




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	November 12, 2021
SUBJECT:	Extension of Funding for Oral Health Program Enhancements
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jen Vickers-Manzin, Director, Chief Nursing Officer Public Health Services, Healthy Families Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this communication update is to provide a brief status update on the implementation of Oral Health Program Enhancements funded through the Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) and to advise HDF's extension of the funding period beyond 2021 to continue to address needs in the community.

In September 2018, the City of Hamilton received approval to accept a \$1,000,000 investment from the Hamilton Community Foundation (HCF) to fund three oral health programs over three years. [Proposal for Oral Health Program Enhancements (HSC18045) (City Wide)]. Public Health Services' Dental Program collaborated with Ontario Works on this joint effort aimed at improving oral health outcomes for vulnerable populations in Hamilton.

The approved programs include:

- increasing access to dental health services through an extra day of service per week on the dental health bus;
- implementing a "Smile with Confidence" pilot program that provides enhanced dental and denture benefits for working-age adults whose prospects of employability and quality of life would benefit from dental care; and,
- providing supplemental denture coverage to low income seniors.

The investment plan also included a proportion of funding allocated to grant dollars for community partners and grassroots programs to enhance access to services for vulnerable populations; funds to support the evaluation of the impact of investments; and an endowment with the HCF for future investment.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent reduced programming has impacted the ability to maximize the use of the grant funds prior to the end of the funding period,

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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.

SUBJECT: Extension of Funding for Oral Health Program Enhancements (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2

December 31, 2021. There remains a great need for this continued work to improve the oral health of the low-income adults and seniors in the City of Hamilton. We have requested and received approval from the HCF to extend the use of the unused funds through 2022.

The landscape has changed since this important work began in 2018. Our intent is to reconnect with our partners to re-evaluate how we can best use the remaining funds in this grant to meet the needs of our community.

For more information please contact Kris Gielen at 905-546-2424 x5283 or Kris.Gielen@Hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.