

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
 RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
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DATE 2 November 1998

TO/DEST. Coordinator
 Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Social Services Commissioner
 Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **SUCCESS BY SIX - A PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION
 INITIATIVE FOR OTTAWA-CARLETON**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Community Services Committee recommend Council approve that \$50,000 be allocated from Social Services 1998 National Child Benefit (NCB) savings on a one-time basis for the development of a Community Action Plan for an early intervention initiative in Ottawa-Carleton.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to allocate financial resources to the development of a Community Action Plan. The Plan will be developed by the Community Partnership for a Prevention/Early Intervention Initiative in Ottawa-Carleton.

BACKGROUND

A Community Partnership in Ottawa-Carleton has undertaken a joint planning initiative to develop Success by Six programs that will meet local needs.

Led by United Way organizations, 200 communities across Canada and the United States have committed themselves to the implementation of Success By Six programs. Success by Six programs focus on ensuring all children enter school ready to learn. Each community is designing its own partnerships and programs. For example, the 1,2,3 GO initiative in Montreal is a community development initiative underway in six of the city's poorest neighbourhoods. Working with neighbourhood leaders to build community capacity and ensure that young children and their families have access to programs, services, and opportunities to stimulate their

development, all residents are involved in community-wide projects to improve the well-being of young children and their families. In Toronto, Success by Six is a new grants program established to increase direct services for young children in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods with a particular focus on pre-and post-natal care, parent-child resource centres, parenting programs, and home visiting.

Compelling evidence exists that shows that prevention and early intervention programs have significant long-term social and economic benefits. By addressing the physical, developmental and social needs of children early in life, society as a whole and individuals are helped. Research has demonstrated that the best strategies are preventive rather than remedial, are carried out early in children's lives, and involve the child's parents and local community. As well, the best strategies build community capacity, build on existing community services, networks and partnerships, are comprehensive, and involve collaboration across systems in the planning and delivery of services.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Community Partnership in Ottawa-Carleton consists of a number of funders who are working together, including United Way/Centraide, Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), Regional Social Services, Regional Health, Champlain District Health Council, and the School Boards. The Social Planning Council, while not a funder, participates in the Community Partnership as an associate member.

The Community Partnership recognizes and wishes to build on the range of early intervention programs currently in place in Ottawa-Carleton in order to pull together a comprehensive, integrated system of service. Current early intervention initiatives include neighbourhood health and social programs, Better Beginnings/Better Futures, Young Single Parents Network, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, the Child Care Council, First Words - Speech Language Initiative, and Le Réseau.

The Community Partnership has identified the priority area as Children Under Six. They also intend to:

1. Show leadership;
2. Provide support and resources;
3. Build on existing initiatives and strengths;
4. Develop a Community Action Plan;
5. Improve co-ordination and integration;
6. Increase investment through partnerships (including the private sector);
7. Fulfil mandates;
8. Set strategic direction for funding priorities;
9. Demonstrate integrated approach; and
10. Foster creativity.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The next phase is to develop a Community Action Plan that will contain a vision for the community, key strategies, measurable outcomes, a community report card, and definition of the roles for partners. The Plan will be action oriented, incorporating the raising and committing of resources and the implementation of programs in order to realize Success by Six in Ottawa-Carleton.

It is recommended that the Department allocate \$50,000 (100% Regional dollars) on a one-time basis as the Regional (Social Services and Health) contribution to the development of the Community Action Plan. Funds in this amount will be set aside from Social Services' 1998 National Child Benefit (NCB) savings. Net 1998 savings from the NCB are estimated at \$800,000. This contribution will match the contributions of the United Way/Centraide and MCSS.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This initiative is built on a community partnership model. Health and Social Services have been working closely with other funders. In addition, plans for community engagement include a community forum to be held in January 1999 to develop goals, measurable outcomes and preferred strategies for the Community Action Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommended allocation involves the reinvestment of existing funds.

*Approved by
Dick Stewart*

*Approved by
Dr Robert Cushman*

CP