



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee
FROM: Dr. Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health
DATE: 2017 December 7

BLIND LOW VISION: INCREASED BASE BUDGET FUNDING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee:

- 1) Receive Report No. 041-17FFC re: “Blind Low Vision Increased Base Budget Funding”; and*
- 2) Recommend that the Board of Health approve the revised Screening, Assessment and Intervention Team budget.*

Key Points

- On November 16, 2017, MLHU received a funding enhancement letter from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
- The enhancement provides for an annual base budget increase of \$16,153.
- The funding enhancement for 2017–18 of \$8,076 will start in December 2017 and will reflect the remaining four months of the fiscal year.

Background

The Health Unit has a signed Service Agreement with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) to undertake the role of lead agency for the Blind Low Vision Early Intervention Program (BLV). The program provides early intervention in Middlesex-London, Elgin, Oxford, Huron, Perth, Grey, Bruce and Lambton counties. Vision Loss Rehabilitation Ontario (VLRehab, formerly CNIB) is our contracted service provider for the BLV program. BLV provides intervention to approximately 100 children per year, from birth to school-age, who are blind or have low vision.

2017–18 MCYS Base Budget Funding Enhancement

On November 16, 2017, MLHU received a funding enhancement letter from the MCYS (see [Appendix A](#), attached). This enhancement provides for an annual base budget increase of \$16,153. The funding enhancement for 2017–18 of \$8,076 reflects the remaining six months of the fiscal year, and will begin in October 2017. The funding is to be used for the BLV program to enhance service capacity and help make the program more sustainable.

2017–18 Revised SAI Team Budget

An Amending Agreement to the revised Service Level Agreement is to be signed and returned to MCYS, with an updated budget, by November 30, 2017 (see [Appendix B](#), attached). Following a meeting with VLRehab to determine funding pressures, the BLV budget will be revised. VLRehab has recently become unionized in Ontario, and, as a result, salaries are increasing retroactively to July 2017. It is anticipated that the majority of the enhanced funding will be put toward salaries for Early Childhood Vision Consultants, as well as increased costs related to travel.

This report was prepared by the Screening, Assessment and Intervention Team, Healthy Start Division.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie'.

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