

2025 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

Date: April 22, 2025
To: Board of Health
From: Acting Medical Officer of Health
Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report makes recommendations for the 2025 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations. The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success are for the purpose of administering the 2025 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto. These allocations total \$31,020,579, which includes \$1,448,575 held in reserve for fall applications and appeals, including equipment and start-up supplies for new programs submitting fall applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Acting Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements and other suitable arrangements, on behalf of the City of Toronto, for the transfer of funds to the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$5,508,378) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$25,512,201) for the purpose of administering the 2025 approved municipal funding (totalling \$31,020,579) to eligible Toronto student nutrition programs on terms satisfactory to the Acting Medical Officer of Health and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. The Board of Health forward this report to the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire Viamonde, le Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, and the Angel Foundation for Learning.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$26,020,579 is included in the 2025 Approved Operating Budget of Toronto Public Health for student nutrition programs. Additional one-time funding of \$5.0 million is currently included in the 2025 Approved Operating Budget of the City Manager's Office to support program expansion and to enhance existing municipally funded student nutrition programs. Toronto Public Health will request to receive the funds from the City Manager's Office through the Operating Variance Report at Four Months End for program implementation.

This report recommends an allocation of \$31,020,579¹: \$5,508,378 to the Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL) and \$25,512,201 to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), which includes all funds held in reserve as outlined in Tables 1, 2, and 3. The proposed combined allocations are for the purpose of administering the 2025 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs in Toronto.

The agreement with AFL and TFSS will include requirements that each foundation provide the City with consolidated financial reports detailing their administration of municipal funds to student nutrition programs, with associated performance measures, and annual audited financial statements. All student nutrition programs approved for funding will receive municipal funding in three instalments from their respective foundation. They must meet program requirements, including financial reporting to their respective foundation, to receive subsequent instalment cheques. Both foundations consistently meet all their contractual requirements.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held on March 26, 2025, City Council adopted item EX21.8 – "Building a Universal Student Food Program in Toronto", and approved an increase of \$5 million gross, \$0 net, to the 2025 Operating Budget for the City Manager's Office for expansion of the Student Nutrition Program to new school communities and enhance existing programs in current school communities, offset by available funds resulting from underspending in 2024.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX21.8>

At its meeting held on March 26, 2025, City Council adopted item EX21.8 - "Building a Universal Student Food Program in Toronto" and directed the City Manager, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, to ensure new funds allocated towards the School Food Program align with the City's Economic Action plan and its response to the trade war by prioritizing bulk purchasing from local food producers, distributors and suppliers to maximize cost efficiency while supporting Toronto's local economy, workers and businesses.

¹ Excludes \$30,000 administered by Toronto Public Health to support the eligibility assessment process for the Independent Schools Stream.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX21.8>

At its meeting held on February 11, 2025, City Council deemed adopted Item MPB27.1 – "2025 Operating and Capital Budget" and approved the 2025 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health, which included the 2025 municipal funding for the Student Nutrition Program.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.MPB27.1>

At its meeting on October 9, 2024, City Council adopted EX17.1 - "Building a Universal Student Food Program in Toronto" and requested the City Manager, in coordination with the Medical Officer of Health to report back by the second quarter of 2025 on a vision and strategy for achieving a universal student nutrition program, consistent with Toronto's Cool Food commitments, where a universal morning meal is provided in Toronto by the 2026-2027 school year and a universal lunch program by 2030.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.EX17.1>

COMMENTS

2025 Program Reach and Expansion

Student nutrition programs are community-based meal and snack programs offered primarily in school settings and run locally by students, parents, and volunteers. These programs provide children and youth access to nutritious food, including those at risk for poor nutritional intake. Evidence on the positive impacts of student nutrition programs is well documented (see Attachment 1).

For the 2025-2026 school year, current information indicates that the municipal investment will support 668 school communities to offer a nutritious meal to 258,791 children and youth each school day. As some locations offer more than one program type, there are over 863 unique student nutrition programs, located in every Toronto Ward. Most programs are in public schools. Upon completion of the 2025 expansion, approximately 81 per cent of Toronto's public schools will have a student nutrition program.

