

Toronto Youth Job Corps 2024 – 2028 Contract Authority

Date: November 14, 2023

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council Authority to enter into a contract agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, for the Toronto Youth Job Corps program for up to \$15,227,669 in Federal subsidy, and \$2,808,765 City cash contribution for the period May 1, 2024, to April 28, 2028.

Since 1983, the City of Toronto has administered Toronto Youth Job Corps as a cost-shared program with the federal government. Delivery of the Toronto Youth Job Corps program has been provided through a partnership between the City and community-based organizations. Toronto Youth Job Corps provides pre-employment support, structured employment training, job placement and case management supports for youth most distant from the labour market.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter and administer a contract agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada, for the Toronto Youth Jobs Corps program for up to \$15,227,669 in Federal subsidy for the period, May 1, 2024, to April 28, 2028.
2. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to have delegated authority to accept this and extend future contracts and receive and expend funds as submitted in the application to Employment and Social Development Canada to support the Toronto Youth Job Corps program through the annual budget process.
3. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into agreements with other entities, including purchase of service agreements for the delivery of Toronto Youth Job Corp with the successful proponents of the Request for Proposals process, other federal agencies, community organizations,

private entities, or individuals, and to spend federal funding in accordance with the federal program requirements and guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Currently, the 2023 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration includes \$3.370 million gross and \$ 0.137 million net, along with 2 positions to administer the Toronto Youth Jobs Corps (TYJC) program along with the federal government. The program costs are primarily funded by federal subsidy and the City is responsible for the costs associated with program administration.

Following the completion of the existing contract period, this report seeks authority from Council for the City to enter into a new agreement with the Federal Government to receive funding for cost-shared TYJC program from May 01, 2024, to April 28, 2028, and to receive and expend funds through the annual budget process.

Social Development, Finance and Administration has applied for a new contract agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada for the TYJC program with a total contract value of up to \$18.036 million gross and \$2.809 million net for the period of May 01, 2024 – April 28, 2028.

Funding for this ongoing program is included in the 2024 Base Operating Budget submission for Social Development, Finance & Administration. The estimated Financial Impacts for the TYJC program for the duration of the new contract period are given below.

(\$ millions)

2024		2025		2026		2027		2028	
Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
3.611	0.558	4.884	0.845	4.498	0.7	4.535	0.709	1.515	0.236

*Until April, 2028

The identified impacts arising from this new 4-year funding contract will be submitted for consideration in future year budget processes as noted in the table above.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on September 30, 2020, Toronto City Council Agenda authorized the contract renewal agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada (formerly referred to as Service Canada) fir the City-administered Toronto Youth Job Corps program for the 2020-2023 contract period.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.EX16.25>

On March 28 and 29, 2017, City Council authorized the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into, extend and administer a contract renewal agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada and

service agencies, for up to \$8,650,858 in federal subsidy for the period April 3, 2017 to March 27, 2020.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.ED19.5>

COMMENTS

Since 1983, the City of Toronto has administered Toronto Youth Job Corps as a cost-shared program with the federal government. Delivery of the Toronto Youth Job Corps program has been provided through a partnership between the City and community-based organizations. Toronto Youth Job Corps provides pre-employment support, structured employment training, job placement and case management supports for youth most distant from the labour market.

The current Toronto Youth Job Corps contract will end on March 29, 2024. The new contract will start on May 1, 2024, pending delegated authority and approval of funding application. The City will open a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select delivery agencies for the 2024-2028 contract in January 2024. This RFP will be valid for five years.

Toronto Youth Job Corps has a Case Management component to provide intensive supports and assist youth in accessing appropriate services to facilitate life stabilization. A Case Manager Assistant position, funded by Employment and Social Development Canada has been added to support the additional demand for these services.

A total of 1,152 youth will be served for the duration of this contract. Expected outcomes are that: 980 participants will be more job ready; 692 youth will be employed, and 230 youth will return to school.

In a fourteen-year period from 2009 to 2023, Toronto Youth Job Corps provided pre-employment training to 4,105 youth with 1,947 youth obtaining employment, and 774 youth returning to school.

As detailed in Table 3 below, for the 2020-2024 Toronto Youth Job Corps contract period, 1,105 youth commenced in the program with 517 youth obtaining employment, and 179 youth returning to school.

Table 3: Detailed Performance Statistics – Toronto Youth Job Corps (2020 – 2024)

TORONTO YOUTH JOB CORPS Outcomes	City Achievement	Federal Target	% of Target Met
Commenced the program	1,105	1,200	92%
Employed	517	660	78%
Returned to school	183	179	102%

*Note: Federal Target numbers are from original agreement and includes Extension Target numbers. There is one intake starting November 6, 2023, and agencies have until March 29, 2024, to achieve targets.

As Canada's largest city, Toronto is home to a significant and diverse population of youth who are eager to enter the workforce. However, many of these youth experience challenges in gaining employment opportunities. The youth unemployment rate in Canada averaged 13.82 percent from 1976 until 2023. It reached an all time high of 30.30 percent in May of 2020 and a record low of 9.00 percent in July 2022. In September of 2023, the youth unemployment rate in Canada decreased to 10.50 percent from 11.30 percent earlier in the year. The complexities of navigating the current job market, coupled with systemic issues such as underemployment, unequal access to resources, and the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, have highlighted the need for targeted employment supports to empower the city's youth.

The Toronto Youth Job Corps program supports the objectives of the City's Workforce Development Strategy that connects employers to job seekers and is aligned with the City's strategic priority to invest in people to improve their quality of life. City Council has directed staff to report to Council in 2024 on opportunities to strategically coordinate and collaborate with other orders of government on City workforce development initiatives. The planned focus will be on low-income residents, social assistance clients and equity-deserving communities. Toronto Youth Job Corps is a valuable component of the City's workforce development service portfolio, providing support for equity-deserving youth who are furthest from the labour market.

The Toronto Youth Job Corps supports youth who face multiple barriers in accessing and maintaining employment, education, and training opportunities through:

- In-house workshops tailored to participant needs to develop their employability and life skills.
- Community projects such as paint-sites to simulate work environments and develop employment skills.
- Job placements and work experience with employers.
- Individualized client centred case management to support participants who require additional wrap around services.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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