



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authority to Receive Service Canada Funding for the Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps Programs and to Enter into Service Agreements with three Community Agencies

Date:	March 14, 2011
To:	Economic Development Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to renew agreements with Service Canada for the City-administered Youth Employment Toronto (YET) and Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) programs for an amount of up to \$1,971,560 in federal contributions and \$308,930 net, for a total gross amount of \$2,280,490.

The YET and TYJC programs are on-going cost shared programs. The YET program provides a city-wide mobile employment assessment, referral and case management service. The TYJC program provides an intensive six week pre-employment preparation program and subsidized job placements for 16 to 24 weeks. The two programs serve unemployed and out-of-school youth, 16 to 29 years of age who are experiencing barriers in gaining access to employment or other vocational-related opportunities. The current Service Canada contract for the TYJC program ends on May 13, 2011, and on June 30, 2011 for the YET program.

This report also seeks authority to enter into purchase of service agreements for the delivery of the TYJC program in the community. Three community agencies will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to deliver TYJC for the new contract period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that City Council authorizes:

1. The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, be authorized to sign contract renewal agreements with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto program for up to \$425,500 in revenue and \$98,290 in net costs and for the Toronto Youth Job Corp program for up to \$1,546,060 in revenue and \$210,640 in net costs with annual budget commitments dependant on City and Government of Canada budget approval processes.
2. The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, be authorized to enter into purchase of service agreements for the delivery of Toronto Youth Job Corp with the successful proponents of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process on the proviso that:
 - (a) the successful proponents of the Toronto Youth Job Corp program RFP process comply with all applicable requirements under the purchase of service agreement;
 - (b) the agreements shall be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor and contain such other items and conditions as she may deem advisable; and
 - (c) the agreements are within the Deputy City Manager's delegated approval limits.
3. The appropriate City Officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

The 2011/12 renewal agreement for the Youth Employment Toronto program has a total value of up to \$261,895 gross and \$49,145 net for the period of July 1 – Dec. 31, 2011 and is included in Social Development, Finance and Administration's 2011 Approved Operating Budget. The impact of \$261,895 gross and \$49,145 net for the period of Jan. 1 – June 30, 2012 will be included in Social Development, Finance and Administration's 2012 operating budget submission.

The 2011/12 renewal agreement for the Toronto Youth Job Corps program has a total value of up to \$1,097,937 gross and \$131,650 net for the period of May 16 - December 31, 2011 and is included in the Social Development, Finance and Administration's 2011 Approved Operating Budget. The impact of \$658,761 gross and \$78,990 net for the period of Jan. 1 – May 11, 2012 will be included in the 2012 operating budget submission for the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division.

Funding for the 12 month YET and TYJC 2011/12 Agreement Periods:

	YET Program	TYJC Program
2011	YET Program	TYJC Program
Gross	\$ 261,895	\$ 1,097,937
Revenue	\$ 212,750	\$ 966,287
Net	\$ 49,145	\$ 131,650
2012	(Jan 1 – June 30)	(Jan. 1 – May 11)
Gross	\$ 261,895	\$ 658,761
Revenue	\$ 212,750	\$ 579,771
Net	\$ 49,145	\$ 78,990

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council annually approves funding renewal with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto and Toronto Youth Job Corps programs. The most recent reports are:

City Council decision for CD 32.5 - Service Canada Funding Renewal for the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) Program:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.CD32.5>

City Council decision for CD31.3 - Service Canada Funding Renewal for the Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) Program:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.CD31.3>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto has been administering YET and TJYC as cost-shared programs for 28 years. Contract renewals have been carried out by both levels of government on an annual basis.

The two programs have contracts that end shortly: May 13, 2011 for TYJC and June 30, 2011 for YET. City-Service Canada negotiations for contact renewals are underway. The renewal start dates are expected to be May 16 for TYJC and July 1st for YET.

Under the management of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, the TYJC program is delivered by three community organizations. An RFP is required to determine the appropriate agencies to implement the program in the community for the next

approved funding period based on City of Toronto purchasing guidelines.

Authority is needed to sign renewal agreements with Service Canada for the two programs and to enter into service delivery agreements with the successful delivery agencies in the RFP process for the TYJC program to ensure that there is no service interruption for these long-standing employment youth programs.

COMMENTS

Over the past few years, the youth unemployment rate has been in the range of 15-18%. This rate has been double the unemployment rate of the general population. In this climate, young people find it is extremely difficult to gain access to jobs. Their employment prospects become more challenging if they lack a high school diploma, have little work experience and/or have few financial resources to seek employment and/or training opportunities. Being marginalized from the labour market in this manner can begin to influence the choices these youth make; some may pursue criminal activity or substance abuse, or may experience depression or feelings of hopelessness.

