



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

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## 2012 HEALTHY SMILES ONTARIO PROGRAM BUDGET

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that:*

- 1) *The 2012 Budget for the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program attached as [Appendix A](#) to Report No. 065-12 be approved in the amount of \$871,028; and further*
- 2) *That a 1.0 FTE Health Promoter be hired for the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program.*

### **Background**

In October 2010, the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program was launched throughout the province. The HSO program provides preventive and early treatment services to eligible children and youth ages 0 to 17 years old. Eligibility criteria include an adjusted family net income of less than \$20,000, clients must be residents of Ontario, and they must have no other form of dental insurance. The HSO program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). As of May 1, 2012, a total of 1,019 clients are enrolled in the HSO program in Middlesex-London.

The objectives highlighted in the initial business case submitted to the province were:

1. Develop sustainable models of care.
2. Increase community capacity for the delivery of care to low-income families and individuals.
3. Maximize access to care for target population throughout the Health Unit jurisdiction.
4. Recognise the principle of freedom of choice of an individual to choose his/her provider of care.

The HSO model developed in Middlesex-London relies primarily on using private dentists and registered dental hygienists as the providers of dental care. These providers are paid on a fee-for-service basis using fee schedules established by the MOHLTC. The payment of fees is administered by the Health Unit. Some HSO clients are also seen at the 50 King Street Dental Clinic if this is the location the client chooses to attend.

In addition, in collaboration with six neighbouring health units, the HSO model also requested \$900,000 in one-time capital grants to support the construction of a general anaesthetic suite at the Western University Faculty of Dentistry. This suite is intended to provide additional capacity for children to receive dental treatment under general anaesthesia and therefore shorten the waiting times for these children to receive critical dental care. The current waiting times are approximately nine months.

## 2012 Healthy Smiles Ontario Budget

For 2012, the MOHLTC has provided public health units with additional flexibility with regard to HSO funding in order to support efforts to establish efficient dental service delivery models that meet community needs. The expectation is that focus will be on service to clients and achieving the goals of the HSO program (i.e., improve the oral health outcomes for children and youth in low-income families).

Attached as Appendix A is the 2012 Budget for the HSO program. It can be seen that the 2012 grant request of \$871,028 is the same as the 2011 MOHLTC approved funding.

In keeping with the program goals, the 2012 HSO budget includes funding for a 1.0 FTE Health Promoter and increased operating costs to support this new activity. The program also employs 1.50 FTE Dental Hygienists, 2.30 FTE Dental Assistants, 0.15 FTE of a Dentist, and 0.5 FTE of an Accounts Payable Clerk. The additional funding is used to pay the fees of the community dentists who provide care under this program. The new Health Promoter resources will be used to design a sustainable health promotion strategy to address the oral health needs of the community and integrate common health promotion messages within the Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Service and across the Health Unit. As well, the Health Promoter will focus on:

1. Increasing the number of clients enrolled and utilizing the HSO program.
2. Ensuring current HSO clients renew their client cards yearly, a requirement for continuing in the program.

## Conclusion

The 2012 operating budget for the Healthy Smiles Ontario program has been submitted in the amount of \$871,028 which is the same level of funding requested and approved by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 2011. For 2012, the Ministry has allowed flexibility from the initial business plans submitted in 2010 to address individual community needs. As such, staff recommends that a Health Promoter and related expenditures be approved to increase program awareness and effectiveness.

This report was prepared by Mr. Paul Sharma, Manager, Oral Health Team, and Mr. John Millson, Director, Finance & Operations.

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Medical Officer of Health

**This report addresses** Policy No. 4-10, (Budget Preparation and Approval) as outlined in the MLHU Administration Policy Manual. The program is required and assists the fulfillment of the Child Health Standard of the Ontario Public Health Standards