



Community & Neighbourhood Services
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2005 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE: Community Partnership & Investment Program - Funding for Student Nutrition Programs

Issue/Background

The 2004 Approved Budget for the Student Nutrition Program was \$2,499,340.00, which included a one-time enhancement of \$500,000.00 from the National Child Benefits Reserve Fund. The 2005 request of \$500,000.00 to maintain the total municipal contribution at the 2004 level of \$2,499,340.00 was not included in the 2005 EMT Recommended Budget. Funding of \$500,000.00 in 2005 will help to stabilize the existing student nutrition programs and ensure that quality, nutritious food is served.

In 1998, municipal funding of \$1.3 M was granted to fund the 205 existing student nutrition programs, serving 35,609 children throughout the City. Programs in the former City of Toronto had received core funding prior to amalgamation. A model was adopted by Council in which the City would contribute 24% of estimated program costs in the new amalgamated City of Toronto. This support was contingent upon securing matched funding from the province, parents and local fundraising.

Based on approved allocations for 2004 funding by the City of Toronto, student nutrition programs are projected to serve just over 67,000 elementary school-aged students in approximately 275 programs during the 2004/05 school year, which is comparable to the approximately 67,000 students in 279 programs served in 2003/04. Normally, from school year to school year, some programs cease operation while others come on board, so there is some variation in the specific programs that receive municipal funding. Also, programs serving high school students and youth do not receive City funding, although these programs are eligible for provincial funding.

Increasing rates of obesity in Toronto's children are occurring at the same time that many children and adolescents experience food insecurity and hunger. Student nutrition programs enhance consumption of vegetables, fruit, whole grains and milk products, thus helping to ensure adequate nutrient intake, while reducing future risk of chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and some types of cancer.

The increase in number of programs, number of children served and food costs since 1998 and the lack of community resources to adequately provide in-kind support in the highest needs areas, has resulted in an inability to adequately meet the nutrition needs of Toronto's children and youth.

KEY POINTS

Community-based Partnership Funding Model

Student Nutrition Programs are funded through a cost sharing partnership model with the following aim:

Parental Contributions & Fundraising	52%*
Province of Ontario	24%
City of Toronto	24%

* (approximately 38% parental contributions and 14% fundraising)

Funds are allocated to each program based on the number of students participating, number of days the program is offered, the type and frequency of meals served and the neighbourhood income. The level of expected parental contributions is calculated according to census tract income data for neighbourhoods served by student nutrition programs. Unfortunately, many low-income communities cannot achieve this level of contribution.

Provincial funding has dropped from 21.5% of total costs in 1998 to 7.5% in 2004 for the 2004/05 school year. The provincial contribution rate for 2003/04 was 6.9%, so it has remained low, but stable. Advocacy at the provincial level is on-going to encourage the province to restore their contribution to 24%.

The 2004 municipal contribution rate for the 2004/05 school year is approximately 16.9%, which is an increase from 13.6% in 2003 for 2003/04. In 2005, if the City maintains the \$2,499,340 allocated in 2004, the municipal contribution rate will remain stable at approximately 16.9%; however, if the City approves only the 2003 contribution of \$1,999,340.00, the rate will drop back to 13.6%. It is important to note that restoring the municipal contribution rate to the 24% level, as indicated in the above funding model, would cost \$3,540,012.00, which would amount to an additional \$1,540,672.00 (based on an estimated 67,000 students and \$1,999,340.00 funded in 2003). See page 3 for an explanation of actual food costs utilized in this calculation; food costs were updated in 2003 for the 2003/04 school year, in order to reflect the impact of increased food costs.

History of Government Funding

Year	Total Municipal Funding	Total Provincial Funding*
1999 for 1999/2000	\$1,310,500.00	\$1,123,401.00
2000 for 2000/2001	\$1,791,800.00	\$1,240,656.00
2001 for 2001/2002	\$1,880,000.00	\$1,370,841.00
2002 for 2002-2003	\$1,955,340.00	\$1,527,001.00
2003 for 2003-2004	\$1,999,340.00	\$1,019,351.00
2004 for 2004-2005	\$2,499,340.00	\$1,100,000.00

**Approximately 25% of provincial funding covers some nutrition programs not eligible for municipal funding (e.g. new programs in the first year of operation, secondary school programs, those programs that never applied for municipal funding, as well as capital funding (e.g., purchase of equipment). Furthermore, some provincial funding is allocated to the “Community Partners Grant” which is used for community*

capacity building. In Toronto, the Community Partners Grant provides funding for four (4) part-time Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition “Community Representatives”.

Actual Program Costs

For the past six years, student nutrition programs in Toronto have received municipal subsidies based upon approved costs of no greater than \$0.85 per breakfast, \$2.00 per lunch and \$0.65 per snack. The average cost per student per day in 1998 was \$0.89, but increased to \$1.19 in 2003, based on actual food costing conducted by Toronto Public Health. A key strategy to enhance all snacks with the nutrients lacking in the diets of most children today would be to implement a citywide milk program, along with culturally appropriate calcium-rich alternatives, to augment every snack. Costs reflecting this recommendation are shown in the table below.

Current Food Costs of Toronto Elementary Student Nutrition Programs

	Breakfast	Lunch	Snack
1998 Food Costs per child/day (includes 30% for program supplies & resources)	\$0.85	\$2.00	\$0.65*
2003 Food Costs per child/per day (including 30% for program supplies & resources)	\$1.17	\$1.78	\$1.07**

Breakfast: minimum of 3 food groups served in all calculations

Lunch: minimum of 3 food groups served in all calculations

Snack: *based upon 2 food groups served

**based upon 3 food groups served; nutrient analysis conducted in 2003 of foods served indicated that a nutritionally superior snack is recommended, and is achieved by adding one food group

Summary of Funding Required to Support Student Nutrition Programs in 2005

2004 Community Partnership & Investment Program – Grants Allocation \$2,499,340.00

2005 Community Partnership & Investment Program Request \$2,499,340.00

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