

2026 and 2027 Toronto Urban Health Fund Allocations and Review Process

Date: May 15, 2026

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) provides grant funding to community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver HIV and substance use prevention programs.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) has adopted initial findings from a review of the TUHF grant program to reduce administrative burden for CBOs, including streamlining the reporting process and project requirements. TPH will be returning to the Board of Health in 2027 with additional proposed changes to the TUHF for the 2028 funding cycle. To facilitate service continuity, TPH has implemented an interim approach, approved by the Board of Health. The approach streamlined the approval process to renew funding for twenty-one previously approved projects for the 2026 and 2027 funding period.

This report provides an overview of the TUHF and the interim process for funding renewal and outlines recommendations for 2026 and 2027 project grants. The report also recommends allocating funds to the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) for a pilot project to align the TUHF grant program with the Toronto to Zero (TtZ) initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health to allocate \$2.157 million in 2026 and \$1.051 million in 2027 out of its Operating Budget to the Toronto Urban Health Fund for grants to the twenty-one projects already deemed eligible.
2. The Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health to negotiate, enter into and execute agreements with Ontario HIV Treatment Network for up to \$0.900 million in 2026 and up to \$0.900 million in 2027 of the Toronto Urban Health Fund for a pilot

project to advance the Toronto to Zero initiative on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) is cost-shared between the City of Toronto and the Ministry of Health.

Funding of \$3.057 million gross and \$0.764 million net is available in the 2026 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health to renew twenty-one projects as outlined in Table 2 of the Attachment 1 and advance the pilot project with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network in 2026.

Funding of \$1.951 million gross and \$0.488 million net required to support these projects in 2027 will be included in the 2027 Operating Budget Submission for Toronto Public Health. This request introduces no budget pressures and is subject to consideration and Council approval alongside priorities through the 2027 Budget process.

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 March 30, 2026, the Board of Health authorized the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements and other suitable arrangements, on terms satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, with Indigenous-led organizations in 2026 for the Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) Indigenous Funding Stream, totalling \$0.4 million.

[Agenda Item History – 2026.HL31.2](#)

At its meeting on November 24, 2025, the Board of Health endorsed the interim approach for the Toronto Urban Health Fund Grant Program for the 2026 and 2027 funding cycles while changes to the Toronto Urban Health Fund Grant Program are considered for the 2028 funding cycle and requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health in 2027 with proposed changes.

[Agenda Item History - 2025.HL29.3](#)

At its meeting on June 3, 2025, the Board of Health authorized the Acting Medical Officer of Health to allocate \$0.6 million for seven (7) one-year projects and \$1.7 million to fifteen (15) three-year projects as recommended by the 2025 TUHF Review Panel.

[Agenda Item History – 2025.HL25.3](#)

At its meeting on October 21, 2024, the Board of Health authorized the Medical Officer of Health to enter into agreements totalling \$0.24 million with Indigenous-led organizations in 2025 for the TUHF Indigenous funding stream.

[Agenda Item History – 2024.HL17.3](#)

At its meeting on May 27, 2024, the Board of Health authorized the Medical Officer of Health to allocate \$0.6 million for seven (7) one-year projects and \$1.9 million to seventeen (17) three-year projects to implement year two services in 2024 as recommended by the 2023 TUHF Review Panels. The Board of Health directed the Medical Officer of Health to work in collaboration with urban Indigenous community organizations to evaluate and reset the TUHF Indigenous funding stream.

[Agenda Item History - 2024.HL13.3](#)

At its meetings on November 8 and 9, 2023, City Council proclaimed the City of Toronto as a UNAIDS Fast Track City and joined the UNAIDS Fast Track City Network.

