

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

August 20, 2004

To: Community Services Committee
From: Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services
Subject: Final Update on 2002/03 Ontario Works (OW) Incentive Fund

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update City Council on the implementation and results of the 55 projects funded by the one-time provincial incentive funds received by Toronto Social Services (TSS) in 2001 for exceeding Ontario Works (OW) placement targets.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no net impacts on the 2004 budget. All Ontario Works Incentive projects are funded from one-time 100 percent provincial funds.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of May 21, 22 and 23, 2002, Council approved a report, titled "Allocation of Ontario Works Targets Incentive Funds," which recommended the expenditure of \$5.1 million to fund 55 projects. Ontario Works Incentive Funds were offered by the Province to increase the number of clients participating in the Community Participation component of Ontario Works. Ministry of Community and Social Services guidelines stipulate that the funds must be used to meet local human service needs and that they cannot accrue as savings, be used to address municipal budget pressures, or offset costs related to regular program expenses.

The 55 funded projects addressed the needs of at-risk youth populations, and related food and hunger and safety issues in disadvantaged communities.

At its meeting of January 27, 28 and 29, 2004, Council adopted a report, titled "2002/03 Ontario Works (OW) Incentive Fund," which recommended that up to nine of the 55 projects funded be extended to June 2004.

At its meeting of March 1, 2, and 3, 2004, Council approved Policy & Finance Committee Report 2, Clause 2 which authorized that "the \$212,000.00 under expenditure in the 2002/03 Ontario Works Incentive Fund be allocated to extend the Life Skills in the Community Program."

Comments:

To effectively administer the Ontario Works Incentive Funds a modified grants allocation process was developed. A committee, composed of senior managers from Toronto Social Services, Social Development and Administration, Parks and Recreation, Toronto Public Library and Toronto Public Health convened to review projects proposals. The review process was supported by staff from the Social Development and Administration Division in collaboration with the Interdepartmental Youth Services Group, staff committee made up of managers from program areas that deliver services and programs to youth.

City program areas submitted 84 project proposals for consideration. Following application of the eligibility and assessment criteria, 55 projects were recommended and approved for funding. Of these, 28 projects related to recommendations made by the Children and Youth Action Committee and/or the Toronto Youth Cabinet; 21 related to recommendations made by the Task Force on Community Safety or community safety audits, and six related to recommendations made by the Food and Hunger Action Committee.

The 55 projects can be summarized under nine categories:

- (1) EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION AND SUPPORT (\$595,000.00) – Three projects served multi-barriered youth who were out of school and unemployed. Over 190 youth participated in a lifeskills programs which prepared them to return to school, access employment or further training. More than 70 percent of the youth that completed the lifeskills project moved on to other programs. In another project, 2000 youth facing significant financial barriers to employment received essential items for their job search/start needs. In addition, a concentrated outreach project was successful in reaching 137 youth to provide them with an employment assessment and referral;
- (2) YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (\$590,000.00) – Four projects engaged youth around various issues related to safety. Eight community organizations were funded to undertake community outreach and life skills projects focused on preventing gang involvement and developing capacity for supporting gang-involved youth.

InvolveYouth, a city-wide social marketing campaign, was developed by an inter-departmental working group working with the findings of focus groups held with young people. This campaign, featuring 5,000 advertising posters on TTC vehicles and transit shelters, urged community organizations to involve youth in decision-making;

- (3) TRAINING AND PEER MENTORING INITIATIVES (\$727,000.00) – Six projects focused on issues relating to youth and the development of appropriate training and peer support initiatives. Approximately 100 youth peer mentors were trained and active through these projects. A comprehensive 18-unit Youth Training Workshop series was developed and 40 staff were trained to deliver these workshops;
- (4) RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT (\$415,000.00) – Five projects involved research and policy development on various issues relating to youth safety. The research provided recommendations on appropriate assessment criteria as well as service delivery options. Research topics included; youth safety priorities, safety audit standards, education and prevention on substance abuse and the problems faced by homeless youth with concurrent disorders;
- (5) RECREATION FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS (\$472,224.00) – Funding provided the opportunity to construct the following new facilities; five basketball pads, two skate parks, three fitness centres and one ropes training course. These facilities have provided expanded opportunities for ongoing participation in recreation activities;
- (6) RECREATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS (\$442,500.00) – Programs funded under this category expanded or enhanced existing recreation programs by increasing opportunities for youth and improving on the quality of their experience. Funds supported the expansion of; 47 female programs, 33 sports programs, 20 drop in programs and 3 art programs. Many programs focused on encouraging and improving the level of physical activity amongst youth;
- (7) COMMUNITY SAFETY UPGRADES (\$403,500.00) – Ten park improvement projects that focused on safety related upgrades which have impacted positively on park use;
- (8) FOOD AND HUNGER INITIATIVES (\$1,053,000.00) – Forty community organizations were funded to administer 54 projects that support food security initiatives. Funding also enabled the development of eight new community gardens and the expansion of ten others throughout the city. This had a direct impact on residents' physical health by providing access to fresh and nutritious foods; and
- (9) COMPUTER/MULTI-MEDIA CENTRES (\$399,776.00) – Funds supported the establishment of one computer lab and three multi-media centres. Toronto Public Library launched RAMP, a live interactive web site for youth designed to meet the research, information, entertainment and community needs of Toronto's young people. Since RAMP was launched last spring, ten of the service have exceeded 80 percent.

