

An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely Pittsburgh, showing various high-rise buildings and a forested hillside in the background. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the title text in white. The bottom portion of the image shows a closer view of residential and commercial buildings.

# 2026 Annual Service Plan

Board of Health Meeting (February 23, 2026)  
Report BOH26010

# Annual Service Plan Overview

## **Purpose:**

Required by Ministry of Health for programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards

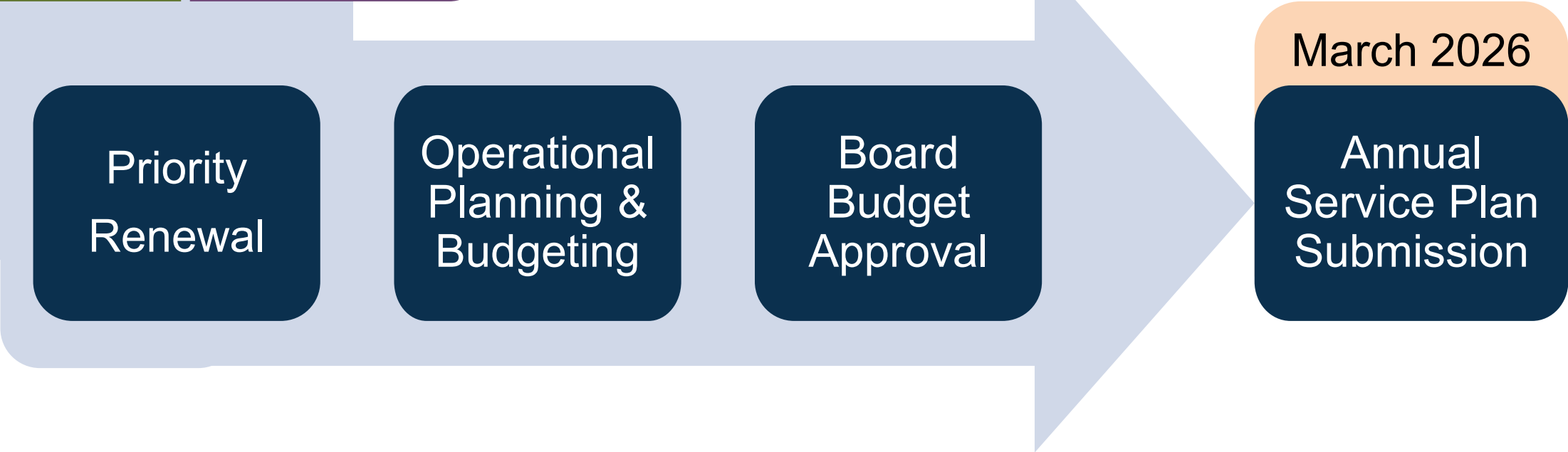
## **Includes:**

- Overall population health priorities
- Detailed program plans and budget information

## **Method:**

Submitted through a Ministry of Health online reporting tool

# Annual Service Plan Roadmap



# Board of Health Input

## Themes on Multi-Year Priorities



Identified priorities were affirmed



Integration of equity across all priorities, rather than a separate priority



Emphasis on demonstrating Hamilton Public Health's impact



Clear, accessible communication to strengthen public visibility and trust



Engage on Health in All Policies work with other City departments

# Current Context in Hamilton

## Children and Youth

Hamilton's children and youth are experiencing rising poverty and greater food insecurity, with declining self-reported mental and emotional health.

## Substance Use

Substance use is a major cause of preventable, premature deaths in Hamilton, with alcohol, tobacco, and opioids responsible for over 1,000 deaths annually.

## Climate Impacts

Climate change continues to impact health through rising temperatures, air pollution, an increase of extreme weather events and a wider spread of vector-borne diseases.

## Health Equity and Indigenous Health

Inequities are observed for almost all health indicators. Local Indigenous people indicated a need for traditional healing and wellness, access to housing, and access to primary healthcare.

# Focus for 2026 to 2029

## Priorities

Child and Youth  
Healthy Growth  
and Development



Climate-Related  
Environmental  
Health Risks



Substance Use  
Prevention



## Foundational Principles

Equity-Driven Public Health  
and Upholding Indigenous  
Inherent Rights

Organizational Capacity

- Use of Technology
- Workforce Flexibility

# Child and Youth Healthy Growth and Development



## Snapshot: 2026 Priority Work



### **Perinatal Mental Health**

Supporting social service providers to have conversations about mental health with parents/caregivers expecting or caring for an infant



### **Early Years Oral Health**

Tailoring oral health preventive programming for children in the early years from households experiencing financial barriers

# Climate-Related Environmental Health Risks



## Snapshot: 2026 Priority Work



### Targeting Vector-Borne Disease

Enhancing monitoring, surveillance, and public awareness to reduce incidence of vector-borne disease



### Heat Response Strategy

Coordinating and implementing activities aimed at reducing heat-related impacts, especially for those at greatest risk

# Substance Use Prevention



## Snapshot: 2026 Priority Work



### Drug Poisoning

Enhancing outreach capacity for underhoused people who have recently experienced drug poisoning



### Youth Nicotine Use

Implementing and evaluating a digital and analog youth engagement strategy to prevent nicotine use

# Equity-Driven Public Health and Upholding Indigenous Inherent Rights



## Snapshot: 2026 Foundational Principle Work



### **Embedding Health Equity Across Public Health**

Strengthening capacity of Public Health staff to ensure equity is embedded as a foundational value of Hamilton Public Health to guide decisions, policies, and daily practice.



### **Indigenous Data Governance**

Taking direction from Indigenous communities to establish strong data governance and uphold Indigenous data sovereignty.

# Organizational Capacity



## Snapshot: 2026 Foundational Principle Work



### **Flexible and Adaptable Workforce**

Strengthening operational surge capacity across Public Health for Infectious Disease case and contact management, building on lessons learned from measles response in 2025



### **Enhance Service Delivery Through Technology**

Strengthening the use of technology to provide better service and maximize use of resources while safeguarding privacy

# Annual Service Plan Development (2027)

Population Health Assessment	Board Input	April 2026
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Research Evidence	Resources and Assets
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A panoramic view of a city skyline, likely Pittsburgh, featuring various high-rise buildings and a forested hillside in the background. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the text "Thank You" in white. The foreground shows a dense residential area with brick buildings and trees, partially obscured by out-of-focus greenery.

Thank You