[Agenda Item History - 2023.MM12.15](#)

COMMENTS

Overview of the Toronto Urban Health Fund

The Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) provides grant funding to grassroots and community-based organizations (CBOs) to deliver culturally appropriate, evidence-based HIV and substance use prevention projects and services to marginalized and hard-to-reach people who experience disproportionate risk and face barriers to conventional public health services. TUHF's grants are geared to one-year pilot or needs assessment projects and three-year demonstration projects.

TUHF has four funding streams which advance public health outcomes: 1) child and youth resiliency, 2) harm reduction, 3) HIV prevention through sexual transmission and 4) Indigenous funding stream. These funding priorities are informed by the *Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)*, as well as City of Toronto's local surveillance data. TUHF funded projects complement TPH's sexual health, substance use prevention and harm reduction programs and services.

In November 2025, the Board of Health received a report on the TUHF grant program review findings and next steps and adopted a recommendation to endorse an interim funding approach for the 2026 and 2027 funding cycles while changes to the TUHF grant program are considered for the 2028 funding cycle. This interim funding approach included a streamlined application process to assess and approve adaptations and extensions for projects active in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 TUHF funding cycles.

TPH will return to the Board of Health in 2027 to propose further improvements aimed at modernizing the TUHF program for the 2028 funding cycle. This review and update will focus on three streams of the TUHF grant program: 1) child and youth resiliency, 2) harm reduction, 3) HIV prevention through sexual transmission. An update on the review and updates to the Indigenous funding stream is provided below.

Indigenous Funding Stream

In 2025, TPH advanced interim approaches to strengthen equitable Indigenous-led funding distribution through the Community Basket Model. At its meeting on March 30, 2026, the Board of Health adopted a recommendation that this interim funding approach for the Indigenous funding stream of the TUHF continue through 2026 while a parallel review is underway to develop a long-term, Indigenous-led funding framework.

Solicitation and Review Process for the Interim Funding Model

Following a recommendation from the Board of Health to implement an interim funding approach, TPH revised its TUHF solicitation and funding renewal process for the 2026 and 2027 funding cycles. This interim funding approach included a streamlined application process to assess and approve adaptations and extensions for projects recommended by the TUHF Review Panel to the Medical Officer of Health in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 funding cycles. Of the thirty-two (32) previously approved projects from the 2023, 2024, and 2025 TUHF funding cycles, eleven projects were not considered for funding. Of these, eight projects were either previously terminated or in the process of termination. Two projects were earlier iterations of projects currently being recommended for renewed funding. One project opted out of funding renewal based on self-assessed limited capacity to continue implementing their currently funded project.

Twenty-one (21) CBOs with previously approved, non-terminated projects were invited to pursue renewed funding to adapt or extend projects. TPH staff conducted systematic performance assessments of each project pursuing funding renewal. Staff examined funding agreements, program and financial reports, and project documentation to determine compliance. Each project performance assessment also included analyses of the TUHF program-related issues to inform service improvements and additional administrative streamlining opportunities.

All 21 projects opting to renew funding for 2026 and 2027 were deemed eligible. TPH staff supported CBOs with eligible projects to plan evidence-informed adaptations and extensions. Staff developed project and budget planning tools, which streamlined project development and reduced administrative burden. Staff also met with each project team to share performance assessment findings and guided an iterative process to finalize adaptations to project activities, target population, outcomes, timelines and/or budget in alignment with established TUHF Funding Guidelines.

Summary of 2026 and 2027 TUHF Funding Allocations

TUHF project renewal funding will be administered across 18 months. Table 1 outlines the TUHF gross and net funding allocations for the 2026 and 2027 interim period. Project funding for 2026 applies to projects delivered July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Funding for 2027 applies to projects delivered July 1, 2027 - December 31, 2027.

Table 1: 2026 and 2027 TUHF Gross and Net Funding Allocations

\$ in millions	2026		2027	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Renewal of 21 Projects Outlined in Table 2 of Attachment 1	\$ 2.157	\$ 0.539	\$ 1.051	\$ 0.263
Allocations to the OHTN for the TtZ initiative	\$ 0.900	\$ 0.225	\$ 0.900	\$ 0.225
Total	\$ 3.057	\$ 0.764	\$ 1.951	\$ 0.488

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of grants by the TUHF funding streams for the interim period with 21 projects recommended in 2026 and in 2027.

