



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Families Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 21, 2020
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Budget 2020-2021 (BOH20017) (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 2020-2021 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program budget, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services be approved, including a reduction of 1.0 FTE, and, that the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to receive, utilize, report on and execute the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Service agreement and contract, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) is a long standing, evidence-based, provincial program that provides vital support to vulnerable families with young children at risk for poor developmental outcomes. The goal is to improve the well-being and long-term health and development of expectant parents, infants, young children and families through prevention, early identification and home visiting interventions. The provision of the HBHC program is mandatory for all boards of health who are responsible to provide all components of the Program.

HBHC is primarily funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), however, due to continued capped funding, the program has been enhanced through a variety of funding sources including the Hamilton Community Foundation (Nurse-Family Partnership program), Ministry of Health (70/30 funding), and City of

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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.

Hamilton levy. Historically, the program has managed annual budget pressures due to increased staffing costs through gapping. However, a reduction of 1.0 FTE complement is required this year to mitigate the pressure from salaries and benefits. This will be achieved through attrition.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: MCCSS changed the funding year for HBHC mid-year in 2019, moving from a calendar year budget to an RMRCH budget (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021). As a result, the City levy contributions to HBHC. shown in the chart below) were approved during the 2020 budget process. This report is specific to the 100% provincial funding for the April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 fiscal year.

Although HBHC is intended to be 100% funded by the Province, years of capped funding has resulted in enhancements from other funding sources who recognize and value the positive impact home visiting has on expectant parents and families with infants and young children in the community. A reduction of 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse (PHN) is required this year to stay within the funding envelope. This can be achieved through attrition and will not decrease service delivery levels.

MCCSS Funding	2020/2021 Budget	2019/202 Budget	Total FTE 2021/2020	Total FTE 2019/2020	Change in FTE
HBHC PHS	\$2,940,293	\$2,940,293	28.9 (PHS)	30.9 (PHS)	(2.0) FTE ¹
HBHC Wesley	\$593,620	\$593,620	11.0 (FHV)	12.0 (FHV)	(1.0) FTE ²
TOTAL	\$3,533,913	\$3,533,913	39.9	42.9	(3.0) FTE

1. Reduction of 1.0 FTE was already approved through the 2020 budget process for funding received from the levy.
2. Wesley reduced 1.0 FTE to stay within their funding envelope.

Other Approved Funding	2020 Budget	Comments
City of Hamilton, salaries & benefits	\$155,060	
City of Hamilton, Cost Allocations/contributions	\$375,471	Costs not allowable
City of Hamilton, FHV program (Wesley)	\$36,000	(BOH11004)
70/30 Cost Shared programs	\$169,480	1.5 FTE PHN

Other Approved Funding	2020 Budget	Comments
Hamilton Community Foundation	\$41,000	Nurse Family Partnership operational costs (BOH07035(i))

Staffing: MCCSS funding for 2020/2021 supports 28.9 FTE and 11.0 FTE Family Home Visitors (FHV) that are contracted through Wesley. An additional 1.5 FTE PHNs are cost shared 70/30 under the Healthy Growth and Development program standard.

Legal: Public Health Services are mandated to provide all components of the HBHC Program. An annual contract is signed including budget approvals and program targets.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

HBHC is a prevention, early identification and early intervention program and it is continually refined based on need and emerging evidence of effective interventions.

Pregnancy, bringing a new baby home and parenting young children can be more challenging when risks such as poverty, unstable housing, intimate partner violence, mental health and addiction are present. HBHC offers evidence-based interventions to support healthy pregnancies and birth outcomes, build parental confidence, strengthen positive parenting and enhance the connections between parents and their children. HBHC builds on parents' strengths and facilitates connections with community supports that are essential in achieving health and well-being. The goal of home visiting is to help parents create an environment that leads to healthy babies, healthy children and later, to healthy adults. Program components include:

1. **Universal and Targeted Screening:** HBHC screening is offered in variety of community settings to families during pregnancy, postpartum and during the early years. The purpose of screening is to identify vulnerable families during pregnancy and families with infants and young children at risk for poor development. Identifying families with risk is particularly important during pregnancy, as the period between conception and birth provides the foundation of a child's well-being; and,
2. **Long Term Home Visiting:** An initial visit is made in the home to identify and offer the best supports to meet the needs of individual families. Families who would benefit from home visiting support are referred to the most appropriate intervention including:
 - **HBHC Blended home visiting program:** PHN and FHV work collaboratively with families to achieve the priority goals of Healthy Attachment, Positive Parenting and Optimal Growth and Development.

Social determinants of health impacting families are identified and families connected to supports/services in the community; and,

- **Nurse Family Partnership program:** A research-proven PHN home visitation program for young, pregnant, first time mothers with socio-economic risk factors. The PHN supports parents during pregnancy, birth and through the first two years of their child's life through partnership to improve their parenting skills and create a healthy environment where their child's growth and development can be nurtured.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability (OPHS) are published by the Ministry of Health under the authority of Section 7 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) to specify the mandatory health programs and services provided by boards of health. HBHC is a mandatory program under the Healthy Growth and Development Standard and the HBHC program protocol provides the minimum expectations for service delivery.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance and Administration has been consulted regarding the preparation of the budget. The report and financial figures were reviewed by the Business Administrator.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

HBHC has not received increased funding from MCCSS in recent years and as a result, pressures due to salary and benefit increases have been offset primarily through gapping temporary vacancies rather than layoffs. A 1.0 FTE decrease is recommended this year to manage the program within the budget cap. An additional 1.0 FTE was already reduced from levy funding through the 2020 budget process.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.

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 AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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.