



REPORT FOR ACTION

2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Allocations and Review Process

Date: June 21, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Co-Chair, 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report outlines the Toronto Urban Health Fund's funding priorities, review process, and funding recommendations for the Board of Health's approval. The Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel recommends the allocation of \$755,166 for 14 one-year projects that focus on HIV prevention, harm reduction, and/or child and youth resiliency to be used between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. This report also recommends that the Board of Health approve the third year of funding for 40 three-year projects that it approved in 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Co-Chair, Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel recommends to the Board of Health that:

1. The Medical Officer of Health allocate \$755,166 for 14 one-year projects in 2019, as recommended by the 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel and outlined in Appendices B and C of this report.
2. The Medical Officer of Health allocate a total of \$2,675,894 in 2019 from the Toronto Urban Health Fund to carry out third-year activities for the 40 three-year projects that were approved by the Board of Health in 2017.
3. The Medical Officer of Health execute Funding Agreements with the approved applicants.

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.

DECISION HISTORY

On May 7, 2019, the 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel adopted [HF 3.1 Review of Appeals to the 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Grants](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HF3.1) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HF3.1>) and heard appeals and made funding allocations recommendations to the Board of Health.

At its meetings on April 5, 10, and 15 the 2018 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel adopted [HF 2.1: Review of 2019 Applications](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HF2.1) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HF2.1>) and made funding allocations recommendations to the Board of Health.

On February 25, 2019, The Board of Health adopted item [HL 3.4: Board of Health Committees and Appointments](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL3.4) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL3.4>) and appointed 15 members and 3 alternate members to serve on the 2019 TUHF Review Panel.

On June 12, 2017, The Board of Health adopted item [HL 20.6: 2017 Toronto Urban Health Fund Allocations and Review Process](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL20.6) (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL20.6>) and approved six one-year and 40 three-year projects to receive funding from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 (one-year projects) and from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020 (three-year projects)

COMMENTS

Through the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS 2018), the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the Ministry) mandates HIV/AIDS prevention as well as the prevention of illicit substance misuse (including harm reduction strategies). The Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) supports the Board of Health (BOH) and Toronto Public Health (TPH) in meeting the OPHS, by providing funding for community-based non-profit organizations build individual and community capacity that support HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency.

Due to cultural and language barriers, stigma and discrimination, and distrust of government organizations, people at risk of acquiring HIV, people who use illicit substances, and/or those who are at-risk of engaging in high-risk behaviors, are often more likely to access preventive public health services through community agencies. Community agencies are uniquely positioned to provide accessible, relevant, timely and culturally-safe HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency programming to marginalized and vulnerable populations in Toronto.

Funding Criteria and Priorities

The TUHF provides one and three-year funding opportunities. The objective of the one-year funding is to fund innovative interventions that address emerging or short-term

public health issues or to conduct needs assessment to increase understanding of the health and programming needs of high-risk populations. The objective of the three-year funding is to fund demonstration projects based on effective interventions and community-based best practices that are flexible and responsive to longer-term trends. In June 2017, 40 three-year projects were recommended by the TUHF Review Panel and approved by the BOH to be funded from July 2017 through June 2020.

Funded projects must address the needs of TUHF priority populations through resiliency building, organizational and community capacity building, and health promotion strategies including: creating supportive environments; strengthening community action; re-orienting health services; and developing personal skills. Funding criteria and priority populations are outlined in Appendix A.

In addition, consideration is given to projects serving high-needs geographic areas, such as City-designated Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) or neighbourhoods with a high incidence of HIV, Hepatitis C, or overdose. Similarly, further consideration is provided to projects with services targeting youth residing in NIAs and organizations that primarily serve First Nations, Métis, or Inuit groups. Emphasis is also placed on reducing the duplication of services targeting these populations by other community agencies, funders, and TPH.

Community Outreach, Request for Proposals and Support – 2019 Project Solicitation Process

Proposals submitted to TUHF undergo a two-phase review process. During the first phase, potential applicants are invited to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). In October 2018, TUHF received 48 LOIs (seven from the HIV Prevention stream, nine from the Harm Reduction stream, and 32 from the Child and Youth Resiliency stream). Letters of Intent were independently reviewed and ranked in accordance with TUHF project criteria. Those organizations whose LOI achieved a mark of 50% or higher were then invited to submit full proposal(s) in February 2018 (phase 2).

A total of 23¹ proposals were received in February 2018 (none from the North,² four from the East, 15 from the South, and three from the West region of the City). Of the 23 proposals submitted, two were from the HIV Prevention stream, six from the Harm Reduction stream, and 15 from the Child and Youth Resiliency stream.

Toronto Urban Health Fund staff supported potential applicants by providing four LOI writing workshops and four proposal writing workshops. In addition, TUHF staff were available to applicants for consultation around the applications, review, and allocations process as well as to provide technical support with the application forms.

Review Process

The application review process occurred in two stages, with TUHF staff conducting an

¹ One project was not mapped to protect client privacy.

