



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

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	October 18, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Budget 2021-2022 (BOH21012) (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**

- a) That the 2021-2022 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program budget, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, be approved; and,
- b) That the Medical Officer of Health or delegate be authorized and directed to receive, utilize, report on and execute all Service agreements and contracts, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, required to give effect to the 2021-2022 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program budget.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) program 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 program 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 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 (i.e. Nurse-

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Family Partnership program), Ministry of Health (i.e. 70/30 funding), and City of Hamilton levy.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** HBHC is intended to be 100% funded by the Province. However, it is supported with funding from other sources who recognize and value the positive impact home visiting has on expectant parents and families with infants and young children in the community.

<b>MCCSS Funding</b>	<b>2021/2022 Budget</b>	<b>2020/2021 Budget</b>
HBHC Public Health Services	\$2,940,293 28.9 FTE	\$2,940,293 28.9 FTE
HBHC Wesley Family Home Visitors	\$593,620 11.0 FTE	\$593,620 11.0 FTE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,533,913</b>	<b>\$3,533,913</b>

<b>Other Approved Funding</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>	<b>Comments</b>
City of Hamilton, salaries & benefits	\$157,259	Public Health Nurse costs above provincial cap
City of Hamilton, Cost Allocations/contributions	\$332,754	Costs not allowable
City of Hamilton, Family Home Visiting program (Wesley)	\$36,000	(BOH11004) Family Home Visiting costs above provincial cap
70/30 Cost Shared programs	\$112,038	1.0 Public Health Nurse Family Partnership
Hamilton Community Foundation	\$39,000	Nurse Family Partnership operational costs (BOH07035(j))

**Staffing:** HBHC is provided primarily by public health nurses who work in partnership with Family Home Visitors that are employed by Wesley. No staffing changes are recommended for this fiscal year.

**Legal:** Public Health Services is mandated to provide all components of the HBHC Program. A contract is signed between the Province and the City of Hamilton Public Health Services, including budget approvals and program targets.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

HBHC is a prevention, early identification and early intervention program that 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. The impact of these risks on families and young children this past year has been magnified significantly due to the pandemic. Throughout the past year, HBHC has continued to offer 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 has continued to build on parents' strengths and facilitate 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 through:

**1. Universal and Targeted Screening:**

HBHC screening is offered in variety of community settings to families during pregnancy, postpartum and during the early years to identify vulnerable families, 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. In 2020, of 4,408 families screened, 3,383 (77%) had identified risk factors and were referred to Public Health for follow up.

**2. Long Term Home Visiting:**

Families identified at risk are offered an initial assessment visit (currently made virtually or by phone due to the pandemic) to confirm risk and offer the best supports to meet the needs of families. Families who would benefit from home visiting support are referred to the most appropriate intervention including:

- **HBHC Blended home visiting program:**

Public Health Nurses and Family Home Visitors work collaboratively with

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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 are connected to supports/services in the community; and,

- **Nurse Family Partnership program:**

A research-proven Public Health Nurse home visitation program for young, pregnant, first time mothers with socio-economic risk factors. The Public Health Nurse 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 is nurtured.

In 2020, 2144 families were contacted by a Public Health Nurse and 678 in-depth assessment visits were completed. 468 families were referred to long-term home visiting and they received a total of 2,130 visits from Public Health Nurses and 3,187 visits from Family Home Visitors. This is a significant accomplishment as many HBHC Public Health Nurses were deployed to support COVID-19 operations in March 2020. By shifting to virtual/ telephone visits, the remaining program Public Health Nurses managed significantly higher caseloads with prioritized support to the highest risk families. While virtual/telephone visits have enabled the continuation of HBHC services during times of public health measures, staff are eager to return to face to face visits in the home at the earliest possible opportunity as families benefit the most from intervention with a trusted professional, face to face, in their home environments.

HBHC has continued to build strong partnerships throughout COVID-19, extending the reach to pregnant individuals at risk by encouraging and facilitating health professionals and community service providers to offer HBHC screening to the individuals with whom they have contact. In addition, HBHC has continued to support community planning efforts regarding infant and early years mental health promotion.

## **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.

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## **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 again this year and pressures due to salary and benefit increases will be offset through gapping temporary vacancies.

## **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.

### **Our People and Performance**

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable.