



# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members of Council
<b>DATE:</b>	February 17, 2026
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Building Safer Communities Fund – Federal Funding Conclusion
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Jessica Chase Director, Children’s and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to inform the Mayor and Members of Council that the federal Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) will conclude on March 31, 2026. Public Safety Canada has confirmed that no extension or renewal of funding will occur beyond the current agreement period.

## Background

In 2022, the City of Hamilton received federal funding through the BSCF to support the development of a multi-year plan focused on preventing and addressing youth involvement in gun and gang violence. This work resulted in a coordinated, community-informed plan, approved by Council (HSC23033), that aligns with the existing Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Through this funding, the City launched a Situation Table pilot, delivered training and capacity-building for community partners, and supported targeted prevention and intervention programming.

Since 2023, the City has administered BSCF funding to nine community organizations delivering youth violence prevention, intervention, and community safety programs:

- Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton-Halton
- Centre de Santé Communautaire Hamilton Niagara
- Empowerment Squared
- Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg
- NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment and Training
- Steeltown Athletic Club (STAC) Hamilton
- Wesley Urban Ministries and John Howard Society

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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- YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford
- YWCA Hamilton

Over the past three years, some organizations enhanced existing programs while others launched new initiatives that expanded access to culturally responsive supports for youth. These investments have contributed to the City’s broader Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) objectives by strengthening upstream prevention, supporting youth at elevated risk, and building community-based partnerships aligned with CSWB priority areas.

### **Current Situation**

The federal government has confirmed that BSCF funding will end on March 31, 2026, as outlined in the original agreement. No extension or contingency funding will be available to support ongoing youth gun and gang prevention initiatives.

The conclusion of federal funding will affect all nine funded partners in the following ways:

- Continuation of specific youth programs.
- Staffing capacity dedicated to violence prevention in community
- Relationships and collaboration strengthened through BSCF implementation will continue to be nurtured where possible; however, the formal quarterly planning meetings and coordinated referral pathways established under this initiative will conclude.

Over recent months, the City has worked with partners to explore alternative funding opportunities, including the City Enrichment Fund and other potential sources. While some organizations may qualify for partial support, available funding does not fully replace the scope of BSCF-funded initiatives.

### **Next Steps**

The City will communicate formal confirmation of the funding conclusion to all partners, continue working with organizations on transition planning and sustainability discussions, and continue advancing City-led community safety initiatives, including the Situation Table pilot and Gender-Based Safety through existing resources. Youth violence remains a significant issue identified in the 2025–2029 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, and updates on related actions will continue to be provided through annual reporting to Council.

For further information, please contact Rachelle Ihekwoaba, Manager, Community Strategies, by phone at 905-978-2680 or email [Rachelle.Ihekwoaba@hamilton.ca](mailto:Rachelle.Ihekwoaba@hamilton.ca).

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**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

[HSC23033 Building Safer Communities Multi Year Plan](#)

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