

Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

2019 Budget

One page brief per request

Briefing Note required for:

- items >\$50,000
- changes in FTE
- Corporate Strategic Initiatives

Dept	Division	Business Unit	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
CHS	ESS	Social Services General and Admin	Community Resource Advisor	S	\$64,653	1.0
CHS	ESS	Service Contract – OW Revenues	Ministry of Community and Social Services Subsidy/NCB/SAR Family Resources	S	(\$64,653)	

Background:

Council approved the hiring of 2 PTE Community Resource Advisors in a March 1, 2017 Report To Council for a two year pilot program. These positions will be located within the Chatham-Kent Library and assist low income individuals and families with available supports and services in the Community. This will be the final portion remaining on the original agreement.

Comment:

Gross expenses for the 2 PTEs remaining portion of the agreement totals \$64,653 funded 50% from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and 50% from the Employment and Social Services - SAR Family Resources (June 15, 2017-June 14, 2019)

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Health and Family Services
Employment and Social Services
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Valerie Colasanti, Director, Employment and Social Services
Date: March 1, 2017
Subject: Social Assistance Reinvestment Fund

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

National Child Benefit Supplement

When the federal government increased the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) amounts to low-income Canadian families in 1998, a reinvestment strategy was developed with the provinces and territories. Under the joint program, all social assistance savings amounts that became available due to the NCBS increase were reinvested in new or enhanced programs, benefits and services that met NCBS objectives, helping to prevent and reduce the depth of child poverty in Canada and promoting attachment to the labour force.

Transition to Ontario Child Benefit and Social Assistance Restructuring

The savings realized under the NCBS program were shared between provincial and municipal levels of government. In Ontario, a family receiving NCBS while on social assistance would have their Ontario Works (OW) financial benefits reduced by the NCBS amount they received, thereby creating a “savings” for provinces and municipalities. Ontario invested its portion of these savings in the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families. Municipalities had the flexibility to allocate their share to projects that satisfied both NCBS and community goals. These savings became part of the Employment and Social Services Division base budget as mandated.

In 2008, the NCBS process was changed with the implementation of the Social Assistance Restructuring (SAR) initiative across Ontario. The Ontario Child Care Benefit (OCB) was introduced as a direct payment to families, creating savings for municipalities as the cost of OW benefits would also decrease as children were removed from the OW benefit. Municipalities were no longer mandated to reinvest these savings, but were strongly encouraged to do so, and were advised the reinvestments would be considered as reimbursable social costs in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) calculations.

The majority of the Social Assistance Reinvestment fund is allocated to the All for Kids program delivered by the Children’s Services Division. The fund also provides opportunities for children from low income families to utilize municipal recreation facilities including free swimming, free skating and reduced costs for school trips to the Cultural Centre.

Comments

In order to support the Division's objective of providing services to increase wellness and reduce the effects of poverty for the people of Chatham-Kent, the Division is moving to provide more proactive, rather than reactive, services. Traditionally, Employment and Social Services staff deal with individuals and families in crisis, and while that will continue, there are some initiatives that can be put in place to try and mitigate crisis for individuals in the future. For the 2017 calendar year, the Division will be supporting a unique partnership with Library Services in the form of a pilot program.

The Chatham-Kent Public Library will be hiring Community Resource Advisors to assist at-risk, low-income and vulnerable Chatham-Kent residents with services by accessing and navigating online government, social and health services, like job search sites and forms at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

This position will also promote the value of the public library in the community, and educate people on library services that can assist with their health and well-being. The library is a free, welcoming, safe environment; at its centre it is a source of information. Customers may not feel as intimidated at the library as they may feel when accessing other departments, and are therefore more likely to seek support and help from the Community Resource Advisor.

Chatham-Kent Public Library branches have evening and Saturday hours, enabling people who work outside of the traditional 9-5 business day the ability to access services. The Community Resource Advisors will work closely with staff at the Employment Resource Centres to ensure customers have access to the most up-to-date local labour market information to assist them in their job search and educational requirements. One of the main objectives of the pilot program is to reduce Ontario Works caseloads.

Consultation

Consultations were held with the Library Services CEO/Chief Librarian to determine the scope of the pilot project and determine how best to meet the objectives as mandated by the Social Assistance Reinvestment fund guidelines.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications from this report.

The funding for the pilot program comes from the existing Employment & Social Services base budget.

Prepared by:

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Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

Tania Sharpe
CEO/Chief Librarian
Library Services

Attachment: None

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