

Service Agreements Awarded and Executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2023

Date: June 19, 2023

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the purchase of service contracts awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2023, according to the delegation of authority by City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2023 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health. Attachment 1 outlines \$7.642 million in service contracts awarded and executed by program for 2023.

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

DECISION HISTORY

On July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the report from the Medical Officer of Health that outlined the service agreements awarded and executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2022/2023.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.HL38.4>

COMMENTS

Toronto Public Health (TPH) currently has service contracts with partner agencies that support service delivery in the community for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, food security initiatives, sexual health program, dental care to street involved youth and low income adults program, and Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

Purchasing services from community agencies is an effective and efficient way to provide essential public health services. This approach builds on existing service infrastructure in the community, facilitates community partnerships, supports continuity of service to clients, and maximize service efficiencies.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is a 100 percent Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services funded program that provides home visiting services to families at higher risk. In an effort to support local community capacity and avoid service duplication, the family home visiting service contracts were awarded to and executed with four local agencies engaged in providing peer home visiting services. In order to align with the provincial fiscal year, the contracts are awarded for a service period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Sexual Health Programs

The Sexual Health Clinics program is cost-shared between the Ministry of Health (70 percent) and the City of Toronto (30 percent), with purchase of service arrangements in place with three Toronto clinics: Hassle Free Clinic, Birth Control and Sexual Health Centre, and IWHC Toronto (formerly Immigrant Women's Health Centre). These clinics deliver services addressing the needs of specific priority client populations and can identify and respond quickly to gaps in service or emerging sexual health needs.

Toronto Public Health also has purchase of service agreements with five community agencies. These agencies deliver sexual health promotion services reaching specific hard to reach populations and those at higher risk.

Food Security Initiatives

The Food Security initiatives are cost-shared between the Ministry of Health (70 percent) and the City of Toronto (30 percent), with purchase of service arrangements in place with three community agencies: FoodShare Toronto; Working Women Community Centre; and Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre. The initiatives deliver low cost, fresh fruit and vegetables to equity deserving communities, and promote skills development through food literacy education and food handler training.

Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low Income Adults Program

Funded 100 percent by the City, Toronto Public Health provides funding to three agencies that use volunteer dental professionals to provide dental services to street youth and low/no income adults, 18-64 year olds, who are unable to pay for dental care

in the private sector. These agencies are: Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre, Evergreen Centre for Street Youth Yonge Street Mission; and The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care.

The agencies use the funds to purchase dental supplies, repair dental equipment, subsidize dental assistant salaries and provide honorariums for dental professionals such as dentists and dental hygienists. These funds assist with keeping the clinics operating and attracting volunteers. Agencies that provide free dental care to these residents also receive funds through charitable donations.

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

On November 20, 2019 the Government of Ontario launched the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), a 100 percent Ministry of Health funded program for low income Ontario seniors. Dental treatments for OSDCP eligible seniors is available through clinics located within Public Health Units (PHUs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs).

Under the Ministry of Health's Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement, TPH may enter into contractual partnerships with organizations to provide eligible OSDCP seniors with specialty dental services that are part of the OSDCP service schedule, but unavailable through PHUs, CHCs and AHACs.

More information about programs, funding and contract amounts can be found in Attachment 1.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Public Health – 2023 Service Contracts