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2021 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Toronto Youth Equity Strategy

Issue/Background:

- This briefing note responds to a request from the January 22, 2021 meeting of the Budget Committee for the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to provide the status of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

Key Points:

Investments to Complete the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy's Mandate

- The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) was unanimously adopted by City Council in 2014 as a five-year strategy to provide more accessible and relevant supports to youth who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence, within the City's authority to plan, manage, deliver and advocate. TYES included 110 actions.
- As reported to Budget Committee in January 2020, between 2015 and 2019, the City of Toronto made a total cumulative investment of \$103.3M which includes City of Toronto's own investment of \$48.6M and funds leveraged from Provincial and Federal governments of \$41.6M and \$13.0M respectively, as detailed in Table 1.
- The City's investments were across the five TYES program streams: Prevention, Alternatives to Criminalization, Community-Based Investments, Policy Reform and the Intervention, with the majority of funding going to Intervention initiatives and initiatives that created Alternatives to Criminalization.
- Capital investment in Youth Shelters and Drop-in Centres in Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) accounts for all the Federal investment of \$41.6M with City of Toronto's investment of \$20.3M or 50% of Federal investment; to a total investment of \$61.9M.
- In 2019, the five-year mandate of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy was achieved.

Table 1. Cumulative Investment in the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, 2015-2019

TYES Actions (\$'000)	Division	City Funded	Funded by Provincial Govt.	Funded by Federal Govt.	Cumulative Investments 2015 - 2019
Total Budget (Gross)		48,657.7	41,607.8	13,019.1	103,284.6
Prevention Stream		10,520.8	0.0	13,019.1	23,539.9
Storybook Parents Program	TPL	250.0			250.0
Community Healing Program	SDFA	250.0		1,161.3	1,411.3
Employment Readiness Program	SDFA	50.0			50.0
Employment and Wellness	SDFA	115.7			115.7
Support for Parents	SDFA	200.0			200.0
Toronto Youth Job Corp. (TYJC)	SDFA	3,283.2		11,857.8	15,140.9
Specialized YOWs (TYPE)	SDFA	3,355.2			3,355.2
Teen Zones & Innovation Hubs	TPL	2,490.0			2,490.0
Toronto Public Library Digital Innovation Hubs Expansion	TPL	400.0			400.0
TYES Frontline Workers' Workshop Series	SDFA	50.0			50.0
YouthWorx	SDFA/TCH	76.7			76.7
Community Based Investments		15,889.6	0.0	0.0	15,889.6
Restorative Justice	SDFA	250.0			250.0
Pre-Charge Diversion	SDFA	1,213.5			1,213.5
FOCUS	SDFA	1,100.0			1,100.0
Project Prosper	SDFA	516.3			516.3
TPL Open Hours	TPL	5,303.9			5,303.9
Enhanced Youth Spaces	PFR	7,506.0			7,506.0
Community Based Investments		1,045.0	0.0	0.0	1,045.0
INI Youth Grants	SDFA	1,045.0			1,045.0
Policy Reform Stream		470.0	0.0	0.0	470.0
TYES Table	SDFA	440.0			440.0
TYES Town Halls	TPH	30.0			30.0
Intervention Stream		20,732.3	41,607.8	0.0	62,340.1
Youth Violence Intervention	SDFA	444.4			444.4
Youth Shelters and Drop-in Centres	SSHA	20,287.9	41,607.8		61,895.7

- The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy programs and initiatives were designed, incubated and implemented with a focus on intervening in the lives of vulnerable

young people, prevented further engagement into violence, and helping youth prepare for a promising future with education and employment opportunities.

- Examples of the impact of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy include:
 - Delivery of over 100 life skills workshops for 1,000+ youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious crime and violence and aided an additional 364 youth to secure employment and education upgrading.
 - Provision of case management for 30 youth on remand for gun possession throughout the period of their sentencing, incarceration and reintegration.
 - Training to 500 City staff from Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Library and Toronto Employment and Social Services to work effectively through conflict with youth who are vulnerable to serious crime and violence.
 - Delivery of 8 workshops and toolkits for City and community-based frontline youth workers on how to reach and support youth vulnerable to violence and crime (topics include: employment for youth with criminal records, educational attainment for incarcerated and recently released youth, trauma-informed practice & self-care, mentorship, and outreach).
 - Support to the Employment Connections Central Intake Process to connect youth on probation to Employment Ontario partners.
 - Support to secure full-time trades employment for 120 youth on probation or parole or who identify as having a conflict with the law.
 - Development of a database to track service delivery for over 500 youth, while maintaining confidentiality for participants.

TYES Legacy Initiatives Continues in the 2021 Staff Recommended Operating Budget

- In 2019, the five-year mandate of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy was achieved. Not only has TYES helped the City deliver impactful outcomes for a complex group of Toronto youth whose needs have historically been unmet by traditional City and community service practices, but in doing so, it introduced and demonstrated new effective approaches for youth violence prevention and intervention and enhanced several existing models to better serve youth most vulnerable to involvement in crime and violence.
- Social Development, Finance and Administration continues 15 such legacy initiatives for TYES through 2021 as part of the staff recommended budget for the division.
 - \$9.0M is included in the base budget of SDFA's Youth Development and Community Safety and Wellbeing Units, and the Community Partnership and Investment Program to support 15 TYES Legacy Initiatives.
- Table 2 outlines the base budget resources committed to advancing these promising, impactful initiatives arising from the Strategy and to help sustain the

progress made through TYES. These initiatives are being monitored in preparation to scale and replicate to achieve the strongest outcomes for vulnerable youth.

