

Authority to receive grants in support of public health initiatives

Date: November 1, 2024

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

On occasion, Toronto Public Health (TPH) can apply for grants from third parties, including community organizations and agencies reporting to other orders of government. The purpose of a grant can range from providing additional public health services for community benefits, to engaging in research and projects that support topics of public health significance.

A recent example of this is a partnership with the Urban Public Health Network (UPHN), where UPHN will provide TPH with a one-time transfer of \$100,000 CAD to enhance human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates among high school students for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 school years. Funding will be used to initiate a project that will enhance communications and youth engagement to increase HPV vaccination.

This report seeks City Council authority for the Medical Officer of Health to accept grants, and to enter into contractual agreements for the purpose of accepting grants in the amount of \$500,000 or less. If approved, this increase in delegated authority will enable Toronto Public Health to accept the UPHN one-time funding, as well as access funds received from any future grants more quickly. Grants and funding above this amount would be reported to Council. Both the Board of Health and City Council will continue to be informed of all grant amounts received by TPH through the annual budget process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council delegate authority to the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements, with any government, agency, community organization, private entity or individual for the purpose of receiving and using funds for the provision of Toronto Public Health programs and services in the amount of \$500,000 or less on such terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form approved by the City Solicitor provided that the cumulative amount received from any individual order of government, agency, community organization, private entity or individual shall not exceed \$500,000 in any calendar year.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is partnering with the Urban Public Health Network (UPHN) to enhance HPV vaccination rates among high school students for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 school years through enhanced communications and youth engagement to increase vaccination. As part of this project, UPHN will provide TPH with a one-time transfer of \$100.0 thousand.

Toronto Public Health will request to adjust the 2025 Operating Budget through the in-year adjustment process by \$100.0 thousand gross, \$0 net once funding is received.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 26, 2007, the Board of Health recommended that City Council delegate authority to the Medical Officer of Health for the acceptance and use of grants and donations received by Toronto Public Health from individuals and organizations in the amount of \$50,000 or less.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2007.HL2.8>

COMMENTS

On occasion, Toronto Public Health can apply for grants and/or receive funds from other levels of government, agencies, community organizations, private entities or individuals. The purpose of the grant and/or funding can range from providing additional public health services for community benefits to engaging in research and projects that support topics of public health significance.

Currently, TPH must seek authority from City Council when it is awarded funding from another government, agencies, community organizations, private entities or individuals. This creates a barrier to accessing funding quickly and burdens City Council with individual requests that could be facilitated and administered by TPH. The recommendations in this report are not intended to cover funding received by the Board of Health from the province through Accountability Agreements executed under the authority of the Health Promotion and Protection Act.

This report recommends that the Medical Officer of Health have delegated authority to accept grants from external organizations and other levels of government. If approved, TPH would be able to more efficiently execute grant agreements where available. City Council has previously approved delegated authority for City staff to enter into grant agreements. In 2020, Council approved delegated authority for the Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS) General Manager to receive and allocate federal and provincial funding for the delivery of housing and homelessness services via amendments to Chapter 169. In 2023, Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS) Executive Director was granted authority to accept grants up to \$500,000.

The proposed delegated authority to accept grants would be for grants with a value up to \$500,000, mirroring the grant authority delegated to MLS and TSSS, and the authority of division heads to accept sponsorships under the Sponsorship Policy. Grants above this amount would be brought to City Council for approval. Both the Board of Health and City Council will continue to be informed of all grant amounts received by TPH through the annual budget process and quarterly variance report.

Next steps

This report seeks City Council authority for the Medical Officer of Health to accept grants, and to enter into contractual agreements for the purpose of accepting grants in the amount of \$500,000 or less. If approved, this increase in delegated authority will enable TPH to accept the UPHN one-time funding of \$100,000 CAD, as well as access funds received from any future grants more quickly.

Toronto Public Health Strategic Impact

The recommendations detailed in this report align with the following priorities and objectives of the [Toronto Public Health Strategic Plan 2024-2028](#).

Priority 4. Advocate to advance health equity, and the following objectives:

- b. Collaborate with partners across multiple sectors to address local health needs.
- c. Share evidence, advocate and collaborate to influence actions that impact population health.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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