

For Information Only

Local Poverty Reduction Fund Project Update

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Resolution

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Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report supports the Strategic Plan adopted by City of Greater Sudbury, as it aligns with the Quality of Life and Place pillar, by offering programs and services designed to improve the health and well-being of our youth, families and seniors.

This report will have a positive impact on the Social Determinants of Health in the area of Health/Well-being as it supports Ontario's poverty reduction strategies (2018, 2014-19) which identifies the importance of breaking the cycle of poverty with continued and strategic investments in the lives of children and youth in order to foster stronger, healthier kids and families.

In addition, this report aims to improve the quality of life and place for citizens of Greater Sudbury as it will promote Population Health in the areas of Indigenous Youth, Building Resiliency, Investing in Families and a Compassionate City.

Report Summary

This report will provide an update on the current Local Poverty Reduction Fund Project which was launched in September 2017. This Project, which focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty for children and youth, is intended to evaluate the impact of school-based and community-based extracurricular activities on academic achievement and school success for up to 100 children in Grade 5 (2018/2019) identified as being in need and living within deprived neighbourhoods.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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Health Impact Review

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Division Review

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Financial Implications

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Recommended by the Department

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Financial Implications

The City of Greater Sudbury, Community Development Department was successful in receiving the Local Poverty Reduction Fund Provincial grant for \$529,000 which covers a 32 month period from September 2017 to June 2020 (revised from the original term of October 2016 to June 2019). These funds will be used to continue work in this area and will have no impact on the tax levy.

Background

The Local Poverty Reduction Fund (LPRF) is a six-year initiative launched in 2015, as part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, to support community-driven projects that improve the lives of those most affected by poverty.

Funded initiatives support and evaluate poverty reduction initiatives, create partnerships, and help forge a body of evidence of programs that work for Ontarians living in poverty. In Round 2 of the LPRF, Ontario invested over \$16 million in 30 new projects that focused on:

- breaking the cycle of poverty for children and youth;
- employment and income security for people in, or at risk of being in, poverty;
- preventing and reducing homelessness, and
- projects within Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations both on and off reserve.

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) was successful in the application submitted for the LPRF in Round 2 in the amount of \$529,000 which covers a 32 month period from September 2017 to June 2020. The City is working with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, who is responsible for managing and administering the LPRF grants on behalf of the Province of Ontario.

The City has partnered with all four local school boards, with 8 schools in high need areas, that incorporate English, Francophone and Indigenous students. The City's project is called "The Recreation Relation" and follows the same group of children for three years (grade 4 through to grade 6) to determine if increased school-based and community-based extra-curricular activities will result in increased academic success. New children enrolling in those specific classes (Grade 4 in 2017/18, Grade 5 in 2018/19 or Grade 6 in 2019/20) will be invited to register and participate as well. Grade 3 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) scores will function as a baseline measurement and the corresponding Grade 6 EQAO scores will be used as one indicator of a series of indicators, to quantitatively evaluate the program.

Other project indicators to be tracked include but are not limited to:

- delinquency
- truancy/absenteeism
- school participation
- leadership
- belongingness
- behavioural incidents

The Recreation Relation Project

There are 8 participating schools participating in the program, two schools from each of the four school boards as follows:

- Chelmsford Public School
- Queen Elizabeth Public School
- St. David School
- St. Anne School
- École St-Joseph
- École Notre-Dame
- École publique Foyer-Jeunesse
- École publique Pavillon-de-l' Avenir

Public Health Sudbury & District has been retained to evaluate the project and annual reporting to the Ontario Trillium Foundation occurs in August each year.

Programming is delivered in 6 to 8 week blocks during the school year, one day per week for 2 hours immediately at the end of the school day, and alternates between recreation and leisure activities (ie: ball sports, photography, cooking, etc...). It aligns with the curriculum and is based on the interests of parents/guardians and the children participating. The Recreation Relation follows the school year calendar offering programming September to June however will pause for the Christmas, March and summer breaks.

All programming includes a nutritious snack, all necessary equipment or supplies and is based out of the participating schools. Transportation home is available for the children by school bus at the end of the program, thereby removing barriers for participation for parents/guardians.

Staffing for each program site includes one Early Childhood Educator (ECE) or Social Work graduate and one recreational focused instructor.

The Recreation Relation Program began with information sessions in February/March 2018 at each of the participating schools for the children, parents and staff.

Programs were developed in themed sessions and in consultation with qualified ECEs on staff within Children Services Section, helping to ensure a safe, high quality program is delivered.

Current Programming

Session 1 of programming began in May 2018 with a Medieval theme offering over 100 students in grade 4 the opportunity to build sugar cube castles, construct wooden catapults, create paper mâché monsters, discover the magic of Merlin's slime, and concluding with a King's Feast competition during the week of June 18, 2018 at the end of the school year.

Session 2 of programming began the week of September 17th, 2018 for participating grade five students with four weeks of outdoor survival programming provided by North Shore Search and Rescue and Greater Sudbury Police Service. The program included the Hug-A-Tree program, making survival bracelets, building emergency shelters, landscape art and signals. North Shore Search and Rescue also provided certificates of completion for all children that participated in the Hug-A-Tree program. In the other four weeks of this session, participants were able to learn the fundamentals of Korean Martial Arts with programming and certified instructors provided by KMAC. KMAC additionally provided all participants with one month free martial arts training at any KMAC location within the City.

Session 3 of programming began the week of November 27th 2018 and offered four weeks of Adventures in Cooking partnering with Public Health Sudbury & Districts and four weeks of Winter Activities. Public Health Sudbury & Districts also provided free aprons, recipes and certificates of completion to all program students.

The two remaining sessions for the 2018-2019 school year will include activities such as:

- Fortnite Dance Battle Royale (Contest)
- Kids Learn to Code
- Traditional and emerging ball sports

Enhanced Programming

CGS Summer Day Camp

In addition to the regular school-based programming, The Recreation Relation participants were offered up to four free weeks at Camp Wassakwa with free transportation during the summer of 2018. This opportunity was utilized by 48% of families and feedback about the camp experience was very positive.

- July 9 to 13, 2018 – 37 participants
- July 23 to 27, 2018 – 43 participants
- August 7 to 10, 2018 – 40 participants
- August 20 to 24, 2018 – 42 participants

Partner Initiatives

Working with project partners the following was also available to the participants:

- “Golf, Cops and Kids”, July 2018 - 2 participants
- Council of Ontario Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Sports Camp, August 2018 - 2 Aboriginal youth registered

Recreational Contests

Periodically, the Recreation Relation programming will include a contest whereby the winning school will receive a special recreational activity that will showcase CGS facilities.

- The winners of the King's Feast, École St-Joseph, received free CGS transit training and a pool party at Gatchell Pool awarded in September 2018.
- Pavillion-de-L' Avenir was selected as the winner of the second contest, “Fast Form Forward” and received a free Skateboarding party at Côté Park in October. The party included two qualified instructors and all required equipment.

A third contest is scheduled for February 2019 where winners will receive a free day of ice fishing with Greater Sudbury Police Services with transportation included.

Next Steps

Ongoing monitoring of the program by the Children Services Section and Public Health Sudbury & District will continue through surveys and interviews conducted throughout the project with parents/guardians and children to gauge ongoing interest, assist with program planning and to measure the impact of the programming on academic success.

Further progress reports will be submitted to the Community Services Committee throughout the term of the project.

References

Community Services Committee: Local Poverty Reduction Fund – Round 2 Grant

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=2&id=1202>

Community Services Committee: Local Poverty Reduction Fun Project Update

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1260>