



County Council

Meeting Date: July 18, 2023
Submitted by: Cindy Howard, Deputy CAO / County Treasurer
Subject: Primary Care Recruitment, Transition into Practice and Retention Program Funding Request

BACKGROUND:

At the June 2023 Council Meeting the Middlesex London Ontario Health Team (MLOHT) asked County Council for a financial contribution of \$20,000 (10% of the total yearly cost of \$200,000) per year for an initial 3-year commitment. The contributions would support a recruitment program including a Recruitment and Retention Coordinator.

The presentation provided by MLOHT discussed the fact the Middlesex London is not attracting enough primary care providers to provide primary care to its growing population, let alone replacing the retiring physicians. Currently there is no proactive recruitment of family medicine residents to encourage them to set up practices in Middlesex London.

ANALYSIS:

The Middlesex London Ontario Health Team (MLOHT) is a dedicated team of local healthcare providers and community members who are working together to better connect healthcare and supports across Middlesex County and London. The County has two staff members that sit on the MLOHT Coordinating Council (Joe Winsor, Manager of Social Services and Neal Roberts, Chief MLPS). The Coordinating Council guides the work that the MLOHT does.

Council directed Finance Administration to review the funding request and report back at a future Council meeting.

The County has already passed the budget for the 2023 year and there is not a current funding source that can be identified for the community funding ask.

In addition, Middlesex County has a Grants Finance Policy in place that provides direction for the disposition of requests for financial assistance. This policy was last reviewed and approved by Middlesex County Council on August 23, 2016. This policy states that no grants are to be given out after the year 2001 and that funding for projects that are outside of the County's core services shall not be permitted with County tax dollars. At its

discretion, Council may amend the Grants Finance Policy to permit the provision of grants to third parties.


FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Middlesex London Ontario Health Team (MLOHT) asked County Council for a financial contribution of \$20,000 (10% of the total yearly cost of \$200,000) per year for an initial 3-year commitment.

The 2023 County budget has already been approved.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
<p>Promoting Service Excellence</p> 	<p>Innovate and transform municipal service delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anticipate and align municipal service delivery to emerging needs and expectations• Engage, educate and inform residents, businesses, and visitors of county services and community activities• Strengthen our advocacy and lobbying efforts with other government bodies• Collaborate with strategic partners to leverage available resources and opportunities• Build organizational capacity and capabilities

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the request for a financial contribution of \$20,000 for 2023 not be approved in accordance with the Grants Finance Policy and given that the 2023 budget has already been approved;

AND THAT the County continue to be an active partner with MLOHT and provide in-kind support.