Table 2. Operating Gross Budget - TYES Legacy Initiatives in SDFA Base Budget

Unit	#	TYES Legacy Initiatives	2020 Operating Base Budget	2021 Staff Recommended Base Budget
YDU	1	Community Healing Program ¹	\$1,380.3	\$1,354.0
YDU	2	Employment and Wellness	\$115.7	\$115.7
YDU	3	Support for Parents	\$200.0	\$200.0
YDU	4	Toronto Youth Job Corp. (TYJC) ²	\$3,373.9	\$3,652.1
YDU	5	Specialized YOWs (TYPE) ³	\$1,654.8	\$1,394.1
YDU	6	TYES Frontline Workers' Workshop Series	\$20.0	\$20.0
YDU	7	YouthWorx	\$76.7	\$76.7
YDU	8	Restorative Justice	\$50.0	\$50.0
YDU	9	Pre-Charge Diversion ⁴	\$745.7	\$493.2
CSWB	10	FOCUS program	\$347.0	\$312.4
CPIP	11	INI Youth Grants	\$245.0	\$245.0
YDU	12	TYES Table	\$88.0	\$88.0
YDU	13	Youth Violence Intervention: 3 CDO, Social Media Content Development, Violence Threat Risk Training and Protocol	\$454.1	\$454.1
YDU	14	Employment Readiness Program	\$10.0	\$10.0
YDU	15	Project Prosper	\$516.3	\$516.3
Total Base			\$9,277.5	\$8,981.6

- In 2020, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework was developed to better measure the outcomes of the TYES Legacy Initiatives. The following key TYES Legacy Initiatives were piloted, and 2020 impacts include:
 - Community Healing Project:
 - 100% of all participants received work placements

¹ Community Healing is fully funded by Federal National Crime Prevention Grant.

² TYJC is mainly funded by Federal subsidy.

³ 2021 reduction due to reversal of \$300K one-time expense for one of the TYPE program partners.

⁴ Funding reduction in 2021 is due to a shift in the program delivery model as part of a proactive review to adjust program delivery issues to achieve better outcomes for youth. The program continues to serve young people in 2021.

- 90% of all participants reported significant improvements in emotional and mental wellbeing to deal with post-traumatic stress caused by community violence exposure
- Toronto Youth Job Corps:
 - 96% of participants enhanced their employability skills
 - 83% of participants received subsidized paid job placement/work experience
 - 83% of participants were employed
 - 124% of participants returned to formal education
- Specialized YOWs (TYPE):
 - 20% of participants were successful in acquiring jobs in high demand fields such as construction, technology and manufacturing.

In 2021, TYES Legacy Initiatives will undergo further monitoring and evaluation using the new Youth Outcomes Framework as part of the Youth Service Review.

Further Investments for Youth Most Vulnerable to Violence and Crime

- Alongside the TYES Legacy initiatives, in 2020, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division has advanced two other initiatives focused on youth most vulnerable to involvement in crime and violence: TOWards Peace and the Youth Violence Prevention Grant.
- In its 2020 Approved Operating Budget, Council allocated \$2M to create the Youth Violence Prevention Grant, \$100K to enhance the Community Crisis Response Funding stream, and a one-time investment of \$1.5M to develop TOWards Peace while the City continued efforts to seek federal funding for the program.

Youth Violence Intervention

- In spring 2020, Social Development, Finance and Administration launched the youth violence prevention grant aimed at helping youth who are more vulnerable to violence in communities across the city.
- The grant provides \$2M in annual funding for up to three years, allocated to 13 community organizations to implement programming in 11 communities identified as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and/or revitalization sites. The recipients include one Indigenous-specific organization that will work across several communities. Half of the grants were allocated to Black-mandated organizations.

- An additional \$329,000 in 2020 and \$718,000 in 2021 and 2022 has been added from unallocated CPIP funds to enhance programming in the 11 communities as well as for Indigenous youth.
- The 11 communities were selected for investment based on a data-driven approach that identified a high number of incidents in these communities. Data was compiled from Toronto Police Services, FOCUS, Toronto Community Housing and the Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP).
- To respond to the unique needs of Indigenous youth, City staff are working with a group of Indigenous youth to invest an additional \$0.2M into Indigenous youth-led community violence prevention activities with support from the City's Indigenous Affairs Office.
- Initiatives are currently underway. Grantees will participate in shared evaluation activities, building on the outcomes identified in the City's new Youth Outcomes Framework, once finalized, and will also collect socio-demographic information on program participants as part of the Data for Equity Strategy.

Community Crisis Response Fund

- In summer 2020, Social Development, Finance and Administration launched the Youth-led Community Crisis Response Fund. This fund provides financial assistance of up to \$3,000 for youth-led, youth-driven projects or activities that address the impacts of a violent traumatic incident within a neighbourhood or across multiple communities.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19 on social gatherings, one youth group piloted this approach before social distancing guidelines were re-introduced.
- To adhere to these guidelines, the remainder of these funds were used to support the development of youth-led interventions in the Woburn neighbourhood and the Downtown East area, communities that experienced repeated incidents of youth violence in 2020, as well as to support capacity building activities for youth-led groups.
- The allocation of the small grants of up to \$3,000 for youth-led and youth-driven initiatives will recommence in early 2021.

TOWards Peace

- TOWards Peace is a multi-sectoral intervention program for youth involved in violent behaviour or high risk activities. The program aims to interrupt the reoccurrence or escalation of violence. The model combines the work of City, health and community agency staff, as well as grassroots groups that focus on violence interruption, intervention and prevention, and leverages the lived experience of local community members who have been involved in violence.
- The 2021 Staff Recommended Operating Budget for the division includes \$1.39M to implement the program in Northwest Toronto starting in April 2021.

- TOWards Peace is detailed in a separate note requested by Budget Committee.

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