



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**  
**Healthy Families Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	April 19, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Nurse Family Partnership 2021 Program Funding and Service Level Update (BOH07035(j)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Bonnie King (905) 546-2424 Ext. 1587
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin, CNO Director, Healthy Families Division Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**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 a grant in the amount of \$39,000 to support the Nurse Family Partnership© program for 2021, 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. Long-term studies have consistently shown that the NFP program has a positive 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 (MOH) supports 7.0 FTE Public Health Nurses 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 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.

HCF has supported the NFP program with financial grants for many years. Funding received from HCF for 2021 will offset the operational costs of the program. Public Health Services staff will continue to explore opportunities and options for stable, long-term program funding beyond 2021, 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 a grant in the amount of \$39,000 to the NFP program for 2021 to support operational costs. This is a one-time financial commitment. Therefore, Public Health Services will continue to explore alternative sources of permanent funding.

**Staffing:** Not Applicable.

**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. The NFP licensing and professional consultation costs for Ontario are shared by the five Ontario NFP program sites.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Hamilton’s NFP Program is funded primarily under the umbrella of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program, which is a mandated high-risk home visiting program funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). HCF has provided financial support to the Hamilton NFP Program for many years, supporting operational costs including licensing fees, program infrastructure, ongoing professional consultative support services from the International NFP team and the Clinical Lead Advanced Practice Nurse and program incentives/educational resources for program participants.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The Healthy Growth and Development standard within the Ontario Public Health Standards 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**

Rudi Wallace, Vice-President, Grants and Community Initiatives, Hamilton Community Foundation has provided confirmation that HCF is committed to continue their financial support of the NFP Program in 2021.

Finance & Administration has 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 \$6.40 return for every \$1 invested. In 2020, NFP Public Health Nurses provided 1147 home visits to 116 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 Public Health Nurse until their child turns two years of age. Approximately 45% of young parents celebrate a “graduation” after completing the entire two+ 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) and the cost is shared across five NFP sites. Funding received from HCF supports program operating costs.

## **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.