
For Information

REPORT TITLE: **Increased Funding Allocation for Mandatory Programs and Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program 2022**

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 of Health

OBJECTIVE

To provide Regional Council with an update on Ministry of Health funding allocations for Public Health mandatory programs and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health (“the Ministry”), which mandates public health programs and services, provides cost-shared funding through annual Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreements (‘accountability agreements’).
 - In 2022, accountability agreements include increased funding from the Ministry for an additional \$403,950 pro-rated for 2022 for Mandatory Programs, \$681,150 pro-rated for 2022 specific to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) Operating Budget, and an additional \$4,214,800 in Capital Funding for expanding existing and constructing new OSDCP clinics.
 - Increased OSDCP funding allocations will support current service model plans and procurement needs, as previously reported to Council in the July 7, 2022, report, titled “Improving Access to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Using a Mixed Model Approach”.
 - This Ministry funding increases are welcome; however, the 2022 accountability agreements do not provide sufficient funding to reach the 70:30 cost-sharing model with the Ministry. There is a need to continue advocacy to the Ministry to further increase funding to secure financial support required to deliver programs and services to Peel residents.
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DISCUSSION

1. Background

Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, 1990 (‘the Act’), Regional Council is the Board of Health, and Peel Public Health is part of the Region of Peel. The Board of Health is accountable to the Ministry of Health (‘the Ministry’), which mandates public health programs and services and provides cost-shared funding through annual Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreements (‘accountability agreements’).

As per the cost-sharing funding agreement between the Ministry and Region of Peel, Public Health’s mandatory programs are meant to be funded at a 70:30 ratio; however current

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2022 accountability agreements do not provide sufficient funding to reach this cost sharing model. Public Health has historically received less than 70 per cent of its share for mandatory programs, without inflation or population growth adjustments since 2018.

Since the program's inception in 2019, the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program ('the OSDCP') has been 100 per cent funded by the Ministry. Additional one-time funding requests could be granted for specific projects, as requested by the Region of Peel, and approved by the Ministry.

On May 2, 2022, Public Health received the 2022 accountability agreement outlining 2022 funding (Appendices I and II). This report provides an update to Regional Council regarding 2022 funding allocations.

2. Findings

a) Mandatory Programs

On May 2, 2022, the Ministry provided a one per cent increase for mandatory programs, or an additional \$403,950 pro-rated for 2022, equaling a total of \$54,257,250 for the January 1 – December 31, 2022, budget year.

While this additional incremental funding for mandatory programs is welcome, it is only enough to reach a 60:40 cost-sharing model. Funding remains short of the agreed upon 70:30 funding ratio between the Ministry and Region of Peel. The total increase is summarized in Table 1:

Table 1. Public Health Mandatory Program Funding

Mandatory Program Funding	Amount
Provincial funding in 2022 Regional Approved Budget	\$53,853,300
Provincial funding per 2022 Provincial Funding Allocation	\$54,257,250
Total 2022 Funding Budget Increase	\$403,950
Provincial funding in 2022 Regional Budget	\$54,257,250
Provincial funding per 2023 Provincial Funding Allocation	\$54,391,900
Total 2023 Funding Budget Increase	\$134,650

Additional funding will be used to support the provision of Public Health programs and services in the Peel community, however continued advocacy is needed to increase the received budget until a 70:30 cost sharing model is reached.

b) Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Funding (OSDCP)

Operational Funding

Public Health has been allocated up to \$3,912,800 in annual operational funding from the Ministry for the 100 per cent provincially funded OSDCP for both 2020 and 2021.

As part of the May 2, 2022, accountability agreement from the Ministry, an additional \$681,150 pro-rated for the period of April 1 – December 31, 2022, was allocated to the OSDCP. This provides a total of \$4,593,950 for the January 1 – December 31, 2022, period, as shown in Table 2:

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Table 2. Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Funding

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Funding (OSDCP)	Amount
Provincial funding in 2022 Regional Approved Budget	\$3,912,800
Provincial funding per 2022 Provincial Funding Allocation	\$4,593,950
Total 2022 Funding Budget Increase	\$681,150
Provincial funding in 2022 Regional Budget	\$4,593,950
Provincial funding per 2023 Provincial Funding Allocation	\$4,821,000
Total 2023 Funding Budget Increase	\$227,050

Increased funding allocated to the OSDCP for 2022 will support current service model plans and procurement needs, as previously reported to Council in the July 7, 2022, report, titled “Improving Access to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Using a Mixed Model Approach”. Overall, they will support managing the demand for emergency services and expanding capacity to move clients off the waitlist for routine care.

c) Capital Funding: Mobile Dental Clinic

As reported in the April 22, 2021, council report “Update on Implementation of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program and the Impact of COVID-19 on Service Delivery” the Ministry previously approved funding for the procurement of a Mobile Dental Bus for the Mobile Dental Clinic.

The procurement of the Mobile Dental Bus was paused due to Public Health’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated resource demands, as described in the June 23, 2022, council report “Mobile Dental Clinic Procurement for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.”

In the May 2, 2022, accountability agreements, the Ministry provided an extension to procure a Mobile Dental Bus through March 31, 2023.

d) Capital Funding: Dental Clinics

As part of the 2022 accountability agreement, the Ministry also approved capital funding for the expansion of one existing clinic, and construction of three new dental clinics in Peel. Allocated funding for each project is shown in Table 3:

Table 3. Funding for Ontario Seniors Dental Care Capital Projects

Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Capital Funding (OSDCP)	Amount
Period of April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, unless otherwise noted	
Expansion of East Mississauga Community Health Centre	\$699,400
Total Capital Funding Budget Increase	\$699,400
Period of April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted	
Construction of West Mississauga Dental Clinic	\$1,171,800
Construction of Central Mississauga Dental Clinic	\$1,171,800
Construction of West Brampton Dental Clinic	\$1,171,800
Total Capital Funding Budget Increase	\$3,515,400
Grand Total Capital Funding Budget Increase	\$4,214,800

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Approved capital funding will support dental clinic expansion at East Mississauga Community Health Centre for three new operatories (from three to six operatories), and the creation of new dental infrastructure by constructing three new clinics in locations currently underserved in Peel. These new clinics will have 15 new operatories in total to address the large waitlists of seniors seeking routine care; however, new clinics are not likely to be operational until 2024/2025.

See the October 24, 2019, council report “Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program: Capital Funding Requests” for more information on requests to fund capital projects.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications associated with 2022 funding allocations are described in the findings section of the report. These implications include historic underfunding specific to mandatory Public Health programs due to an imbalanced cost-sharing model between the Region and the Ministry, as well as inflation and growth-related increases within Peel’s population. Despite the Ministry providing a one per cent increase in funding for mandatory programs in 2022, Public Health remains at a 60:40 cost-sharing model, requiring continued advocacy for more funding.

Funding increases allocated to the OSDCP are welcomed and will allow for program expansions as described in the report findings.

The incremental funding for 2023 will be added to the 2023 Public Health Budget submission.

CONCLUSION

The recent announcement regarding increased funding to Public Health programs is welcomed. It provides clear indication of the Ministry of Health’s commitment to Public Health’s programs and services. Although the new funds will help reduce financial pressures experienced by the Region of Peel, it is not the full amount required to reach the 70:30 cost sharing agreement. Therefore, ongoing advocacy with the Ministry must continue to secure financial support required to deliver programs and services to Peel residents.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Letter from Christine Elliot, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health (Former),
Regarding Funding for the Provision of Public Health Programs and Services

Appendix II – Letter from Kieran Michael Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Regarding the
Ministry of Health Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement



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