

Internal City of Hamilton Consultation Summary

| Department | Current State | Other Comments |
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| Housing Services | <p>Menstrual products are not being supplied to residents in City Housing at this time. Staff recognize a need for clients to access products. It is common for people to use items such as newspapers or rags when they do not have access to products.</p> <p>Emergency shelters, funded in part by Housing Services, provide menstrual products to clients. In some cases, menstrual products may fall under a portion of program costs, however when possible, shelters rely on donations and donation dollars to purchase these items.</p> | <p>Emergency shelter users may receive an OW or ODSP basic needs allowance. Currently, for a single individual, the Ontario Works Basic Needs Allowance is \$343.00 and the ODSP Basic Needs Allowance is \$672.00.</p> <p>When a person is admitted to a violence against women shelter, they receive a Personal Needs Allowance, which is set at \$150.00. This amount is intended to cover personal items such as spending money, clothing, hygiene items, food, etc.</p> |
| Public Health Sexual Health & Substance Misuse Prevention program | <p>Menstrual products are not provided at sexual health clinics. Some programs, such as the Van Needle Exchange Program and street health clinics, occasionally provide clients with products that have been donated from community partners like Wesley Urban Ministries.</p> | <p>If no products were available when clients requested them, staff would connect clients to community partners such as Wesley, Willow’s Place or Womankind.</p> |
| Chronic Disease Prevention | <p>Menstrual products are not provided to clients. Staff who work in the community identify access to menstrual products as a need.</p> | <p>Staff identified cultural awareness and taboo surrounding menstruation as issues for some clients.</p> |
| Mental Health, Street Outreach, Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services | <p>Menstrual products have been provided to clients; however, they are not a consistent operating expense. In the past, the team has purchased hygiene kits through the</p> | <p>If no products were available when clients requested them, staff would connect clients to community partners such as Wesley, Urban Core, Carol’s Place, or Willow’s Place.</p> |

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| | <p>Heat/Cold Budget.</p> <p>A need for accessible menstrual products was identified.</p> | |
| School Program | <p>Staff reported that in their experience, schools approach providing menstrual products in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Staff agreed that is a need for students to access menstrual products in schools.</p> | <p>If a need for products was identified, staff would connect targeted schools with community resources to access products.</p> |
| Children's Services & Neighbourhood Development | <p>Menstrual products are not currently being provided to clients.</p> | <p>If clients were to express a need for support in accessing menstrual products, staff would help to connect clients with appropriate community resources, such as Willow's Place and young parent supports.</p> |
| Recreation | <p>Menstrual products are not being distributed at recreation centres although some older centres might still have dispensers in washrooms.</p> | <p>Comment cards from clients have not included feedback regarding a lack of menstrual products, nor have staff shared feedback that they are receiving requests for products.</p> |
| Paramedics/Police | <p>The Community Navigator program currently has a small supply of menstrual products. Products are donated through community partners.</p> | <p>Staff report that requests for products are infrequent. If no supplies were available when requested, staff would connect clients with community resources.</p> |