

HE-B1-1

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DATE: January 26, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **LOW-INCOME DENTAL PROGRAM FOR YOUTH**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services  
David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Commissioner of Health Services be authorized to execute service agreements with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), whereby MOHLTC will provide 100 per cent one-time start-up funding for a new Low-Income Dental Program for youth and ongoing annualized 100 per cent provincial operational funding to fiscal 2012/13;**

**And further, that the Commissioner of Health Services be authorized to enter into funding agreements with community partners for Low-Income Dental Program implementation;**

**And further, that the 2010 Peel Health approved staffing complement be increased by the addition of up to 15 Contract Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees for Peel Public Health to operationalize the Program, fully funded by the MOHLTC, be approved by Regional Council subject to MOHLTC final approval of Peel Health's submissions;**

**And further, that the 2010 Peel Health Operational Budget be increased by \$2,910,940, 100 per cent funded, subject to final approval by the MOHLTC;**

**And further, that capital project 10-5308 is approved with a budget of \$1,308,614, 100 per cent funded, subject to final approval by the MOHLTC;**

**And further, that staff report back to Regional Council as additional information regarding funding becomes available.**

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**LOW-INCOME DENTAL PROGRAM FOR YOUTH****REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Public Health Units (PHUs) across Ontario have been requested by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to apply for 100 per cent provincial funding to implement a new low-income dental program for youth.
- Funding applications are to build upon and link with existing services, as well as to expand access to dental services, focusing on children and youth from low-income families as a first priority.
- To qualify for funding, PHUs must demonstrate leadership in leveraging community capacity to deliver community based screening, preventive and treatment services.
- Peel Health has identified community partners for collaboration in program design and delivery.
- At no net cost to the Region of Peel, Peel Health will receive capital and annualized operational MOHLTC funds to fiscal 2012/13 for the LIDP in Peel Region and will require up to 15 FTE additional contract employees.
- Peel Health plans to utilize provincial funding to: (1) flow capital and operational funds to community partners providing treatment services to LIDP clients; (2) expand current screening and preventive services to accommodate increased referrals; (3) expand program support for claims processing of additional LIDP clients seen by community dentists; (4) expand screening and preventive outreach services at community partner and neighbourhood sites.
- Peel Health, along with several community groups, continues to advocate for increased dental funding for low-income seniors.
- Per the Regional financial control by-law, a new capital project and an increase to 2010 Peel Health budget will need to be approved.
- Capital project 10-5308 with a budget of \$1,308,614, fully funded is recommended.
- The 2010 operational budget increase of \$2,910,940, fully funded is recommended.

**DISCUSSION****1. Background**

Peel Public Health is currently mandated to deliver a dental program which includes:

- Screening youth to determine if they have urgent dental care needs
- Reimbursing dentists for providing urgent treatment for youth from low-income families – known as the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program, and
- Providing preventive dental services such as sealants to youth.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is requesting that each Health Unit implement a new Low-Income Dental Program for youth (LIDP). The program would provide youth from low-income families with basic and preventive dental services. It would also increase the already mandated screening and preventive services.

Health Units are requested to apply for capital funding and to estimate operational expenses needed to implement the new program. The 100 per cent provincial capital funding is one-time funding while the operational funding is 100 per cent provincial up to fiscal year 2012/13. In order to qualify, funding applications for the Program must build upon existing services, as well as expand access to dental services, focusing on youth from low-income families as a first priority. Health Units must also partner with community groups to develop sustainable and efficient service delivery models that leverage existing community capacity.

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**LOW-INCOME DENTAL PROGRAM FOR YOUTH****2. New Low-Income Dental Program for Youth**

Peel Public Health has applied to the MOHLTC for capital funding to cover dental equipment, and an estimated amount of operational funding to cover the staff and resources needed to implement the Low-Income Dental Program for youth. Peel Public Health plans to utilize the Low-Income Dental Program for youth capital and operational funding, specifically:

- a) To flow capital and operational funds received from the MOHLTC to identified community organizations that will provide treatment services to youth who qualify for the Program.
- b) To increase dental staff to deal with the increase in referrals from community partners and dentists for screening and preventive services for their Program clients.
- c) To expand current program and administrative staff to support increased claims payment required as a result of community dentists seeing clients that qualify for the new Program.
- d) To purchase additional portable dental equipment to provide screening and preventive services at community partner and neighbourhood sites.

