost, fresh fruits and vegetables into low income communities underserved by traditional suppliers of healthy food. They focus primarily on Neighbourhood Improvement Areas where a high proportion of newcomers, single-parent families and seniors living in high-rise apartments do not have ready access to healthy food.

Launched in 2012, the program is a collaboration between Toronto Public Health and FoodShare Toronto. A donated TTC Wheel-Trans vehicle was retrofitted as a Mobile Market. The Mobile Good Food Market operates 10 market locations throughout the year in low-income neighbourhoods across the city. In 2018, a total of 11,000 people were served and about 57,000 pounds of produce sold through 411 markets at 9 locations. See Appendix E.

Community Food Works Program

Community Food Works (CFW) integrates food handler training and certification, food literacy and employment skills development. This is achieved through training and support of low income community participants, including newcomers and refugees, using an adult education, learner centred approach. Initiated in 2011, CFW has been delivered through TPH in collaboration with Working Women Community Centre (WWCC) and other community partners as well as with Toronto Employment and Social Services. Community Food Works has demonstrated positive food safety outcomes as well as improved nutrition and employment outcomes as evidenced by the excellent success rates in obtaining food handler certification, enhanced employability and improved nutrition skills. Some program graduates have acquired employment or established food related social enterprises such as small catering businesses, or selling prepared food at farmers' and community markets.

For program continuity and the ability to expand and garner additional resources, it is recommended that the City of Toronto enter into a Purchase of Service agreement with WWCC to operate the program. Toronto Public Health will continue to support partnership development – both within City divisions and in the community – as well as

provide strategic advice and evaluation support. As a well-established, not for profit community organization with considerable experience in project management, employment skills development, settlement services and community capacity building, WWCC is well positioned to operate the program and to provide considerable additional in-kind resources and external funding. Working Women Community Centre is very familiar with all aspects of program operations and will be in a position to augment CFW by leveraging additional external funding to expand and consolidate the program. Working Women Community Centre has access to inspected kitchens to run the program and has multiple existing partnerships in place to engage interested participants, facilitate employment pathways and support existing partnerships and to facilitate new ones. See Appendix E.

CONTACT

Althea Hutchinson, Director, Finance & Administration, Toronto Public Health,
Tel: 416-338-7840, Email: althea.Hutchinson@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A - Toronto Public Health – 2019/20 Service Contract Summary
- Appendix B - 2019/20 Preschool Speech and Language Services Contracts
 - 2019/20 Infant Hearing Services Contracts
 - 2019/20 Blind-Low Vision Early Intervention Services Contracts
- Appendix C - 2019 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Services Contracts
- Appendix D - 2019 Sexual Health Clinic Services Contracts
 - 2019 Sexual Health Services Contracts
- Appendix E - 2019 Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults Services
 - 2019 Mobile Good Food Markets Program
 - 2019 Community Food Works Program