

## For Information Only

### 2020 Local Poverty Reduction Fund Update

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Aug 10, 2020

Report Date: Tuesday, Jul 28, 2020

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

### 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.

### 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.

### Financial Implications

The City of Greater Sudbury, Community Development Department was successful in receiving the Local

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##### **Report Prepared By**

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##### **Health Impact Review**

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##### **Manager Review**

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##### **Financial Implications**

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##### **Recommended by the Department**

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##### **Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Ed Archer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
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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 were 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.

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) was successful in an application submitted in round two of funding for \$529,000 for the period of September 2017 to June 2020. The City worked with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), who is responsible for managing and administering the LPRF grants on behalf of the Province.

Staff collaborated with the four local school boards and focused on eight schools located in low socioeconomic areas that incorporate English, Francophone, and Indigenous students. This funding supported after-school programming to a cohort of children in grades 4 through 6 for three years to evaluate if increased school-based and community-based extra-curricular activities result in increased academic success.

Programming was delivered in 6 to 8 week blocks during the school year. It consisted of a 2-hour block once a week, immediately at the end of the school day, and alternated between recreation and leisure activities (ie: ball sports, photography, cooking, etc.). All programming includes a nutritious snack, all necessary equipment or supplies, and is conducted at the eight participating schools. Bus transportation is available at the end of the 2-hour programming to bring children home, thereby removing barriers for participation.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts was retained to evaluate the project and annual reporting to the OTF occurs in August each year.

## 2020 Programming

This calendar year proved to be very challenging in delivering quality programming to participants. Rotating job actions undertaken by educational labour unions, in addition to several "snow days" and staffing shortages, meant that several weeks of programming had to be cancelled. In addition, the emergency closure of all schools in March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic brought all programming to a premature end. Discussions with OTF led to the decision to terminate the program prior to its original end date of June 25, 2020. In recognition of the shortened programming, OTF approved the purchase of a 5-week physical education subscription that would provide sporting equipment and supplies to all 110 participants through home delivery. Instructions were included for the children on how to use the equipment (such as various balls, skipping rope, etc.), and the equipment remains theirs to keep. This alteration encourages participants to remain active and engaged.

## Next Steps

The program evaluator, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, has proceeded with the final surveys and evaluation to parents/guardians, school administrators, and program facilitators, in an effort to measure the impact of the programming on academic success.

The final evaluation report will be provided to the Community Services Committee in the fourth quarter of 2020.