More information about the 2025 grant application and review process can be found in Attachment 1.

Community Partnership Model for Student Nutrition Program

Student Nutrition Ontario-Toronto (SNO-Toronto) is a community advisory partnership, which collaborates to provide oversight, monitor program quality and accountability, and provide program support to student nutrition programs in Toronto. SNO-Toronto also recommends the allocation of municipal and provincial funding to Toronto's student nutrition programs. Membership includes representatives from Toronto Public Health, Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), and Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS). Attachment 1 outlines the roles and responsibilities of the partner agencies and

provides information on the grant application, outreach, and review process, led by Toronto Public Health in collaboration with SNO-Toronto.

Municipal Budget Enhancements for the 2025-2026 School Year

Student nutrition programs depend on funding from the City of Toronto, Government of Ontario, student and parent contributions, community and school board fundraising, and corporate donations.

City Council increased its 2025 investment for the Student Nutrition Program with an enhancement to the 2025 Operating Budgets for Toronto Public Health by \$6,886,311 and for the City Manager's Office by \$5,000,000. These enhancements are to strengthen existing programs and to enable 50 new school communities in public schools to start a morning-time student nutrition program. The total 2025 approved funding is \$31,020,579 for the 2025-2026 school year.

Municipal funding will enhance the existing capacity of the centralized bulk food purchasing and distribution mechanism for student nutrition programs that is coordinated by the Foundations. Municipal funding for community capacity building will focus on supporting the operational needs of new programs.

Summary of 2025 Allocations and Recommendations

The SNO-Toronto Committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of municipal funds to be administered by the AFL and TFSS, as outlined in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Table 1: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations: Public Schools Stream - Strengthen Existing Programs

Foundation	Funding Amount (\$)
Angel Foundation for Learning (172 existing school communities)	\$4,859,266
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (458 existing school communities)	\$15,523,766
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for fall applications and appeals)	\$139,375
Total (630 school communities reaching 247,126 participants)	\$20,522,407

The funds held in reserve for fall applications and appeals will be used to adjust the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2025. The entire municipal grant for existing programs is distributed to programs and directed towards the cost of nutritious food and consumable supplies.

Table 2: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations: Public Schools Stream - Expand to New Programs

Foundation	Funding Amount (\$)
Angel Foundation for Learning (8 new school communities)	\$534,112
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (24 new school communities)	\$1,761,760
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for rolling application process to support program expansion to remaining 18 new programs)	\$1,154,445
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (centralized bulk food purchasing and logistics for existing and new programs)	\$6,249,683
Angel Foundation for Learning (for community capacity building)	\$115,000
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (for community capacity building)	\$385,000
Total (32 new confirmed school communities reaching 10,405 participants, plus 18 additional new school communities upon completion of application process for 2025 expansion)	\$10,200,000

The funds held in reserve for fall applications and appeals will be used to adjust the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2025. The entire municipal grant distributed to new programs is directed towards the cost of nutritious food and consumable supplies. Municipal funding for new programs also includes one-time funding for equipment and start-up expenses. Supplementary food sourced through centralized bulk purchases will be available for new and existing programs.

Table 3: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations: Independent School Stream

Foundation	Funding Amount (\$)
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (6 independent schools reaching 1,260 participants)	\$103,417
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for 2 applicants pending needs assessment results, fall applications and appeals)	\$154,755

Foundation	Funding Amount (\$)
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (for community capacity building)	\$40,000
Total	\$298,172

The funds held in reserve for applicants pending needs assessment results, fall applications, and appeals will be used to adjust the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2025. The entire municipal grant in the Independent Schools Streams is distributed to programs and directed towards the cost of nutritious food and consumable supplies, except for the portion allocated to community capacity building.

Toronto Public Health Strategic Impact

This report advances the following priorities and objectives outlined in Toronto Public Health's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

Priority 2: Promote health and well-being across the lifespan

- Objective b. Prioritize effective interventions for children and youth to meet their changing needs

Priority 4: Advocate to advance health equity

- Objective b. Collaborate with partners across multiple sectors to address local health needs

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey
Acting Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Background on Student Nutrition Programs