Table 2: 2026 and 2027 TUHF Grant Program Allocations by Stream

\$ in millions	2026		2027	
	Total Grant Amount (2026) (% of total)	Total Number of Projects (2026) (% of total)	Total Grant Amount (2027) (% of total)	Total Number of Projects (2027) (% of total)
Child and Youth Resiliency Stream	\$ 0.780 (36%)	9 (42%)	\$ 0.383 (36%)	9 (42%)
Harm Reduction Stream	\$ 0.611 (28%)	6 (29%)	\$ 0.292 (28%)	6 (29%)
HIV Prevention through Sexual Transmission Stream	\$ 0.766 (36%)	6 (29%)	\$ 0.376 (36%)	6 (29%)
Total	\$ 2.157	21	\$1.051	21

Advancing Toronto to Zero: Strategic Partnership with the Ontario HIV Network

TPH supports Toronto to Zero (TtZ), Toronto's multi-stakeholder initiative to eliminate HIV. TtZ is a member of the Fast-Track Cities network, a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world aimed at ending inequalities and getting track to ending HIV/AIDS by 2030. Toronto was declared a Fast-Track City on December 1, 2023 and TtZ convenes people living with and at risk of HIV, community organizations, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers in a coordinated, city-wide effort to prevent local transmission and ensure equitable, stigma-free access to care in Toronto. TtZ enables Toronto to locally implement the *Ontario HIV Action Plan* by reducing new infections, improving access to testing and care, and addressing stigma and other barriers to health, in alignment with the globally recognized 95-95-95 targets by 2030.

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), a nonprofit funded by the Ministry of Health, provides the secretariat support for TtZ. The OHTN shares the goals of TUHF's HIV prevention through sexual transmission stream, timely linkage and retention in care, and maintains strong community partnerships in Toronto. This alignment and capacity to work with people living with, and at risk of, HIV and the organizations that serve them, well positions the OHTN to administer funding to maximum effect.

As a pilot project to inform the evaluation and renewed strategy for 2028 TUHF funding, TPH is recommending entering into a new TUHF funding arrangement to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of funding an initiative, rather than funding individual community-based organizations. This pilot will leverage the success and lessons learned from the Community Basket Model of funding for the TUHF Indigenous stream. It would aim to advance HIV prevention, treatment and care through funding TtZ as a collective initiative of multiple community-based organizations, assessing whether this model of funding addresses issues of administrative burden and streamlined reporting.

TPH recommends allocating \$0.900 million in TUHF funding to the OHTN in 2026 and \$0.900 million in 2027 to strengthen TPH's support of TtZ. This will leverage OHTN's role as secretariat support to TtZ and their existing capacity in community-based funding to administer grants for community-led and collaborative projects that advance TtZ priorities that have been collectively identified by community-based organizations and people with lived experience. This approach would support strengthened partnerships with community organizations, explore opportunities to reduce administrative burden for funded initiatives, and advance goals of HIV prevention, treatment and care as part of the *Ontario Public Health Standards*.

Next steps

TPH will report to the Board of Health in 2027 on the effectiveness and impact of the TtZ pilot and proposed improvements to the TUHF for the 2028 funding cycle.

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 3: Promote the conditions to support positive mental health and reduce the harms of substance use
- Priority 4: Advocate to advance health equity
 - Objective b: Collaborate with partners across multiple sectors to address local health need

CONTACT

Myuran Palasandiran, Director, Operations and Business Services, Toronto Public Health, 416-338-7840, Myuran.Palasandiran@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. Michelle Murti
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) – 2026 and 2027 Summaries and Recommended Activities of Approved Projects