



REPORT FOR ACTION

Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Healthy Cities Research Initiative - Planning Grant for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy (Pilot)

Date: September 23, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has announced a call for proposals for a *Planning Grant for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy*. The maximum amount awarded for each grant is \$0.065 million. The purpose of the grant is to design active transportation and public space interventions. In addition, the grant aims to design an evaluation of the health effect of these interventions.

Toronto Public Health with Transportation Services is seeking to apply for \$0.065 million of this funding in 2020. Toronto Public Health will apply as the lead applicant and will coordinate the funding to be assigned to the activities within the grant proposal.

The grant opportunity is composed of two parts: a five-day workshop in a leading healthy city, and a post-workshop planning and knowledge translation event. The post-workshop event in Toronto will be an invitational event to apply the findings from the first workshop, and develop a set of specific intervention and evaluation of activities.

This work will advance the mandates of both Public Health and Transportation Services, as well as key initiatives such as the Vision Zero 2.0 Plan and the Complete Streets guidelines.

This report provides a summary of the Planning Grant and seeks City Council approval for the Medical Officer of Health to increase the 2020 Operating Budget of Toronto Public Health by \$0.065 million to receive the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Planning Grant subject to approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health request City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to increase the Toronto Public Health 2020 Operating Budget Request by \$0.065 million gross, \$0 net in order to receive a Planning and Dissemination Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, subject to approval of the application.
2. The Board of Health forward this report to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2020 budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Toronto Public Health is seeking to apply for a \$0.065 million Planning Grant for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy Workshop offered through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

This workshop is a pilot program designed to bring researchers and city decision-makers together to collaborate, design, implement and evaluate healthy cities programs related to active transportation and design of public spaces.

The grant will support a five member team to participate in a five-day workshop in April 2020 and for planning and knowledge translation activities.

If the application for the Planning Grant for Implementing Health Urban Policy Workshop is approved, funding in the amount of \$0.065 million gross, \$0 net will be required to be added to the Toronto Public Health 2020 Operating Budget.

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

DECISION HISTORY

On July 16, 17, 18, 2019, City Council adopted item IE6.8, Vision Zero 2.0 - Road Safety Plan Update. Vision Zero 2.0 recommends a set of more extensive, more proactive and more targeted initiatives, informed by data and aimed at eliminating serious injury and fatalities on Toronto's roads.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE6.8>

COMMENTS

Overview of Planning Grant for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy (Pilot)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is piloting a Planning Grant for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy to support collaboration between city leaders and researchers on the design of active transportation and public space as well as to design an evaluation of the intervention's effect on health. The resulting research projects

could be implemented by organizations that are funded in the future through CIHR's Project Scheme, CIHR's Healthy Cities Research Initiative, or through other sources.

The opportunity is composed of two parts: a five-day immersive workshop in a leading healthy city (potentially Copenhagen), and a post-workshop planning and knowledge translation event to be held in Toronto. The required workshop will review the connection between improved health outcomes and well-designed, maintained and programmed transportation networks and public spaces. It will emphasize opportunities for using data and research to continually monitor and improve infrastructure to meet the needs of people of all ages, abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The maximum amount to be awarded for each grant is \$0.065 million. Within each grant, \$0.040 million is designated to cover the registration and travel costs of participation in the five-day workshop and up to \$0.025 million is designated to host the planning and knowledge translation event.

Toronto Public Health Application with Transportation Services

The overall aim of this proposal is to promote health and quality of life for all residents by identifying and designing interventions for Toronto that promote safe and inclusive active transportation through the modification of public space. As per the 2018 Ontario Public Health Standards, this project is within Toronto Public Health's mandate to promote the development of healthy built environments, including identification of risk factors, implementation of a program of public health interventions, and effective communication with the public (Public Health Standard, Requirements 2, 6, 7c). In addition, this project aligns with the City's Complete Streets guidelines, the Vision Zero 2.0 Plan, and the City's Official Plan objectives to make active transportation, along with transit, increasingly an option for Toronto residents.

As per the grant funding requirements, a successful application for this grant will result in participation (four city leaders and one evaluator) in a five-day workshop organized by 80 Cities. This workshop will provide an opportunity to learn from a world leader in the design of public spaces that promote safe, active transportation.

Following the first workshop, Toronto Public Health and Transportation Services will hold an invitational event to apply the insights from international experts. This will be designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- To share the learnings from the international workshop with other City staff, researchers, policy makers, and knowledge users;
- To identify interventions, methodologies, and health-based analytical approaches that can be designed, implemented, and assessed in Toronto;
- To create an action plan comprised of specific intervention research ideas to be submitted for future funding; and,
- To strengthen long-term partnerships for future intervention research and knowledge translation.

The application will be finalized in October 2019 and if approved the funding (\$0.065 million) would be provided in 2020 to design the active transportation, public space interventions and the related evaluation of health impacts.

CONTACT

Gayle Bursey, Director, Healthy Public Policy and Interim Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Toronto Public Health, 416-388-0661, Gayle.Bursey@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health