Youth Employment Toronto

The YET program provides a mobile employment service to youth who have difficulty accessing services and resources in order to attach themselves to the labour market. Through this program, the City directly employs six specialized employment workers who are assigned different geographic communities to provide services across the city.

YET workers actively reach out to youth in the most relevant locations in the community such as hostels, housing complexes, youth drop-ins and other community settings where vulnerable youth are naturally gathering. The program serves youth aged 16-29 who are out of school and unemployed. The primary target is young people who have not completed high school. Youth are provided a variety of supports ranging from employment assessment, career planning and counselling, as well as referrals to employment services, skill development programs and educational opportunities. The staff are holistic in their approach, and as such, also assist youth in dealing with other life issues that can get in the way of their employability. Youth are linked to resources such as housing support, substance abuse treatment, legal advice, etc. This year, at a staff-to-youth ratio of 1:119, the program will provide case management to a target number of 715 vulnerable youth.

The YET staff are effective at supporting youth with these interventions to achieve employability outcomes. The final program outcomes were met in the previous 12 month contract period of 2009/10 (the 2010/11 report not yet available as contract will end in June). As a result of YET interventions, a total of 523 youth of the 784 who received YET Case Management Support secured, employment, obtained training, or returned to school (see Table 1 for detailed performance statics).

Table 1: Detailed Performance Statistics

Youth Employment Toronto 2009/10 Program Activity	Outcomes
Youth contacted and provided with Assessments. Of these:	939
Youth who received Case Management Support (exceeded target) Of these:	784*
a. Youth who have entered Education and Training Programs	126
b. Youth who participated in Pre-Employment Programs	129
c. Youth who secured Employment	285
d. Youth who continued to be case management into 2010	71
Total Positive Outcomes for those Assessed (Employment, Education or Training)	594

YET achieved a 76% success rate among the youth they case managed. YET's assessment determines who are ready to move forward to more intensive Case Management Support. In the 2009/10 contract period, 155 youth were assessed but determined not yet ready for Case Management Support. Of the case managed youth who did not have a confirmed reported outcome by the end of the agreement period, 71 continued to be supported during the next agreement period. 119 did not have outcomes that were known for a variety of reasons. Historical data suggest that such youth either moved, had more pressing personal issues that staff were supporting them with and therefore, not ready for a commitment to a vocational plan at this time, or they returned to school or found employment but did not inform staff. Not all youth are ready to make this kind of change in their lives or feel obligated to report back their successes. However, they are more aware of the resources available to them and have the contact information of staff if and when they want support to pursue their vocational goals further in the future.

Toronto Youth Job Corps

The Toronto Youth Job Corps program is a 22-30 week pre-employment preparation program designed to help youth who face challenges in obtaining and maintaining employment to build the skills necessary to make the transition into work or further education or training. The program provides vocational counselling, life skills workshops, hands-on work experience and a job placement with an employer. The target group for this program are youth with less than a high school education, with little or no work experience and who may also be in the hostel system or in receipt of social assistance.

Since the program's inception in 1983, TYJC has operated as a partnership between Service Canada, the City, and community-based delivery organizations. The TYJC program has been delivered by the following three agencies: St. Christopher House in the downtown west end, JVS in the Jane and Finch area, and West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre in the Scarborough since the last Request for

Proposals process was conducted five years ago. A new RFP process will be conducted to determine the future purchase of service providers.

The TYJC program expects that 132 youth will complete the program over the course of the next contract period. The last contract period that detailed statistics are available for is April 8, 2009 to May 14, 2010. During this period, a total of 124 youth completed the program and 98 youth found employment, obtained training or returned to school.

Table 2: Detailed Performance Statistics

Toronto Youth Job Corps 2009/2010 Program Activity	Outcomes
Youth to start the Program Of these:	156
a. Youth who left due to personal reasons: Medical, Moved/Lost Contact	33
b. Youth who completed the Program	124
c. Youth who have entered Education and Training Options upon completion	30
d. Youth who were Employed upon completion	68
Total Positive Outcomes for those in the Program (Employment, Education or Training)	98

TYJC achieved an 80% success rate among the youth who completed the program. A total of 26 youth who completed the program were still being support in their job search at the end of the agreement period.

City staff are finalizing negotiations with Service Canada for the 2011/12 YET and TYJC contribution agreements and require Council authority to enter into new contracts prior to May 13, 2011.

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SIGNATURE

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