



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Moroso, Director of Integrated Social Services and Gilles Plouffe, Ontario Works Program Supervisor
Date:	April 23, 2014
Re:	Jobs for Youth Program – Issue Report

Report:

Purpose

To follow up with the Board from the last Board meeting regarding the changes of the Jobs for Youth program within the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Service Board jurisdiction.

Background

Ontario's Youth Opportunities Strategy was launched in 2006 as a response to government concern regarding the escalating rate of youth violence in urban communities. The research pointed to diminished economic opportunity, early school leaver rates, youth unemployment rates and a variety of neighbourhood-level factors, including low community participation and socially disorganized neighborhoods, as risk factors for youth violence. The Strategy, comprised of five key programs/services (the Summer Jobs for Youth program; the Youth in Policing program; the Youth Outreach Worker program; the School-Based Prevention/Diversion program; and the Youth Connect website), were established in identified at-risk communities to provide young people with positive opportunities to build their skills, self-esteem and resilience.

The Strategy was expanded in the second year to reach more youth in additional at-risk communities.

Then in 2008, growing government concern over breaking the cycle of poverty in Ontario led to the government's commitment to reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over 5 years and a further expansion of the Youth Opportunities Strategy. The Summer Jobs for Youth (SJFY) program and the Youth in Policing Initiative of the Strategy were included as part of the government's Poverty Reduction Strategy as these programs help youth to overcome economic disadvantages and reach their potential by supporting them as they gain confidence, new skills and work constructively within their communities. Overall, the Strategy gives young people in priority communities the opportunity to be successful in life.

On March 26, 2009, the Ontario Budget announced an investment of over \$35M for the enhancement of the Youth Opportunities Strategy. This included more than \$10M from the federal government for 2009/10 to 2010/11. The budget announcement more than doubled the ongoing support for the strategy, bringing the total annual allocation to over \$23M by 2011/12.

Overview of the Strategy

The Strategy recognizes four populations of disadvantaged youth/youth “at-risk”:

- Youth living in identified underserved/at-risk communities – those youth residing in communities that face poor access to services and supports creating increased barriers for young people;
- Youth at risk of conflict with the law – those youth who are at greater risk of developing negative outcomes and becoming involved in violent and/or criminal activities;
- Youth at risk of re-offending – those youth who have already been involved in the youth justice system and are at risk of re-engaging in criminal activities;
- Youth who face identified barriers to employment – includes those youth who have unemployed parents and/or have parents on social assistance, have been, or are, in the care of a Children’s Aid Society (CAS) and/or have been, or are, at risk of dropping out of school.

The Youth Opportunities Strategy primarily focused on promoting positive opportunities for all youth who reside in at-risk communities. This approach acknowledges that youth who are not typically considered to be “at risk” face significant barriers in accessing the opportunities that help develop their capacity to make healthy choices.

The Strategy supported the achievement of other key government priorities over the long-term. The Strategy complemented the work of the Ministry of Education to prevent youth from leaving school prior to graduation and promoted long-term attachment to the school environment. It also supported government efforts to provide young people with the job readiness and employability skills needed to succeed in the labour force and develop into productive, healthy adults. Investing in youth in priority communities assisted them in reaching their full potential and becoming strong citizens who will build strong communities.

The Youth Opportunities Strategy promoted the development of evidence-based solutions to promoting opportunities for young people as well as outcome-focused evaluations of initiatives.

Summer Jobs for Youth (now known as Jobs for Youth)

In 2006/2007, the Ministry provided \$2.6 M in funding for placement of 750 youth. This grew to \$5.1 M in 2007/2008 to provide an additional 900 placements in five expansion communities: Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Windsor and Thunder Bay.

This grew to \$15.9 M in 2009/10 to provide an additional 2,700 placements in all six existing communities and in 12 new communities: Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton,

London/Middlesex, Windsor/Essex, Thunder Bay, Kenora, Algoma, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Chatham-Kent, Peel, Niagara, Brant, Peterborough, Hastings, Frontenac and Stormont, Dundas and Gelngarry.

