

City Approved Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget

Date: March 12, 2026

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget deemed adopted by City Council on February 10, 2026.

City Council deemed adopted a 2026 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget of \$307.421 million gross, \$103.489 million net and 1,865.5 full-time equivalent positions. The City approved Operating Budget reflects a decrease of \$8.846 million gross and \$9.038 million net, and an increase of eighteen (18) positions compared with Board of Health recommendations made on September 15, 2025.

The differences are attributable to the following:

- Decrease of \$9.020 million gross and net for adjustments to the phased expansion of the Student Nutrition Program and the elimination of three new positions intended to enhance the Food Safety program to support the expansion, due to budgetary constraints.
- Increase of 19 positions for the Downtown Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub program, which is fully funded by the Province.
- Increase of \$0.174 million gross and decrease of \$0.019 million net and increase of 2 positions for the delivery of capital projects, fully funded under TPH's 10-Year Capital Plan.

The City approved 2026 Operating Budget represents an increase of \$5.911 million gross (2.0 per cent) and \$9.526 million net (10.1 per cent) over the 2025 approved Operating Budget.

At its meeting on February 10, 2026 City Council adopted a recommendation to authorize the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer to allocate the \$75.0 million in-year expenditure management target, across applicable City divisions, which will amend the Council-adopted 2026 Operating Budgets for specific divisions while maintaining the overall consolidated City Budget. A portion of this corporate

affordability target will be assigned to TPH and applied through an in-year adjustment. As a result, TPH will receive an allocation through an in-year adjustment that will be reflected through the quarterly variance reporting process. TPH will be required to identify savings from within its existing programs during 2026 to meet this corporate target without impacting service levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health receives this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with the recommendation of this report in current and future years.

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 on February 10, 2026, City Council deemed adopted a Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget of \$307,421.7 thousand gross, \$103,489.2 thousand net. [Agenda Item History - 2026.MPB38.1](#)

At its meeting on February 10, 2026, City Council adopted a recommendation to authorize the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to allocate the \$75.0 million in-year expenditure management target, across applicable City divisions, which will amend the Council-adopted 2026 Operating Budgets for specific divisions while maintaining the overall consolidated City Budget. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.CC38.1>

At its meeting on January 23, 2026, the Budget Committee recommended that the Mayor propose a Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget of \$307,421.7 thousand gross, \$103,489.2 thousand net. [Agenda Item History - 2026.BU12.1](#)

At its meeting on September 15, 2025, the Board of Health requested the Mayor to propose a 2026 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health of \$316,267.7 thousand gross, \$112,527.5 thousand net, and 1,847.5 positions and directed that this report be forwarded to the City of Toronto Budget Committee for consideration as part of the 2026 Budget Process. [Agenda Item History - 2025.HL27.1](#)

COMMENTS

At its meeting on September 15, 2025, the Board of Health recommended a Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget of \$316.287 million gross, \$112.527 thousand net and 1,847.5 positions. The recommended budget included a new/enhanced request of \$15.020 million gross and net for:

- Phase 3 and 4 expansion of Student Nutrition Programs to 155 additional school communities as described in the [City's Vision and Strategy for a Universal School Food Program](#).
- Support program growth for existing Student Nutrition Programs
- Three new positions to enhance the capacity of TPH's Food Safety Program in order to provide food safety support to the additional school communities that will be funded for a SNP through the expansion.

At its meeting on February 10, 2026, City Council deemed adopted a Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget of \$307.421 million gross, \$103.489 million net and 1,865.5 positions. The City approved Toronto Public Health Operating Budget reflects a decrease of \$8.846 million gross, \$9.038 million net, and an increase of eighteen (18) positions as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of Recommended and City Approved Toronto Public Health 2026 Operating Budget

	Board of Health Recommended (September 15, 2025)	Change from the Board of Health Recommended	City Approved (February 10, 2026)
Gross Expense (\$ millions)	316.268	(8.846)	307.421
Revenue (\$ millions)	203.740	0.192	203.932
Net Expense (\$ millions)	112.527	(9.038)	103.489
Positions (#)	1,847.5	18.0	1,865.5

The difference between the Board of Health recommended and the City approved 2026 Operating Budget is a decrease of \$8.846 million gross, \$9.038 million net, and an increase of eighteen (18) positions as follows:

- Adjustment to TPH's new/enhanced request from \$15.020 million gross and net to \$6.000 million gross and net (decrease of \$9.020 million gross and net) for the expansion of the Student Nutrition Program and the elimination of three new

positions intended to enhance the Food Safety program to support the expansion, due to budgetary constraints.

- Toronto's student nutrition programs are receiving additional funding from the province and through the National School Food Program. The 2025/2026 federal and provincial funding for student nutrition programs in Toronto increased by \$11.3 million from original investments, which includes one-time and base increase in funding.
- Increase of 19 positions for the Downtown Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub program, which is fully funded by the Province.
- Increase of \$0.174 million gross and decrease of \$0.019 million net and increase of 2 positions for the delivery of capital projects, fully funded under TPH's 10-Year Capital Plan.

Student Nutrition Program Expansion

Approved funds will enable the expansion of Student Nutrition Programs to 77 new school communities in Spring 2026 and the remaining 78 school communities in the 2026-2027 school year, reaching 62,000 additional students.

TPH will return to the Board of Health in Q2, 2026 with recommendations on the allocation of municipal funds for the 2026-2027 school year.

Additional Savings

At its meeting on February 10, 2026 City Council adopted a recommendation to authorize the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer to allocate the \$75.0 million in-year expenditure management target, across applicable City divisions, which will amend the Council-adopted 2026 Operating Budgets for specific divisions while maintaining the overall consolidated City Budget. A portion of this corporate affordability target will be assigned to TPH and applied through an in-year adjustment. As a result, TPH will receive an allocation through an in-year adjustment that will be reflected through the quarterly variance reporting process. TPH will be required to identify savings from within its existing programs during 2026 to meet this corporate target without impacting service levels.

Strategic Impact

The proposed adjustments to Toronto Public Health's 2026 Operating Budget advances Toronto Public Health's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 with a particular focus on:

- Priority 2: Promoting health and well-being across the lifespan
 - Objective b: Prioritizing effective interventions for children and youth to meet their changing needs.
- Priority 3: Promote the conditions to support positive mental health and reduce the harms of substance use.
 - Objective a: Deliver public health interventions that respond to the drug toxicity epidemic

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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