



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Laura Di Cesare, Acting Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2017 May 4

THE HIV AND HEPATITIS C COMMUNITY ACTION FUND CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee:

- 1) Recommend that the Board of Health authorize the Board Chair to sign the Contribution Agreement when it is received; and*
- 2) Recommend to the Board of Health that the 2017 operating budget be revised to include \$82,924 in one-hundred-percent funding received from the Public Health Agency of Canada to help address the high-risk injection drug use in Middlesex-London, as outlined in [Appendix A](#).*

Key Points

- Since February 2016, the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) has been investigating increases in new cases of HIV and other infections affecting local persons who inject drugs (PWID), and subsequently declared a public health emergency in June 2016.
- MLHU staff, in collaboration with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC) and London Intercommunity Health Centre (LIHC), submitted an application to the Public Health Agency of Canada's HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund for additional resources to address these emerging issues.
- On April 18, 2017, MLHU received notification that the application was approved. The total grant, over a five-year period, is \$1,244,648, of which \$596,537 is payable to MLHU, \$303,813 to RHAC and \$344,298 to LIHC.

Background

Since February 2016, the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) has been investigating increases in new cases of HIV and other infections affecting local persons who inject drugs (PWID). At the June 2016 Board of Health meeting, the Board reviewed [Report No. 040-16](#) re: "Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) in Middlesex-London: An Update," wherein the Board of Health directed MLHU staff to submit an application to the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) HIV and Hepatitis C Community Action Fund. The MLHU, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC) and London Intercommunity Health Centre (LIHC) applied to the fund as a Community Alliance.

On April 18, 2017, the Community Alliance received notification that its application was approved. PHAC will provide the MLHU, RHAC and LIHC with \$1,244,648 in funding over five years to carry out street-level outreach for PWID. The funding will be used to develop a coordinated, integrated approach to address high-risk injection drug use in the community by increasing community capacity for street-level outreach. This approach will include addressing the underlying social determinants of health and mental health issues faced by PWID, enhancing HIV and HCV testing, prevention and treatment of HIV and HCV, and connecting PWID to addiction services and supporting them to remain in care.

Contribution Agreement and Budget

The Board of Health is required to sign a Contribution Agreement to take part in this initiative. As part of the Contribution Agreement, MLHU will receive \$596,537 over five years. The five-year budget, as it pertains to MLHU's share of the grant, is attached as [Appendix A](#). The budget for the entire grant is attached as [Appendix B](#). The budget for the full, five-year grant is \$1,244,648. This funding would support hiring a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Outreach Worker for each organization to provide street-level outreach, and a 0.5 part-time equivalent (PTE) Program Evaluator located at MLHU for program evaluation.

Since the application's approval status was unknown at the time of preparation, the annual expenditures and associated funding of this project were not included in the 2017 Planning & Budget Templates. Therefore, it is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee recommend that the Board of Health direct the Board Chair to sign the Contribution Agreement and increase the 2017 operating budget by \$82,924, as outlined in [Appendix A](#). The remaining grant disbursements for the subsequent four years will be reflected in the appropriate Planning and Budget Templates in 2018.

This report was prepared by the Sexual Health Team, Environmental Health and Infectious Disease Division, and the Finance Team, Corporate Services Division.



Laura Di Cesare, CHRE
Acting Chief Executive Officer