

Final 2016 City Budget: What's Included for Poverty Reduction?

On February 17, 2016, Toronto City Council passed the 2016 City Budget, voting on a series of budget motions to conclude this year's budget process. Community groups asked the City to invest \$75 million in new and expanded poverty reduction initiatives in order to make good headway on the City of Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy. **Unfortunately, only \$6.8 million has been included in new and expanded programs and services from the \$75 million list.**

| Community List of Poverty Reduction Measures | New Investment Needed | What's included in the Final Budget? |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| <i>What's Included in the Budget?</i> | | |
| Close the Loop program to improve oversight of TCHC repairs | \$600,000 | In the budget ¹ |
| Increased access to public space for community gardens | \$50,000 | In the budget ¹ - \$291,000 included for Horticulture & Urban Agriculture including community gardens |
| Infrastructure for food growing on hydro lands | \$50,000 | In the budget ¹ - \$110,000 for new Hydro Corridor agreements, 1 st step in process |
| Expansion of the student nutrition program | \$1,603,000 | In the budget - \$1,494,000 included at Budget Committee ¹ ; \$109,000 included at Council meeting ⁷ |
| <i>What's Partially Funded?</i> | | |
| New supportive housing | \$15,600,000 | New affordable rental will include at least 9 units of supportive housing ⁵ ; related subsidy funds are included under new rent supplements/housing allowances |
| New rent supplements/housing allowances | \$14,500,000 | \$1,200,000 in the budget ^{2,6} |
| New child care subsidies | \$5,000,000 | \$800,000 in the budget for 818 temporary subsidies ² ; an additional \$1,250,000 included for permanent subsidies at Council meeting ⁷ |
| New affordable rental housing | \$2,600,000 | \$324,000 in the budget ² – |

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|--|------------------------------|---|
| | | carrying cost for new affordable rental construction |
| Stabilization of youth outreach worker program and three new youth lounge spaces | \$1,900,000 | \$446,000 in the budget for all three new youth spaces (\$149,000 included at Budget Committee ¹ and \$297,000 included at Council meeting ⁷); no additional funding for youth outreach worker program |
| Increased support for nonprofit organizations through the Community Partnership and Investment Program | \$1,000,000 | \$410,000 in the budget ² – inflationary increase for CPIP administered by Social Development, Finance & Administration |
| New child care spaces | \$500,000 | \$80,000 in the budget ² – carrying cost for construction |
| <i>What's Left Out?</i> | | |
| Reversal of TTC fare increases | \$17,400,000 | Not in budget |
| Expansion of Investing in Families program | \$6,300,000 | Not in budget |
| After-School Recreation and Care program expansion | \$3,610,000 | Not in budget |
| Financial Empowerment & Problem Solving program expansion | \$1,500,000 | Not in budget |
| More coordinated transition planning to help people access housing | \$1,500,000 | Not in budget |
| Development of community food hubs and small infrastructure | \$800,000 | Not in budget |
| Tenant hotline expansion | \$600,000 | Not in budget |
| TOTAL | \$75,113,000 | \$6,813,000 |

1 Item included in Councillor Crawford's motion passed on January 26, 2016.

2 Item included in staff-recommended 2016 City of Toronto preliminary budget released on December 15, 2015.

3 Amount changed to \$1.603 million from original request of \$1.9 million. \$1.603 m reflects the Toronto Board of Health's requested amount.

4 This item is counted as \$50,000 toward food growing on hydro corridors. Although the investment will not result in new food growing infrastructure immediately, it will cover property taxes and other assessment costs to facilitate City access to 5 new hydro corridors. This is the first step toward the development of these lands for community use, including creation of food growing infrastructure.

5 The Affordable Housing Office expects that additional new rental housing will be operated by supportive housing providers with accompanying rent supplements. No details on numbers at this time.

6 It is unclear whether there is any new investment in housing allowances in this budget compared to 2015.

7 Item included at February 17, 2016 Toronto City Council meeting, final day of budget process.