



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Families Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	July 10, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Nurse Family Partnership Program Funding and Service Level Update (BOH07035(i)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Bonnie King (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1587
SUBMITTED BY:	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin, CNO Director, Healthy Families Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to extend the existing agreement with the Hamilton Community Foundation and accept funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation in the amount of \$41,000 to support the Nurse Family Partnership© program for 2020, and that the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to receive, utilize and report on the use of these funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nurse Family Partnership© (NFP) program is a highly successful, international, home visiting program that targets young, low-income, first-time mothers and their children. Well-designed, long-term studies have consistently shown that the NFP program has a favourable impact on child and maternal health, child development and school readiness, positive parenting practices, family economic self-sufficiency, and on reductions in child maltreatment, juvenile delinquency, family violence and crime.

Funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and the Ministry of Health supports 7.0 FTE Public Health Nurses (PHNs) to deliver the NFP program in Hamilton. Annual operational costs include program licensing, professional consultative support services, program incentives, outreach strategies, and client education materials.

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) has supported the NFP program financially for many years. Funding received from HCF for 2020 will offset the operational costs of the program which are not budgeted. Staff will continue to explore opportunities and options for stable, long-term program funding beyond 2020, should HCF be unable to extend funding beyond the current year.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: HCF has committed to providing \$41,000 in funding to the NFP program for 2020 to support operational costs. This is a one-time commitment to offset associated program costs in year. Therefore, Public Health Services (PHS) will continue to explore alternative sources of additional but permanent funding.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: The NFP program is delivered under a Memorandum of Agreement with the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU). MLHU maintains the licensing and confidentiality agreement with the NFP National Office in Denver on behalf of the five Health Units in Ontario who provide the NFP program.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2007, Hamilton became the first location in Canada to offer the NFP Program as a pilot project. On successful completion of the feasibility and acceptability study in 2011, Hamilton continued to deliver the NFP Program as the first Canadian replication site. Since that time, the province of British Columbia embarked on a randomized control trial to examine the outcomes of the NFP Program for Canadian families. Initial results of the Canadian research trial are expected to be released later this year and into 2021.

Hamilton's NFP Program is comprised of 7.0 FTE Public Health Nurses (PHN) primarily funded under the umbrella of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program, which is a mandated high-risk home visiting program financed by the MCCSS, and 1.0 FTE PHN funded through the Ministry. HCF has provided financial support to the Hamilton NFP Program for many years, supporting the cost of licensing requirements, program infrastructure, ongoing consultative support services from the International NFP team and the Clinical Lead Advanced Practice Nurse.

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POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The Healthy Growth and Development standard within the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) states that the Board of Health shall “provide all components of the HBHC program in accordance with the HBHC Protocol”. The NFP program addresses the responsibilities outlined in the HBHC Protocol, using an intensive service delivery approach that has been demonstrated by research to be most effective for young first-time mothers with low income.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Matt Goodman, Vice-President, Grants and Community Initiatives, Hamilton Community Foundation has provided written confirmation that HCF is committed to continue their financial support of the NFP Program in 2020.

David Trevisani, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Elaine Gee, Business Administrator have reviewed the financial content of this report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The NFP program is a targeted pregnancy and infancy home visiting program provided by nurses to young, low-income, first-time mothers. The effectiveness of the NFP program has been rigorously evaluated. Ongoing evaluation and refinement of the NFP program based on scientific evidence ensures that it remains relevant and effective. Studies have shown the NFP program to be cost-effective with a \$6.4 return for every \$1 invested. In 2019, NFP Public Health Nurses (PHNs) provided 1164 home visits to 123 pregnant and first-time parents age 21 and under in Hamilton. Clients come into the program before their 28th week of pregnancy and continue visits with their PHN until their child turns two years of age. Approximately 45% of young parents celebrate a “graduation” after completing the entire 2+ year program successfully.

All NFP programs must be delivered under a licensing and confidentiality agreement with the NFP National Office in Denver. The agreement for Ontario is maintained by the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU). Under a Memorandum of Agreement with MLHU, all Ontario NFP sites must adhere to all elements of the NFP Program to ensure the NFP Program is delivered with its intended quality and rigor to ensure the highest possible outcomes for clients participating in the program. Licensing requirements and ongoing consultative support services from the International NFP Organization are a component of the program that requires funding.

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Although most NFP program costs are staffing related, funding is required for program incentives, outreach strategies, education and teaching materials, as well as NFP licensing requirements, program infrastructure costs, and ongoing consultative support services from the International NFP team and the Ontario Clinical Lead Advanced Practice Nurse.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES & SCHEDULES

Not Applicable.

REFERENCES

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