² Regions are based on COT geospatial competency centre classification. One project bordered on the south, one project is in the north west corner, and two projects are in the north east region.

initial review followed by independent reviews by Review Panel members. Each Review Panel member was assigned to review between three and four proposals. Proposal assignments were determined based on the reviewers' knowledge, expertise and experience with the priority population groups, as well as any declared conflicts of interest.

Both TUHF staff and Review Panel members used an assessment matrix to determine proposal merit based on the following established criteria: 1) evidence informed/based approaches; 2) project planning and development; 3) target population reach; 4) needs and population risks addressed; and, 5) cost effectiveness. In addition, the Review Panel took into account distribution of funding across the three funding streams, priority populations, geographic, and epidemiological needs.

Summary of Recommendations

Preliminary funding recommendations included 11 projects at \$624,631. As such, a total of \$130,535 remained available for successful appeals.

On May 7, 2019, the TUHF Review Panel considered appeal submissions from eight applicants requesting \$267,584.47. The TUHF Review Panel considered the appeals and three additional projects were recommended from the appeal meeting. As well, two previously recommended projects received additional funding. A total of fourteen projects (none from the North, three from the East, nine from the South, and one from the West regions of the City ²) were funded. Table 1 provides a summary of the distribution of funding to TUHF target populations.

Table 1: 2019 1-Year Projects TUHF Target Population Funding Distribution

Population	HIV Prevention	Harm Reduction	Child and Youth Resiliency	Total \$	Proportion of \$
Youth	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 244,059	\$ 244,059	32%
Street-involved	\$ 87,566	\$ 0	\$ 59,754	\$ 147,320	20%
Injection drug users	\$ 0	\$ 138,454	\$ 0	\$ 138,454	18%
Indigenous	\$ 0	\$ 110,308	\$ 17,140	\$ 127,448	17%
Men who have sex with men	\$ 55,027	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 55,027	7%
African Caribbean Black	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 42,858	\$ 42,858	6%
People who use drugs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Sex Work	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Sex Partners	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
People Living with HIV/AIDS	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%

² One project was not mapped to protect client privacy

Trans	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Prison	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0%
Total	\$ 142,593	\$ 248,762	\$ 320,953	\$ 755,166	100%

Population	HIV Prevention	Harm Reduction	Child and Youth Resiliency	Total \$	Proportion of \$
Injection drug users	\$ 0	\$ 570,391	\$ 0	\$ 570,391	21%
Men who have sex with men	\$ 381,381	\$ 0	\$ 62,554	\$ 443,935	17%
Youth	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 314,383	\$ 314,383	12%
Indigenous	\$ 0	\$ 126,844	\$ 136,139	\$ 262,983	10%
African Caribbean Black	\$ 141,588	\$ 81,764	\$ 0	\$ 223,352	8%
People who use drugs	\$ 0	\$ 170,562	\$ 45,098	\$ 215,660	8%
Sex Work	\$ 165,217	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 165,217	6%
Street-involved	\$ 0	\$ 90,176	\$ 63,800	\$ 153,976	6%
Sex Partners	\$ 126,650	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 126,650	5%
Trans	\$ 72,748	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 72,748	3%
People living with HIV/AIDS	\$ 67,786	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 67,786	3%
Prison	\$ 0	\$ 58,813	\$ 0	\$ 58,813	2%
	\$ 955,370	\$ 1,098,550	\$ 621,974	\$ 2,675,894	100%

Table 2: 2017-20 3-year Projects TUHF Target Population Funding Distribution
Funding Oversight and Management

In order to ensure compliance with the City of Toronto Grants Policy, all organizations applying for funding are required to submit an audited financial statement. Projects were not recommended for funding if the organization: 1) demonstrated risk according to the City of Toronto Risk Management Framework; or 2) did not have reasonable unrestricted reserves. Toronto Public Health staff oversee and monitor project budgets throughout the lifecycle of the funding. Should the organization not meet the conditions of the Funding Agreement at any point, TPH will discontinue the funding. All 40 three-year projects that are being recommended to receive funds to carry out third year activities are in compliance.

Project Monitoring

Funded projects are bound by the terms and conditions outlined in their Funding Agreement. Material changes to the budget and nature of the contracted activities for which funding has been approved require prior written approval by TPH staff. Project monitoring is conducted by TPH staff through site visits, consultations, and face-to-face, phone and e-mail communications with the funded organization. Toronto Public Health staff also observe workshops, presentations, and community events, and assess resources developed by funded agencies. Organizations must complete all contracted services to qualify for future funding. All projects are required to submit interim and year-end progress and financial reports in each year of funding.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Toronto Urban Health Fund Priority Populations and Funding Objectives
Appendix B: 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Funding Allocation Recommendations for One-Year Projects (2019-2020) and Three-Year Projects (2017-2020)
Appendix C: Recommended Activities for Each Project Recommended for Funding