

**From:** Viv Saunders

**Sent:** Sunday, January 25, 2026 12:44 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Board of Health - Tuesday Jan 27th - 2026 Budget - \$1 million amendment for consideration

*Clerks, please add this correspondence to the upcoming Agenda. Thank you.*

Dear Mayor & Members of Council:

I have a suggestion in regards to the Board of Health's budget being proposed which Council might wish to consider.

On the surface, it appears we're charging municipal taxpayers for a non-core service that is no longer necessary and no longer needs to be funded.

**Dental Clinics - Duplication of Services? - \$978,000 net levy to the municipal taxpayers for low-income (non-seniors) residents**

On Page 13 of the presentation, we as a city are still providing Dental services with a net cost of \$978,000 per year fully funded by the municipality for low-income residents. (please note this excludes the Ontario Seniors Dental program which is fully funded by the province)

The municipal program that was initiated years ago was at a time when low income individuals, without dental coverage benefit plans, had no means & needed a subsidized program.

That is no longer the case . . . and hasn't been the case for a few years now.

so:

**(a) Why?**

Why is this still being funded at the municipal level when it could be paid at the federal level under the Canada Dental Care program?  
(threshold of upwards of \$90,000 family income)?

**(b) What is the economic impact?**

Our local dentists are welcoming new patients who qualify for Canadian Dental Care Plan (now that the bugs have been worked out)

What % of those 8,143 dental visits in 2025 could we have directed to our local dental providers & be paid at the federal level instead of the local level?

**(c) Does the \$978,000 budget cost include all ancillary costs such as administering the program (processing applications, reporting, annual budgeting etc)?**

**(d) Are the program locations in keeping with our EDI policies or will that review result in additional locations being opened in Greater Hamilton?**

In these tough times, I'd respectfully request that you consider we're paying for a service via our levy that we no longer likely need to.

Thank you for your consideration,

Viv Saunders

*From the city's website:*

