



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 November 6

HEALTHY SMILES ONTARIO – ONE-TIME FUNDING REQUEST

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee recommend to the Board of Health to submit a one-time funding request to the Ministry for \$75,000 to cover the expected additional costs for the Healthy Smiles Ontario as appended to Report No. 045-14FFC.

Key Points

- The Healthy Smiles Ontario program is a 100% funded program which provides preventative dental care to children of low-income families.
- Quarterly variance reports estimate a program deficit of \$75,000 for 2014 due to increased participation and increased income eligibility.
- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is recommending that the Board of Health submit a one-time funding request (Appendix A) rather than deferral of any further services until 2015.

Background

The Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program is a 100% Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) program which provides preventative dental care to children of low-income families. The program began in 2010 with an approved budget of \$871,028. In 2013, the MOHLTC reduced its funding by 10% or \$87,104 and committed to review funding allocations across the province should the need arise. In 2013 the HSO program in Middlesex-London did run a small deficit of \$2,268 which the Health Unit is hoping to recover through the Ministry's settlement process. Since the program's inception in 2010, the number of clients accessing preventative care continues to increase year over year.

2014 HSO Program Changes

In 2014, the MOHLTC increased the income eligibility for the HSO program which meant more clients are eligible to access preventative dental care. The MOHLTC didn't increase health unit funding for this change in eligibility but rather requested health unit's to report funding pressures through quarterly variance reporting.

One-time Funding Business Case

During the variance reporting to the Province, the Health Unit has continually projected a 2014 year end deficit. We anticipate that an additional \$75,000 will be required by year end for the Healthy Smiles Ontario program as a result of increased client participation in the program and increased eligibility criteria. The MOHLTC has requested the Board of Health to submit a one-time funding request for the additional funding. Attached as [Appendix A](#) is the completed one-time funding request. As with funding requests after the initial Program Based Grant request, MOHLTC approval will not be obtained until mid-February 2015 at

the latest. However, a conference call was made with Ministry staff to go over the Health Unit's situation and funding request.

An alternative option would be to advise HSO participants and local dentists that no further claims will be approved and that dental appointments would have to be deferred until 2015. During the conference call with the MOHLTC this option was discussed and as a result the ministry recommended to submit the one-time funding request for additional funding for 2014.

Conclusion

As a result of increased client participation and increased income eligibility, the HSO program is currently tracking a program deficit of approximately \$75,000. The MOHLTC is recommending the Board of Health submit a one-time funding request to defray these costs. Therefore it is recommended to continue to accept and approve claims from dentist for the remainder of the year and submit the attached one-time funding request.

This report was prepared by Mr. John Millson, Director of Finance & Operations.



Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health