

## **Renewing Participation in the Community Data Program**

**Date:** April 12, 2022

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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The Community Data Program is a national partnership of municipalities and non-profit, community-based organizations that collectively acquire and provide access to sociodemographic, disaggregated, place-based data. This partnership is a primary source of disaggregated, neighbourhood-level Census data for the City and is necessary to enable sound social and community planning at a local level.

The previous partnership agreement, which expired in 2021, was made with the Canadian Council on Social Development, which has ceased operations. This report seeks Council authorization to enter into a new partnership agreement with Canadian Community Economic Development Network, as the new host organization, to continue participation in the Community Data Program.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into a community-based partnership with the Canadian Community Economic Development Network to participate in the Community Data Program, with the City of Toronto serving as the lead organization for participating community organizations in Toronto.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications resulting from this report. The funds necessary to participate in the Community Data Program are available within existing resources as part the approved operating budget of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division. Currently the annual consortium fee is \$22,238.50.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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On April 3, 2013, City Council authorized City staff to enter into an agreement, expiring in 2017 with Canadian Council on Social Development to participate in the Community Data Program as the lead organization of the Toronto Data Consortium.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD19.5>

On November 3, 2016, City Council authorized City staff to enter into an agreement, expiring in 2021 with Canadian Council on Social Development to participate in the Community Data Program as the lead organization of the Toronto Data Consortium.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD16.9>

## **COMMENTS**

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The Community Data Program enables communities across Canada to measure and track resident wellbeing by providing access to disaggregated socioeconomic data at a local level. The program enables participating members to download customized datasets through a secure online portal, as well as providing members with a national forum to build community-based data analytics capacity. In doing so, the Community Data Program allows community-based organizations to make evidence-informed decisions related to issues as diverse as employment, housing, social development, and service needs provision.

Municipalities and community organizations participate formally in the Community Data Program through local consortia. In Toronto, this consortium is the Toronto Data Consortium, with the City of Toronto as the lead organization. As lead, the City represents the interests and coordinates the participation of 28 governmental and non-profit community-based organisations. These organizations include:

- Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
- Applegrove Community Complex
- Catholic Crosscultural Services
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Centre for Urban Health Solutions
- Children's Aid Society of Toronto
- City of Toronto
- City of Toronto Public Library
- CP Planning
- Daily Bread Food Bank
- Family Service Toronto
- Holland-Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital
- MaRS Discovery District
- Regent Park Community Health Centre
- Social Planning Toronto

- South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- Strides Toronto
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Toronto Arts Council
- Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network
- Toronto Centre for Community Learning & Development
- Toronto District School Board
- Toronto Foundation
- Toronto Police Service
- Wellesley Institute
- West Toronto Community Legal Services
- WoodGreen Community Services
- YMCA of Greater Toronto

Within the City of Toronto itself, multiple divisions utilize data available through the Community Data Program to support their core operations.

Participation in the program grants the City and its community partners the right to define which Toronto-based geographies are utilized when acquiring customized datasets. This includes the City's 158 social planning neighbourhoods, 25 wards, and most recently various community cluster areas in support of emergency COVID-19 response operations.

The Community Data Program is the only one of its kind in Canada. Through the Community Data Program, over 1,200 different data tables from 12 different data providers are available. This program provides significant cost savings and efficiencies to the City of Toronto and participating community organizations. In 2016, staff estimated that the City of Toronto saves approximately 90% in data acquisition costs as compared to acquiring the equivalent amount of data on its own.

Council reauthorization of the City's participation in the program is currently necessary as the previous authorization expired in 2021. In addition, the host organization for the Community Data Program has changed, with the Canadian Community Economic Development Network taking over the program when the Canadian Council for Social Development ceased operations in 2019.

In adopting this report, Council will be authorizing the City of Toronto via Social Development, Finance and Administration Division to enter into a new ongoing Community Data Program partnership with the Community Economic Development Network, a national charitable non-profit organization.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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