In summary, of the \$5.1 million dollars allocated \$5,079,612.24 (99 percent) has been spent or allocated. Please refer to Attachment 1 for details on expenditure by project. A second round of Ontario Works incentive fund projects have been approved for 2004-2005. Following the completion of those projects no further incentive funding will be available.

Conclusions :

The Ontario Works Incentive funds made it possible for the City of Toronto to provide a wide range of projects and facilities which addressed the needs of at-risk youth and safety issues in disadvantaged communities. The 55 projects produced outcomes which would not have been possible within existing budgets. The development and implementation of these initiatives has also fostered a co-ordinated approach amongst City divisions and provided significant benefits to community-based organizations and residents.

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Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services

Attachment 1 - Ontario Works Incentive Fund Projects, 2002/03

**Attachment 1
Ontario Works Incentive Fund Projects, 2002/03
Expenditure Summary**

PROJECT	FORMER MUNICIPALITY	BUDGET	2002 Expenditures	2003 Expenditures	2004 Expenditures	Total Expenditures	NET
#1 Teen Zone Getaway – RAMP	City Wide	\$252,276.00	-	\$252,276.00	-	\$252,276.00	-
#2 One on One Mentoring	City Wide	\$70,000.00	-	\$55,060.49	\$14,902.71	\$69,963.20	\$36.80
#3 Partners In Prevention	North York	\$10,000.00	-	\$10,000.00	-	\$10,000.00	-
#4 Reunification & Adaptation	City Wide	\$328,000.00	\$17,337.93	\$180,103.78	\$100,000.00	\$297,441.71	\$30,558.29
#5 Drug Prevention Grants	City Wide	\$100,000.00	\$37,881.00	\$42,119.00	\$19,954.60	\$99,954.60	\$45.40
#6 Homeless & Underhoused Youth with Concurrent Disorders	Toronto	\$80,000.00	\$17,126.01	\$62,873.99	-	\$80,000.00	-
#7 Increased Physical Activity for Toronto's Female Youth (13-19)	City Wide	\$50,000.00	\$7,476.12	\$12,817.05	\$28,966.32	\$49,259.49	\$740.51
#8 Student Nutrition Program	City Wide	\$27,000.00	-	\$27,000.00	-	\$27,000.00	-
#9 Essential Items for Youth Seeking Employment	City Wide	\$250,000.00	-	\$250,000.00	-	\$250,000.00	-
#10 Community Gang Prevention	City Wide	\$150,000.00	-	\$150,000.00	-	\$150,000.00	-
#11 Toronto Youth Job Corps/Lifeskills	City Wide	\$300,000.00	\$100,002.00	\$186,079.66	-	\$286,081.66	\$13,918.34
#12 Rexdale - Youth Outreach	Etobicoke	\$45,000.00	-	\$40,413.22	\$4,586.42	\$44,999.64	\$0.36
#13 Youth Safety Survey	City Wide	\$10,000.00	\$8,583.38	\$1,416.62	-	\$10,000.00	-
#14 Youth Safety Symposium	City Wide	\$40,000.00	\$189.50	\$39,810.50	-	\$40,000.00	-
#15 Gang Intervention & Exit Strategy	City Wide	\$150,000.00	-	\$150,000.00	-	\$150,000.00	-
#16 Food & Hunger Action Fund	City Wide	\$810,000.00	-	\$774,518.19	-	\$774,518.19	\$35,481.81
#17 At Risk Leadership Program	City Wide	\$150,000.00	\$14,334.44	\$135,664.75	-	\$149,999.19	\$0.81
#18 Adapted Youth Leadership	North York	\$79,000.00	-	\$66,678.08	-	\$66,678.08	\$12,321.92
#19 Youth Advocacy Programs	City Wide	\$150,000.00	\$33,115.65	\$115,977.68	-	\$149,093.33	\$906.67
#20 Female Programs	City Wide	\$64,000.00	\$9,821.56	\$42,928.93	-	\$52,750.49	\$11,249.51
#21 The Arts Programs	City Wide	\$131,000.00	\$1,828.55	\$105,712.40	-	\$107,540.95	\$23,459.05
#22 Youth Sport Programs	City Wide	\$101,000.00	\$12,890.38	\$68,216.99	-	\$81,107.37	\$19,892.63
#23 Helpline	City Wide	\$90,000.00	-	\$86,326.49	-	\$86,326.49	\$3,673.51
#24 Oriole Computer Lab	North York	\$48,500.00	-	\$38,793.82	-	\$38,793.82	\$9,706.18
#25 Youth Drop In Programs	City Wide	\$69,000.00	\$1,630.18	\$60,577.95	-	\$62,208.13	\$6,791.87
#26 Thistletown Basketball Pad	Etobicoke	\$40,000.00	-	\$37,287.03	-	\$37,287.03	\$2,712.97
#27 Summerlea Basketball Pad	Etobicoke	\$40,000.00	-	\$34,765.07	-	\$34,765.07	\$5,234.93
#28 Elmbank Basketball Pad	Etobicoke	\$40,000.00	-	\$40,000.00	-	\$40,000.00	-
#29 Dixon Basketball Pad	Etobicoke	\$40,000.00	-	\$40,000.00	-	\$40,000.00	-
#30 Islands Ropes Course	Toronto	\$92,700.00	-	\$92,698.16	-	\$92,698.16	\$1.84
#31 Mobile Skate Park	Toronto	\$50,000.00	-	\$48,802.08	-	\$48,802.08	\$1,197.92
#32 North Rexdale Redev. Strategy	Etobicoke	\$75,524.00	-	\$73,409.73	-	\$73,409.73	\$2,114.27
#33 Massey Grove Park Lighting	Etobicoke	\$50,000.00	-	\$50,000.00	-	\$50,000.00	-
#34 Park Improvement	Etobicoke	\$50,000.00	-	\$47,045.92	-	\$47,045.92	\$2,954.08
#35 East Region Youth Drop In	North York	\$26,100.00	-	\$24,991.81	-	\$24,991.81	\$1,108.19
#36 Youth Fitness Centres	North York	\$46,000.00	-	\$45,379.22	-	\$45,379.22	\$620.78
#37 Outdoor Sport Pads Upgrades	North York	\$15,000.00	-	\$14,010.46	-	\$14,010.46	\$989.54
#38 Weston Outdoor Basketball Pad	York	\$50,000.00	-	\$44,805.00	-	\$44,805.00	\$5,195.00
#39 Muirhead Park Safety Audit	North York	\$48,000.00	-	\$43,033.30	-	\$43,033.30	\$4,966.70
#40 Parks Safety Audit Protocol	City Wide	\$75,000.00	-	\$74,664.02	-	\$74,664.02	\$335.98
#41 Dovercourt Park Improvement	Toronto	\$50,000.00	-	\$49,235.45	-	\$49,235.45	\$764.55

