

Establishment of Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Review Panel

Date: September 9, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The Toronto Urban Health Fund provides funding to community-based organizations to implement HIV and substance misuse prevention programming. In September 2019, the Toronto Urban Health Fund will launch a new Indigenous Funding Stream which will provide access to a culturally-safe funding model for Indigenous organizations. This staff report seeks approval of the formation of the Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Review Panel, which is the body that will guide funding allocations for this new funding stream, and the Terms of Reference for the Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health establish the Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Review Panel comprised of five members with a mandate to review and evaluate funding proposal submissions related to the Indigenous Funding Stream on HIV prevention, harm reduction, and child and youth resiliency and propose allocation recommendations to the Board of Health, in conjunction with Toronto Public Health staff, as outlined in the Terms of Reference set out in Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its July 8, 2019 meeting, the Board of Health received a presentation on the proposed funding model for the Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Funding Stream. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL8.1>),

At its meetings on February 25, 2019, the Board of Health Panel appointed 15 individuals and three alternate members to the 2019 Toronto Urban Health Fund Review Panel.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL3.4>.

COMMENTS

The Board of Health (BOH) annually appoints individuals to various formal and informal committees, including the Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) Review Panel. The TUHF Review Panel brings public and community expertise together to determine the best possible allocation of funding for community-based projects dedicated to the prevention of HIV and substance misuse. The TUHF Indigenous Funding Stream similarly requires the formation of a Review Panel to guide allocations for this new funding stream. This staff report seeks approval for the formation of this Review Panel, and its terms of reference.

Historically, TUHF has faced challenges recruiting and appointing Indigenous members to the TUHF Review Panel. In order to address barriers engaging Indigenous people, the TUHF Indigenous Advisory Circle (IAC), which was the advisory body to the development of the new funding stream, collaborated with TPH staff to design a culturally-safe review panel structure and process. The structure of the proposed Indigenous Review Panel is designed to increase the engagement and capacity of Indigenous community members in decision-making and allocation of funding.

The TUHF Indigenous Review Panel process will include the following:

- the use of an application form designed for Review Panel members to self-disclose their lived experience and contribute their experiences and skills;
- compensation and acknowledgement of Review Panel members contributions through the provision of honoraria and/or a per diem;
- a structure whereby members of the IAC will provide mentorship to Review Panel members, a contingency plan in the event of attrition, and general capacity building support;
- a review process that is culturally-sensitive and grounded in consensus decision-making; and
- a non-hierarchical structure with non-defined roles and rotating chair.

The proposed terms of reference for the TUHF Indigenous Review Panel (as per Attachment 1) has considered all identified barriers to participation with the goal of enhancing engagement of Indigenous members in the review and allocation process.

Toronto Public Health staff will work with the IAC to solicit potential members with the goal of recruiting four qualified Indigenous members, for approval by the BOH annually. The recommended membership for the TUHF Indigenous Review Panel will be brought forward for BOH approval in January 2020.

The TUHF Indigenous Review Panel will be supported by the City Clerk's Office over three meetings to be held between March and May each year. The purpose of these meetings is to review funding proposals from Indigenous community organizations and groups, and to recommend funding allocations to the BOH for approval.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Review Panel Terms of Reference