

Service Agreements Awarded and Executed by the Medical Officer of Health for 2024

Date: May 13, 2024

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 2024, according to the delegation of authority by City Council.

This report also requests approval for the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend, on an ongoing basis, purchase of services contracts with Working Women Community Centre to deliver food handler training and certification, food literacy, and employment skills development to low-income community participants, including newcomers and refugees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend, on an ongoing basis, purchase of service agreements for food security initiatives with Working Women Community Centre, within the approved Toronto Public Health budget, in accordance with applicable program and funding guidelines, on such terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form approved by the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2024 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health. Attachment 1 outlines \$7,437.7 thousand in service contracts awarded and executed by program to support delivery for 2024.

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

DECISION HISTORY

On July 19, 2023, 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 2023/2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.HL5.4>

On May 14, 2019, 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 2019/2020.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL6.3>

COMMENTS

Toronto Public Health currently has service contracts with partner agencies that support service delivery in the community for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, food security initiatives, the Sexual Health Clinic program, dental care to street involved youth and low-income adults program, and the 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 maximizes service efficiencies.

Attachment 1 outlines the full list of partner agencies with which TPH contracts.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Healthy Babies Healthy Children is funded 100 per cent by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and provides home visiting services to at-risk families. 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. The contracts are awarded for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 to align with the provincial fiscal year.

Sexual Health Program

The Sexual Health Clinics program is cost-shared between the Ministry of Health and the City of Toronto, 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 for the delivery of sexual health promotion services aimed at reaching specific high-risk and hard to reach populations.

Dental Care to Street Involved Youth and Low-Income Adults Program

Funded 100 percent by the City, support is provided to three agencies that use volunteer dental professionals to provide dental services to street youth and low/no income adults aged 18-64 years old who are unable to pay for private dental care. Participating agencies are Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre (an amalgamation of Central Toronto and Parkdale Community Health Centres), 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

The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) is funded 100 per cent by the Ministry of Health and provides dental care for low-income Ontario seniors. Dental treatment for OSDCP eligible seniors is available through clinics located within Public Health Units, Community Health Centres, and Aboriginal Health Access Centres.

Under the Ministry of Health's Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement, Toronto Public Health may enter contractual partnerships with organizations to provide eligible OSDCP seniors with specialty dental services that are part of the OSDCP service schedule.

Food Security Initiatives

The food security initiatives are cost-shared between the Ministry of Health and the City of Toronto 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.

This report requests authority to enter into purchase of service agreements with Working Women Community Centre so that the agency can continue to provide services such as food handler training and certification, food literacy, and employment skills development to low-income community participants, including newcomers and refugees. As a well-established, not for profit community organization with considerable experience in project management, employment skills development, settlement services and community capacity building, Working Women Community Centre is well positioned

to operate the program.

While agreement authority from Council has been obtained in the past for Working Women Community Centre, the recommendation in this report is intended to clarify that such authority applies on an ongoing basis. Council authority has been obtained previously for execution of agreements on an ongoing basis with Foodshare Toronto and Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre.

Toronto Public Health provides annual updates to the Board of Health on these three agreements.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Public Health – 2024 Service Contracts