PROJECT	FORMER MUNICIPALITY	BUDGET	2002	2003	2004	Total	NET
			Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	Expenditures	
#42 Market Lane Park Improvement	Toronto	\$39,000.00	-	\$37,542.06	-	\$37,542.06	\$1,457.94
#43 St James Park Improvement	Toronto	\$40,000.00	-	\$38,504.68	-	\$38,504.68	\$1,495.32
#44 David Crombie Park Improvement	Toronto	\$40,000.00	-	\$19,348.24	\$20,364.90	\$39,713.14	\$286.86
#45 College Park Improvement	Toronto	\$35,000.00	-	-	\$27,900.10	\$27,900.10	\$7,099.90
#46 Flemingdon Lighting	North York	\$36,500.00	-	\$33,750.83	-	\$33,750.83	\$2,749.17
#47 Rockcliffe Gardening	York	\$70,000.00	\$12,129.09	\$54,037.42	-	\$66,166.51	\$3,833.49
#48 Community Gardens	York	\$50,000.00	-	\$49,786.00	-	\$49,786.00	\$214.00
#49 Jimmie Simpson Kitchen Initiative	Toronto	\$46,000.00	-	\$44,753.51	-	\$44,753.51	\$1,246.49
#50 Children Environmental/Nutrition	City Wide	\$50,000.00	\$14,395.71	\$33,520.17	-	\$47,915.88	\$2,084.12
#51 Girl's Rock	North York	\$14,000.00	-	\$11,404.11	-	\$11,404.11	\$2,595.89
#52 Play and Talk	North York	\$8,000.00	-	\$8,000.00	-	\$8,000.00	-
#53 Child & Family Physical Activity	City Wide	\$65,000.00	-	\$64,660.07	-	\$64,660.07	\$339.93
#54 Thistletown Specialized Equip	Etobicoke	\$13,400.00	\$8,599.73	\$3,416.57	-	\$12,016.30	\$1,383.70
#55 Public Education & Outreach	City Wide	\$250,000.00	-	\$214,191.64	\$25,187.82	\$239,379.46	\$10,620.54
Sub-Total		\$5,100,000.00	\$297,341.23	\$4,328,408.14	\$241,862.87	\$4,867,612.24	\$232,387.76
#56 Lifeskills Expansion in Malvern	Scarborough	\$212,000.00	-	-	\$212,000.00	\$5,079,612.24	\$20,387.76
						TOTAL	NET