**3. Opportunities for Community Partnerships**

As required, to receive funding, Peel Public Health undertook an environmental scan for the Low-Income Dental Program to identify potential partners and service delivery models. The environmental scan identified the following partnership opportunities:

**a) Community Organizations**

To determine interest in being a site for preventive and oral health education services, Peel Public Health met with the following organizations:

- Polycultural Immigrant and Community Services
- Peel Youth Village
- Human Services Department's Neighbourhood Capacity Support Strategy staff.

Verbal and/or written support was obtained from these partners to provide space for the portable dental units in the Sheridan Mall, Acorn Place and Colonial Terrace neighbourhoods. Other neighbourhoods being approached to locate portable dental units include Roche Court, Cooksville, Malton and Credit Woodlands in Mississauga; Knightsbridge and McHardy Court in Brampton; and Stationview Place in Bolton.

**b) Bramalea Community Health Centre**

Community Health Centres in Ontario have a mandate to provide access to health services including dental services for disadvantaged populations. Since oral health is a strategic direction of the Bramalea Community Health Centre (CHC), the Bramalea CHC has the support of the Central West LHIN to furnish and operate a dental clinic. Bramalea CHC is requesting one-time capital funding for leasehold improvements and equipment for a dental clinic, and subsequent 100 per cent provincial operational

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funding. All Peel residents eligible for the Low-Income Dental Program for youth would be seen at the CHC; service would not be restricted to patients on the CHC roster.

Peel Public Health will also use this site to expand screening and preventive services for the mandated Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program and other preventive programs.

### c) East Mississauga Community Health Centre

The East Mississauga Community Health Centre is a satellite of LAMP CHC in Toronto. Since Toronto Public Health will not apply for funds for this satellite clinic in Mississauga, Peel Public Health has requested provincial capital and operational funding for this CHC satellite. From potential funding provided to Peel Public Health, East Mississauga CHC is requesting one-time capital funding for leasehold improvements and equipment for a dental clinic, as well as 100 per cent provincial operational funding.

Peel Public Health will also use this site to expand screening and preventive services for the mandated CINOT and preventive programs.

### d) Steel Workers' Union Dental Clinic

The Steel Workers' Union has operated a dental clinic for urgent care in Mississauga since 1996. This non-profit agency has provided care to low-income people in the general public for the past eight years. The organization has expressed interest, pending Board approval, in partnering with Peel Public Health to deliver the Low-Income Dental Program. In this potential partnership Peel Public Health would flow operational funding to the Union to cover the eligible costs of Program clients being seen at the clinic as well as some clients who are referred by Peel Public Health.

## 4. Low-Income Seniors' Dental Funding

Peel Public Health, along with several community organizations, continues to advocate for increased funding for the Seniors' Low-Income Dental Program. An update on Regional advocacy efforts was provided to Council at the January 28, 2010 Intergovernmental Relations Advisory Committee.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All Health Units in Ontario are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in capital funding and estimate operating funding. However, not all Health Units have the capacity to submit an application and initiate the new program. Since there may be unallocated funding remaining, Peel Public Health is applying for additional funding for community organizations who are very interested in accessing the funds through Peel Public Health to start the new program.

To implement the Low-Income Dental Program, Peel Public Health is submitting an application for \$1,308,614, one-time capital funding for equipment and leasehold improvement, as well as \$2,910,940 operational funding, both 100 per cent provincially funded until fiscal 2012/13. The 100 per cent provincial funding includes \$936,634 in capital funds and \$1,697,039 in operational funds, to be transferred to East Mississauga CHC, Bramalea CHC and Steel Workers' Union Dental Clinic.

Furthermore, the operational funding for Peel covers expenses for 15 contract FTE, space requirements, and medical supplies. Similar to the existing Heart Health/Healthy Living grant

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program, Peel Public Health would receive this 100 per cent provincial funding to flow to established community partners through legal contractual agreements. The MOHLTC has requested operational funding estimates do not include funding to reimburse dentists because they have yet to determine the services covered and rate of reimbursement. It is expected that the MOHLTC will provide Peel with a proportional amount of funds to reimburse dentists.

To adhere to the Regional financial control by-law and reporting process, a new capital project and an increase to 2010 Peel Health budget, fully funded by MOHLTC, will need to be approved. If the provincial funding changes to become cost-shared post 2012/13, Peel Public Health will submit funding alternatives and options as part of the annual budget process.

**CONCLUSION**

Peel Public Health has identified several opportunities for collaboration with community groups to deliver preventive and basic treatment dental services as part of this new program. These community-based delivery models correspond well with the goal of the Low-Income Dental Program for youth to build upon existing capacity in order to expand access to dental services for children and youth from low-income families.



Janette Smith  
Commissioner of Health Services



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**Approved for Submission:**



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