The design of the Summer Jobs for Youth program expansion in 2009/10 was shaped by program experience in the Summer Jobs for Youth and Youth Outreach Worker programs and research related to supported employment.

Based on the information contained in this report, the allocation for Manitoulin Island was given to the DSB back in 2009 because it was an area identified with youth living in identified underserved/at-risk communities. Those youth are residing in communities that face poor access to services and supports, which create increased barriers for young people.

Program Overview

The Jobs for Youth (JFY), formerly known as Summer Jobs for Youth (SJFY) program provides disadvantaged youth aged 15-18 with the equivalent of eight weeks of full-time paid work experience through summer employment with local employers. Local youth employment agencies are funded to recruit youth and employers and place/monitor/supervise youth in employment positions. Youth are paid at the adult general minimum wage.

Local youth employment agencies are funded to hire Youth Worker Leaders (YWL) to support youth and employers in the program. YWL provide ongoing one-on-one and group employment coaching to youth to obtain and maintain summer employment that matches their career interests. YWL help agencies with youth and employer recruitment. YWL help youth to transition from employment placements to other employment or education through developing and monitoring individual action plans. Overall, YWL help to promote a positive work experience for youth and employers.

Objectives

At the last board meeting, the Director of Integrated Social Services presented the 2011 census data on number of youth in the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board jurisdiction. Here are the numbers broken down by Region.

Regions	Total
Manitoulin	330
Sudbury North	205
Sudbury East	245
LaCloche	550
Total	1330

The number of youth that were part of the Jobs for Youth program that was delivered by the YMCA for Sudbury for the past 3 years. Here are the numbers broken down by Region.

Service Delivery History

Regions	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	Average # students over 3 years
Delivered by DSB				
Manitoulin	44	59	57	54
Delivered by YMCA				
Sudbury North	23	13	12	16
Sudbury East	15	1	1	6
LaCloche	27	28	28	27
Total	65	42	41	49

In determining the number of student placements and funding to be transferred to the DSB from the YMCA, the Ministry, YMCA and DSB staff looked at the number of placements over the past 3 years and the number of youth that were 15-18 years of age in both geographic areas.

- The average number of placements over 3 years in the DSB jurisdiction was 49 or 23% of the 214 placements allocated to the YMCA.
- As for youth between the ages of 15-18 in the District of Sudbury, the City of Greater Sudbury has 86% and the DSB jurisdiction has 14%.
- The average of the two above was 18% or 38 placements.

The YMCA, MCYS and the DSB have agreed that 40 student placements with an allocation funding totalling \$165,985 would be adequate for the Sudbury East, Sudbury North and LaCloche areas based on the current limited MCYS funding allocations. The Manitoulin Island numbers and funding allocation will not change as a result of this decision.

As part of this transition, the YMCA and the DSB staff have worked cooperatively together to ensure that there is a work plan put in place for the smooth transition of the program from one service delivery agent to another. The YMCA has been more than helpful with the DSB staff to ensure the shift is as seamless as possible.

The YMCA of Sudbury and the DSB have worked very well together to ensure that at risk youth in all of our communities have the opportunity to succeed through as job placement.

Outcome

The DSB staff have received clarification from the Ministry indicating the total of 80 placements will be distributed amongst the full district. Since all of our communities have been recognized as communities that face poor access to services and supports creating increased barriers for young people. Priority will be given to:

- Youth who are at greater risk of developing negative outcomes and becoming involved in violent and/or criminal activities;
- Youth who have already been involved in the youth justice system and are at risk of re-engaging in criminal activities;
- Youth who have unemployed parents and/or have parents on social assistance, have been, or are, in the care of a Children's Aid Society (CAS) and/or have been, or are, at risk of dropping out of school.

Conclusion

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB has the resources available to ensure that the Jobs for Youth program is well delivered in each part of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board jurisdiction and will ensure its success for the summer to come. DSB Staff will ensure that all communities, students and employers are well aware of the program.

Once all the applications from youth have been received, staff will go through all the applications to determine their priority based on the [MCYS Jobs for Youth Program Guidelines](#) and priorities. Placements will be approved based on the priority of the student not the community they reside in.