

Achieving Universal Student Nutrition - 2026 Service Subsidies

Date: May 15, 2026

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Student nutrition programs are community-based meal and snack programs offered primarily in school settings and run locally by volunteers, parents, and students. These programs provide children and youth access to nutritious food during the school day, including those at risk for poor nutritional intake.

In collaboration with partners, Toronto Public Health is executing on Council's vision and strategy to achieve a universal student nutrition program.

This report makes recommendations for the 2026 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations that once implemented, would achieve the City's goal of having a universal morning meal program across all public school communities by the 2026-2027 school year.

The proposed combined allocations to the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success are for the purposes of administering the 2026 approved municipal funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto. These allocations total \$31.170 million, which includes \$0.518 million held in reserve for remaining Phase 4 applications not submitted to date, fall applications, and appeals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the 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 (\$7.216 million) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$23.954 million) for the purposes of administering the 2026 approved operating municipal funding (totalling \$31.170 million) to eligible Toronto student

nutrition programs on terms satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding of \$31.970 million is included in the 2026 Approved Operating Budget of Toronto Public Health for the Student Nutrition Program. Of this amount, \$0.800 million was previously allocated, consisting of \$0.100 million to the Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL) and \$0.700 million to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) to administer municipal funding for eligible 77 new school communities as part of Phase 3 of the Student Nutrition Program expansion.

The report recommends an allocation of \$31.170 million, consisting of \$7.216 million to the AFL and \$23.954 million to the TFSS, to administer the remaining 2026 approved municipal funding for all eligible school communities across Toronto, including 78 new school communities under Phase 4 of the Student Nutrition Program expansion. Of the recommended amount, \$0.518 million will be temporarily held in reserve to accommodate remaining Phase 4 applicants as well as fall applications and appeals for existing programs, subject to necessary adjustments through December 31, 2026. Allocation details are outlined in Tables 1, 2, and 3 of the report.

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 February 10, 2026, City Council adopted the "2026 Operating and Capital Budget" and approved the 2026 Operating and Capital Budget for Toronto Public Health, which included the 2026 operating municipal funding for the Student Nutrition Program.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.MPB38.1>

At its meeting held on February 10, 2026, City Council adopted "Budget Implementation Including Property Tax Rates, User Fees and Related Matters" and authorized the Medical Officer of Health to facilitate the execution of agreements for the transfer of funds to the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$100,000.00) and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$700,000.00) for the purpose of administering municipal funds to eligible new school communities as part of the Phase 3 expansion of the Student Nutrition Program.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.CC38.1>

At its meeting on June 25 and 26, 2025, City Council adopted a report from the City Manager on a Vision and Strategy for a Universal School Food Program in Toronto that outlined a phased implementation plan for a universal morning meal program, targeted for full rollout by the 2026/2027 school year.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.EX24.3>

COMMENTS

Student Nutrition Programs are community-based meal and snack programs offered primarily in school settings and run locally by volunteers, parents, and students. These programs provide children and youth access to nutritious food during the school day, including those at risk for poor nutritional intake.

In collaboration with the City Manager's Office, Social Development division, public school boards, Angel Foundation for Learning (AFL), and Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), Toronto Public Health is supporting Council's vision and strategy for a 4-phase expansion to achieve a universal morning meal program across all public school communities by the 2026-2027 school year.

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.

Program Expansion Status

Phases 1 and 2 of the expansion are complete, which enabled 73 new school communities to open a student nutrition program in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years respectively. Phase 3 of the expansion is currently underway, with 77 programs scheduled to launch throughout Spring 2026. Once fully implemented, these programs are expected to serve an additional 27,528 participants each school day.

Funding applications from 69 of the remaining 78 public school communities for Phase 4 expansion have been received to date and are being planned for a Fall 2026 start date to align with the 2026-2027 school year. Once implemented, these programs are expected to serve an additional 30,137 participants each day. TPH and partners are actively working with the remaining public schools to support Phase 4 applications. Applications for Phase 4 expansion continue to be accepted.

2026 Municipal Budget Enhancements

City Council increased its 2026 investment for the Student Nutrition Program with an enhancement to TPH's 2026 operating budget of \$6.000 million, in addition to a 3.8% cost of food inflationary increase, totalling a 2026 Student Nutrition operational budget of \$31.970 million. The 2026 funding enhancement aims to strengthen existing programs facing increased demand and to enable 155 public school communities to start a student nutrition program (Phase 3 and Phase 4 expansion). In February 2026,

City Council approved for \$0.800 million of the 2026 municipal funding to be issued to the AFL and TFSS to support Phase 3 expansion in the 2025-2026 school year.

Through the Foundations, municipal funding is directed towards the cost of nutritious food and consumable supplies, centralized bulk food purchasing and distribution, and program development and coordination support for new and existing programs. Municipal funding for new programs also includes one-time funding for equipment and start-up expenses, which has previously been allocated and not included in this report.

While student nutrition programs are not direct City-run programs, municipal funding provides school communities with core funding to purchase nutritious food and other needed supplies for their student nutrition programs. Student nutrition programs also depend on funding from additional sources to offer a robust program, including the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, student and parent contributions, community and school board fundraising, and corporate donations. Attachment 1 summarizes Government of Ontario and Government of Canada funding.

Summary of 2026 Allocations and Recommendations

For the 2026-2027 school year, the SNO-Toronto Committee received and approved the following recommendations for the distribution of \$31.170 million municipal funds to be administered by the AFL and TFSS. Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of funding distributed directly to student nutrition programs by the foundations, totalling \$27.130 million. Table 3 provides an overview of funding to support overall program operations, totalling \$4.040 million. These funds will be used by the AFL and TFSS to administer bulk food purchasing and logistics initiatives in addition to program coordination activities for new and existing student nutrition programs.

Table 1: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations for Direct Program Delivery: Existing Programs

Includes all existing programs (pre-expansion, Phase 1, 2, and 3 expansion programs)

Foundation	Funding Amount (millions)
Angel Foundation for Learning (194 existing school communities)	\$6.023
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (572 existing school communities)	\$18.357
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for fall applications and appeals)	\$0.342
Total (766 school communities reaching 295,310 participants)	\$24.722

The funds held in reserve for fall applications and appeals will be used to adjust the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2026.

Table 2: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations for Direct Program Delivery: Phase 4 Expansion

Foundation	Funding Amount (millions)
Angel Foundation for Learning (6 new school communities)	\$0.241
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (63 new school communities)	\$1.992
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (held in reserve for rolling application process to support program expansion to remaining 9 new programs)	\$0.175
Total (69 new confirmed school communities reaching 30,137 participants, plus 9 additional new school communities upon completion of application process for Phase 4 expansion)	\$2.408

The funds held in reserve for remaining Phase 4 applications and appeals will be used to adjust the allocations as required prior to December 31, 2026.

Table 3: Summary of Allocations and Recommendations to Support Overall Program Operations

Foundation	Funding Amount (millions)
Angel Foundation for Learning (centralized bulk food purchasing and logistics for new and existing programs)	\$0.714
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (centralized bulk food purchasing and logistics for new and existing programs)	\$2.286
Angel Foundation for Learning (program coordination for new and existing programs)	\$0.238
Toronto Foundation for Student Success (program coordination for new and existing programs)	\$0.802
Total	\$4.040

Accountability and Reporting

The agreements with the AFL and TFSS 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. The agreements also include requirements for the foundations to report on impact of initiatives to support overall program operations (e.g., centralized bulk food purchasing and logistics, and program coordination). 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.

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. Michelle Murti
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Background on Student Nutrition Programs