

services. The Glenforest Youth Hub will respond to this demonstrated need for additional low- or no-cost programming as programs/services and access to all spaces will be at no charge or minimal cost in order to ensure there are no financial barriers to participation.

BR #12198 – Malton Youth Hub Operations

Description of Budget Request

Since opening in 2023, the Malton Youth Hub has been providing valuable programs and services to youth in the community. The City has the lead role in managing and operating the Hub, with programs offered by anchor partners. Additional operations staff are required to continue to provide these valuable programs and services. There is a need for one permanent Community Development Co-ordinator and budget for temporary staff including music instructors, front desk staff and kitchen staff.

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

The Hub offers a number of amenities including a large atrium, a commercial kitchen with café, music recording studio, and dedicated space for the anchor partners. The City is responsible for Hub operations, including maintenance, cleaning of common spaces, facility booking, and securing anchor and itinerant partners to offer programming. With the success of the Hub since its opening in 2023, additional staff are required to run current programs and services at an optimal level.

Details of Service Change

One of the primary goals of the Hub is to provide free meals and snacks to local youth. This meal program has been very successful with over 34,000 lunch visits by youth as of June 2024. The additional temporary kitchen staff will help support the demand for this program. The recording studio requires temporary music instructors to support the demand for aspiring local young artists. With over 2,000 youth members and over 27,000 afterschool visits as of March 2024, additional temporary front desk staff are also required to meet service levels. The permanent Community Development Co-ordinator will allow for additional programming, expanded outreach and community initiatives, and support for the four anchor partners that offer numerous counselling, therapy and support services.

Service Impact

By providing the necessary programming and operational resources, staff will ensure that the Hub is well maintained at the expected level of service for youth to benefit from and enjoy. According to the Food Banks Mississauga Link2Feed report from June 31, 2023 to January 31, 2024, 33 per cent of foodbank clients in Malton are children and youth. The meal plan program offered at the Malton Youth Hub will aim to reduce the number of youth in the community that experience food insecurity. Access to regular, nutritious meals will also reduce the physical health risks of diabetes, obesity, asthma, anemia, and cardiovascular diseases in Malton youth.