



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Public Health Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 2, 2024
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	City of Hamilton Support for SCORE! Program (BOH24007) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Heather Harvey (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3635
SUBMITTED BY:	Kevin McDonald Director, Healthy Environments Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

The Public Health Committee, at its December 4, 2023 meeting, approved the following:

“That staff (including Hamilton Early Years Staff) be directed to work with McMaster University’s SCORE! (Strengthening Community Roots: Anchoring Newcomers in Wellness and Sustainability) program to explore their needs in greater detail with respect to the Riverdale neighborhood project and report back in Q1 2024 on the requests, options available and potential costs associated.”

The purpose of this report is to outline ways in which existing City of Hamilton programs can support the SCORE! program, both within the Riverdale neighbourhood as well as in Wards 1, 2, 3, 8 and 14 as the SCORE! program looks to expand into the implementation phase (2024-2026).

This Information Report satisfies the request in Item 2023-J, respecting the SCORE! Program, be removed from the Public Health Committee Outstanding Business List.

INFORMATION

Background

The SCORE! (Strengthening Community Roots: Anchoring Newcomers in Wellness and Sustainability) program is a research study led by Dr Sonia Anand, Professor 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.

Medicine and her team at McMaster University and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The goal of SCORE! is to prevent chronic diseases in newcomer children through healthy active living. Healthy active living includes regular physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and well-being and optimal sleep. Newcomer children were selected as the target audience as they are more likely to live in lower socioeconomic status households and experience health disparities. The Riverdale community (Ward 5) was selected because of the high percentage of recent immigrants (16%) that live in Riverdale West compared to Hamilton overall (3.3%).

The SCORE! team has been working with the Riverdale community since April 2022. During this time, they have engaged with the community through a variety of means to better understand community needs and potential solutions to the challenges experienced among children of newcomer families to grow, thrive, and reach optimal health. The study has included a community survey, using photo voice to document barriers and facilitators to healthy active living, partnering with schools to learn about youth perspectives on what activities they'd like to participate in, mapping of existing programs and services as well as piloting potential interventions. The work has been guided by a Community Advisory Board as well as collaboration through numerous partners including schools, health care providers, non-profits, City of Hamilton, YMCA and post-secondary institutions.

The City of Hamilton has been a partner in the initial phase of the study in numerous ways, including participation in the Multi-Sectoral Policy Roundtable, which has worked to address systems level issues to create an environment supportive of healthy active living. Additionally, Recreation Division staff have worked closely with the SCORE! within the Riverdale community to look at opportunities to increase access to, and participation in, Recreation programming at the Dominic Agostino Recreation Centre as well as other programming space.

Expansion of SCORE!

The SCORE! team plans to use their learnings from the Riverdale community to expand into 13 additional neighbourhoods with higher rates of recent immigrant settlement, across 6 wards (1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 14), pending funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada. The focus of the Implementation Phase for the SCORE! program includes increased support to assist with access to Recreation programs through the use of Recreation Navigators as well as expanded program opportunities through both Recreation and the SCORE! program to 100 newcomer families in 14 neighbourhoods.

Staff from Recreation Division, Public Health Services, and the Children's & Community Services Division met with the SCORE! project team to discuss their needs related to the expansion of the program, beyond the Riverdale community. This discussion highlighted the alignment of SCORE! with:

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1. 2022-2026 Council Priorities;
2. Recreation Master Plan;
3. Affordable Access to Recreation Strategy;
4. Ontario Public Health Standards; and,
5. Early Years Community Plan.

Building on the existing partnership between the SCORE! team and the City of Hamilton in the Riverdale neighbourhood, numerous opportunities were identified in which existing City programs and services could be leveraged to further support the SCORE! program and its goal of increased access to healthy active living for participating families (see Appendix “A” to Public Health Committee Report BOH24007).

There are no financial impacts to the City as a result of the identified potential supports. Departments were able to leverage existing staff time, programs and resources to mitigate costs, given the existing alignment between City of Hamilton programs and services and the SCORE! program.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report BOH24007	Potential Opportunities for the City of Hamilton to Support the SCORE! Project Implementation Phase
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