



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Joint Committees

**Date of Meeting:** June 19, 2023

**Report Number:** FSD-028-23

**Submitted By:** Trevor Pinn, Deputy CAO/Treasurer

**Reviewed By:** Mary-Anne Dempster, CAO

**Resolution#:**

**File Number:**

**By-law Number:**

**Report Subject:** Regional Physician Recruitment Request

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### Recommendations:

1. That Report FSD-028-23, and any related delegations or communication items, be received;
2. That Council approves the use of \$20,000 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund, as budgeted in the 2023 budget, to be sent to the Region of Durham for physician recruitment; and
3. That all interested parties listed in Report FSD-028-23, and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

## Report Overview

Data suggest that approximately 230,000 Durham residents do not have a family physician practicing in Durham Region, with approximately 44,000 without a family physician at all. In recognition of the family physician shortage, Council approved \$100,000 in 2023 for Physician Recruitment, pending a report back from Staff on a program prior to releasing funding.

Staff at the Region of Durham, local municipalities, Lakeridge Health and Queens University have met to discuss a partnership for physician recruitment leveraging a new family-medicine program that will launch September 2023 at the Queen's Campus at Lakeridge Health. The program will bring 20 new students each year for a six-year family physician program. Staff are proposing a collaborative recruitment approach to retain these students who will spend the next six years of their lives within Durham to become local family physicians.

The financial contribution of \$20,000 in 2023 is below the approved limit of \$100,000 and Staff are supportive of a collaborative approach for this regional issue.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 At the January 30, 2023 Special General Government Committee meeting, Committee heard a delegation from Dr. Tony Stone regarding a [Clarington Board of Trade request for funding to support local physician recruitment](#).
- 1.2 The CBOT request was for \$500,000 over a five-year period. At the February 13, 2023, Council meeting, Council passed resolution C-027-23 amending the budget "...to provide \$100,000 for Physician Recruitment funded by the Economic Development Reserve Fund; and that Staff report to Council on the framework, goals, objectives and processes for this recruitment prior to any funding being provided."
- 1.3 Staff from Financial Services and Planning and Infrastructure Services attended a meeting on April 21, 2023, with Dr. Stone and other family medicine leaders from Lakeridge and the Province. At this meeting, staff were made aware of a new program between Queens University and Lakeridge Health to bring in 20 students per year into a family medicine program located at a campus in Durham Region.
- 1.4 On May 17, 2023, Staff received a request, Attachment #1, from the Region of Durham Economic Development & Tourism Team requesting financial support for a two-part Region-wide physician recruitment strategy.

## 2. Regional Physician Recruitment Request

- 2.1 The Region has proposed a two-part project for the recruitment of physicians to Durham Region in partnership with the local municipalities, Queens University, Lakeridge Health and a regional group of family physicians. Attachment #2 to this report summarizes the project.
- 2.2 Part 1 includes the delivery of welcome and settlement services for one year to 38 medical students and family medicine resident trainees enrolled in the Queen's—Lakeridge program. These services are aimed to create lasting bonds and ties with the local community to retain these students after their program in the Durham Region as practicing family physicians.
- 2.3 Part 2 is a collaboration between the Region, local municipalities and other community partners to draft a comprehensive plan to create a permanent family physician recruitment program. This report will recommend best practices, structures and funding requirements for the future.
- 2.4 The \$215,000 cost for the program is being shared by each municipality in the region as follows:

Municipality	Funding per Municipality
Region of Durham	\$106,000
Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, Whitby	20,000
Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge	3,000

- 2.5 The request from the Region brings all the municipalities together to provide joint recruitment recognizing that family physicians serve patients that cross borders and that the lack of physicians currently impacts all municipalities. The Region is providing 49.3% of the funding for this project.
- 2.6 This request would utilize the funding approved during the budget, leaving \$80,000 available for local recruitment or future recruitment initiatives. By leveraging the partnership with all municipalities, the Municipality is able to reduce its cost.

- 2.7 Staff have been informed that one of the training locations is Bowmanville which provides a built-in recruitment advantage for Clarington as the students will be used to the facilities, local amenities and community from their training.
- 2.8 In discussion with the Director of Planning and Infrastructure Services, it has been determined that future reports and the carriage of this project will reside in the Economic Development Division. The existing relationship with CBOT and the Region of Durham's Economic Development and Tourism team will be leveraged for the collaboration on this project.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

- 3.1 Staff have confirmed with CBOT that this request is not in addition to the 2023 Budget request but rather leverages a partnership between the local municipalities for a regional approach.
- 3.2 Part of the work will facilitate the creation of a funding model for physician recruitment; at that point, funding needs will be brought back to Council to determine ongoing support.
- 3.3 The funding is available, and this report fulfills the request of Council to report back with a framework/plan prior to providing funding. Additional use of the remaining \$80,000 would be subject to a future report to Council indicating the business plan, processes and priorities for the use of the funds.

### **4. Concurrence**

This report has been reviewed by the Director of Planning and Infrastructure Services, who concurs with the recommendations.

### **5. Conclusion**

It is respectfully recommended that support the work of the Region of Durham for a regional physician recruitment strategy and provide \$20,000 to the Region for this project.

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Staff Contact: Andrew Poray, 905-623-3379 x2424 or [aporay@clarington.net](mailto:aporay@clarington.net).

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Letter from CBOT to the Region of Durham dated May 12, 2023

Attachment 2 – PowerPoint presentation regarding the Physician Recruitment Project

Interested Parties:

The following interested parties will be notified of Council's decision:

- Region of Durham and Area Municipalities
- Clarington Board of Trade