

For Information Only

Local Poverty Reduction Fund Project Update

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Mar 19, 2018
Report Date	Thursday, Mar 01, 2018
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

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 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 4 (2017/18) identified as being in need and living within deprived neighbourhoods.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Monique Poirier
Manager of Children Services
Digitally Signed Mar 1, 18

Health Impact Review

Monique Poirier
Manager of Children Services
Digitally Signed Mar 1, 18

Division Review

Luisa Valle
Director of Children and Citizen Services
Digitally Signed Mar 1, 18

Financial Implications

Jim Lister
Manager of Financial Planning and Budgeting
Digitally Signed Mar 2, 18

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Mar 2, 18

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Mar 2, 18

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 is investing over \$16 million in 30 new projects that focus 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
- projects within Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations both on and off reserve

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) was successful in the application for the LPRF 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 Local Poverty Reduction Fund Project (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 4 (2017/18) identified as being in need and living within deprived neighbourhoods.

The City has partnered with all four local school boards, representing 8 schools in high need areas, and incorporating English, Francophone and Indigenous students. 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

Current Project Status

At the May 15, 2017 Community Services Committee meeting, the report entitled Local Poverty Reduction Fund – Round 2 Grant was presented and some key developments since then are:

- Public Health Sudbury & Districts (PHSD) has been selected as the project evaluator, and will be involved throughout the project.
- An Advisory Group has been established, including all participating agencies and partners to support the work of the project team.
- A Coordinator has been recruited to liaise with the project lead, the evaluator, school partners and parents/guardians for the project term.
- Registration packages have been developed for the participants and the parents, which have been reviewed and approved by the ethics committee from the PHSD and school boards.
- Information sessions have been held in February of 2018 at each of the 8 participating schools:
 - Chelmsford Public School
 - Queen Elizabeth Public School
 - St. David School
 - St. Anne School
 - Ecole St. Joseph
 - Ecole Notre-Dame
 - Ecole publique Foyer-Jeunesse
 - Ecole publique Pavillon-de-l'Avenir
- Recruitment of Program Instructors is underway.
- The Project team will also include early years professionals from our licensed child care and EarlyON Child and Family Centre community with whom the City of Greater Sudbury has purchase of service agreements.

Programming will be offered 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 will alternate between recreation and leisure activities (ie: ball sports, photography, cooking, etc...) reflecting the interests of parents/guardians and the children participating. The first block of programming will begin in April 2018 and will follow the school year calendar, with a

break for summer, Christmas and March Break. Opportunities for unique summer programming will be explored and implemented where feasible.

All programs offered will be based out of the participating schools and transportation home will be available for the children by school bus at the end of the program, thereby removing barriers for participation for parents/guardians.

The initial response to the registration and evaluation packages was very positive, with all registrants agreeing to participate in the evaluation component. While it is the intent to evaluate all registered students in the program, parents/guardians not wishing to participate in the evaluation component of the project will still be able to have their child(ren) participate in the project, which will follow the same group of children (Grade 4 in 2017/18) until the end of the project in June 2020. Parents/guardians may choose to participate in the evaluation component at a later date once they have experienced the benefits of the program for their child(ren). New children enrolling in those specific classes (Grade 4 in 2017/18, Grade 5 in 2018/19 or Grade 6 in 2019/20) over the next three years will be invited to register and participate as well.

Next Steps

Ongoing monitoring of the program by the Children & Citizen Services Division and PHSD 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.

Reference

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>