

Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

2020 Budget

Ontario Seniors Dental Program

Briefing Note required for:**-items >\$50,000****-changes in FTE**

Dept	Division	Business Unit	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
CHS	Health Unit	Ontario Seniors Dental Program	Total expenses for new Ontario Seniors Dental Program (OSDP) 100% funded program	B	\$581,200	3.3
CHS	Health Unit	Ontario Seniors Dental Program	Ministry of Health funding for new OSDP program	B	(\$581,200)	

Background:

The Ministry of Health implemented a 100% funded Seniors Dental program.

Comment:

See attached Report to Council Dated September 30, 2019.

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent

Community Human Services

Public Health Unit

Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Teresa Bendo, Director, Public Health
Date: September 30, 2019
Subject: Low Income Seniors Dental Program Implementation

Background

In April of 2019, the Ontario Government announced funding for a new Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP). The intent of this new program is to increase access to oral health care for low-income seniors, for both preventive and restorative services. This increased access may reduce unnecessary trips to the hospital, prevent certain chronic diseases, and increase the quality of life for seniors in Ontario.

On June 7, 2019, CK Public Health received confirmation from the Provincial government of annual base funding for 2019 of up to \$581,200 to provide the OSDCP in Chatham–Kent. This program will continue to be 100% funded by the Province for 2020.

The OSDCP is to be rolled out in two stages. Stage I will begin in fall 2019, and will use existing infrastructure at public health units (PHUs), community health centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal health access centres (AHACs). In Chatham-Kent this will include program awareness and promotion strategies, as well as navigation and assistance with enrollment.

In early 2020, Stage II implementation will expand the program through capital investments to outfit PHUs, CHCs, and AHACs with dental suites.

Within the Ontario Public Health Standards (2018), and specifically the Oral Health Protocol (2019), public health units are mandated to use a salaried staff model to provide or ensure the provision of preventive and restorative services to all eligible and enrolled seniors living in Chatham-Kent.

CK Public Health presently has infrastructure in place for two preventive clinic operatories. With necessary retrofitting and renovations to the clinic, office space and the acquisition of equipment required for restorative treatments, it is expected that CK Public Health will be able to provide for both the preventive needs of Healthy Smiles Ontario clients, as well as the low-income seniors as mandated within the Oral Health Protocol, 2019.

Comments

In Chatham-Kent, data shows that there are between 2700-4500 seniors that meet the low-income thresholds. The Ministry of Health anticipates, based on other utilized benefit programs, that 25% of eligible seniors will use this service. With this information, it can be anticipated that there will be

approximately 1030 low-income seniors in Chatham-Kent applying for, and subsequently enrolling and participating in, the OSDCP.

It is estimated that approximately 6-8 clinic visits per client will be required to provide comprehensive care to seniors in the OSDCP. In addition, ongoing preventive appointments every nine months for assessment, cleaning, scaling, and fluoride application will be required to maintain oral health status and prevent the risk of disease. Pending these assessments, clients may be referred to a local oral surgeon or dentist as required.

In order to run the clinic three days a week, CK Public Health will require the following additional staff: 0.6 FTE dentist, 0.7 FTE registered dental hygienist, a 1.0 FTE certified dental assistant and a 1.0 FTE program assistant. A breakdown of those FTEs and duties can be found in Appendix A.

This complement of staff was determined by calculating the number of expected clients (1030), the number of visits (6-8) and the length of time of each individual would require to complete a comprehensive treatment plan and ongoing preventative services (one hour per visit).

It is anticipated there will be an extended waitlist for services due to the number of eligible seniors and the number of appointments each will require. Several individuals and agencies serving the senior population have contacted CK Public Health requesting to be added to a waitlist.

There is the potential to expand the model to include evening clinics in the future, based on need, funding, and staffing availability.

The Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre and Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre have expressed support for this program to be housed at CK Public Health, and will work to decrease barriers associated with the social determinants of health to increase access of service to this priority population. Both agencies will collaborate with CK Public Health to promote, enroll, and transport their clients to access to this new program.

Staff will evaluate the program and provide a report to the Board of Health one year post implementation.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the following regarding the implementation of the program:

Executive Director of the Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre (CKCHC).

Regional Director, Windsor Site of the Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC).

Ongoing consultation with Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Lambton Public Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit and Southwestern Public Health.

Additional consultation continues with the local Ontario Dental Association.

Financial Implications

CK Public Health has received confirmation for base funding of \$581,200 (April 1, 2019- March 31, 2020). The Province has confirmed that this program will be 100% funded by the Province in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

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Attachment: Appendix A: Staffing Model

C: Sherri Saunders, Executive Director,
Chatham-Kent Community Health Centre (CKCHC)

Sylvie Guenther, Regional Director, Windsor Site,
Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre