



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 8, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City Update (CES14053(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

This report provides an update to Council on the status of Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (HPACF) which was approved in September 2014 (Report ECS14053).

Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City was developed by the City of Hamilton in partnership with the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) and the City of Hamilton's Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC). The Plan was informed by the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities and Communities framework and introduced a long-term vision of a community that values, empowers and supports older residents and improves their quality of life both now and in the future. It is organized around seven themes and includes 25 objectives and 101 actions. The Plan looks to improve access to essential supports, programs and services as well as enhance opportunities for seniors to have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

The City of Hamilton, in partnership with the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) and the City's Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC), are working with older adults and other community stakeholders to create a feasible, community-owned implementation plan that outlines activities, required resources and reasonable timelines. Special efforts will be made to engage older adults with diverse backgrounds and a wide range of life experiences including Aboriginal residents, residents on low income, persons with disabilities, residents from different ethno-cultural communities, and rural residents. Staff will report to Council with an implementation plan in the spring of 2016.

OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork.

While Hamilton's Age-Friendly Implementation Plan looks to create a more focused, collaborative and coordinated approach, work is currently underway in the community and at the City of Hamilton, as highlighted below.

HIGHLIGHTS

i) Membership in the World Health Organization's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

In January 2015, the City applied to the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (Action 7.2.1). The goal of this program is to educate, encourage, promote, and recognize improvements that make cities, towns and communities more age-friendly for their residents. Hamilton was officially accepted as a member of the 287 member Network in March 2015. Membership is renewable every two years when communities demonstrate that they are working towards becoming more age-friendly.

ii) Ontario Seniors Secretariat Grant

In January 2015, the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA), in partnership with the City of Hamilton, McMaster University and the Hamilton Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC), applied to a new Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program through the Ontario Seniors Secretariat (OSS). Funds in the amount of \$50,000 (from June 2015 to March 2017), were approved by the OSS to support the evaluation of Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City (Action 7.2.3). The evaluation will consist of identifying indicators, monitoring and evaluating Hamilton's progress on the broader goals identified in the Age-Friendly Plan, as well as monitoring and evaluating implementation of 101 actions. Annual progress reports will be provided to Council.

The HCoA, as the primary applicant, will receive and manage the grant funds, and coordinate the overall project. Support and guidance will be provided by the evaluation workgroup comprised of the Hamilton Council on Aging, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, McMaster University, School of Nursing McMaster University, Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging McMaster University, Department of Health & Aging, City of Hamilton Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division (NCI).

iii) Housing Options for Older Adults in Hamilton

The Seniors Advisory Committee's Housing Subcommittee, supported by City staff, developed, printed and is currently distributing a housing guide entitled "Housing Options for Older Adults in Hamilton" (Action 1.1.1). The guide's format and content have been specifically tailored to its audience and is available in hard copy and electronic formats.

iv) Older Adult Peer Connectors

The HCoA in partnership with the Hamilton Public Library (HPL) and Information Hamilton, and through support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, has launched the

Older Adult Peer Connector Program. This program trains volunteers to provide information and referrals about community resources, support programs and services available to seniors. All Peer Connectors attend an orientation program comprised of eight modules based on key categories in Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City. Beginning in November 2015, Peer Connectors will be located at several HPL branches. In phase two of the program, locations will expand to include additional HPL branches, recreation centres and some seniors' buildings.

This program contributes to the achievement of Goal 3: Communication and Information, as well as Goal 4: Health and Community Services.

v) Seniors Webpage on www.hamilton.ca

Staff, in consultation with the SAC and other groups of older adults, have launched a seniors landing page on the updated www.hamilton.ca/seniors. The purpose of this page is to provide a central source of information and links to City and community information relevant to older adults (Action 3.2.1).

vi) Project Manager supporting implementation of Hamilton's Age-Friendly Plan

As part of the 2015 Budget, Council approved funds to support the ongoing implementation of Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City and the Senior of the Year Awards. A project manager was hired and joined the Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division in August 2015.

Currently, the project manager for the Age Friendly Plan is reviewing the status of the 101 actions and is meeting with key stakeholders to develop an implementation plan. That plan will be brought to Council in the spring of 2016.