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Report 2025-085

Report Title: Downloaded Programs – Healthcare Services

Committee Name: Community Health

Committee Meeting Date: May 5, 2025

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Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: May 21, 2025

Strategic Plan Priorities: ☐ Innovate for Service Excellence
☐ Ignite Economic Opportunity
☐ Foster a Thriving Community
☐ Propel Sustainable Growth
☒ Champion a Vibrant Future

Information Report

“That the Community Health Committee receive Report 2025-085 ‘Downloaded Programs – Healthcare Services’ for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this report for information.”

Purpose

This report has been prepared in response to County Council Resolution 2025-01-30-058 ‘Discretionary Services Review’. This report provides a summary of the healthcare services that have been downloaded from the Province of Ontario to Northumberland County and discretionary healthcare funding provided by the County.

Background

Council Resolution 2025-01-30-058 asked staff to prepare a report “regarding County spending on programs/services that were downloaded from the Province.”

This report will focus on the Healthcare Services that were downloaded by the Provincial Government to the upper tier municipalities like Northumberland. The transfer of various healthcare services has meant that municipalities like Northumberland have taken on the responsibility of administering these programs and services and the cost of all (or part) of the provision of these programs/services. From the perspective of a taxpayer, this has meant increased pressure on property taxes to pay for these programs and services that were once paid for from Provincial revenue sources, and the financial impact on the County of Northumberland.

Consultations

The senior leadership team and historical reference material were consulted for this report.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

N/A

Discussion / Options

The following charts summarize the actual financial impact of healthcare programs/services that have been downloaded to Northumberland in the years of 2015, 2020, 2023, 2024 (estimated pending finalization of audited financial statements), and the budget for 2025.

2015 Actual

	County Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Other
Paramedics (911)	\$5,912,399	\$5,722,555	-
Community Paramedicine	-	-	-
Community Paramedicine LTC	-	-	-
Long Term Care (GPL)	\$4,470,648	\$6,971,658	\$3,177,714
Public Health	\$1,925,824	-	-
Walk in Clinic (In Kind)	-	-	-
Physician Recruitment	-	-	-
Hospital Grant	-	-	-
Overall Total	\$12,308,871	\$12,694,213	\$3,177,714

2020 Actual

	County Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Other
Paramedics (911)	\$7,775,464	\$6,907,419	-
Community Paramedicine	-	\$163,895	-
Community Paramedicine LTC	-	-	-

Long Term Care (GPL)	\$5,099,964	\$9,090,308	\$3,370,482
Public Health	\$2,304,271	-	-
Walk in Clinic (In Kind)	-	-	-
Physician Recruitment	-	-	-
Hospital Grant	-	-	-
Overall Total	\$15,179,699	\$16,161,622	\$3,370,482

2023 Actual

	County Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Other
Paramedics (911)	\$8,875,253	\$7,746,983	-
Community Paramedicine	-	\$594,432	-
Community Paramedicine LTC	-	\$2,622,822	-
Long Term Care (GPL)	\$6,010,677	\$13,838,052	\$3,460,511
Public Health	\$2,625,828	-	-
Walk in Clinic (In Kind)	-	-	-
Physician Recruitment	-	-	-
Hospital Grant	\$253,511	-	-
Overall Total	\$17,765,269	\$24,802,289	\$3,460,511

2024 (estimate)

	County Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Other
Paramedics (911)	\$9,610,041	\$8,241,666	-
Community Paramedicine	-	\$362,398	-
Community Paramedicine LTC	-	\$3,000,000	-
Long Term Care (GPL)	\$6,982,034	\$16,611,866	\$3,675,438
Public Health	\$2,757,119	-	-
Walk in Clinic (County Contribution in kind estimated)	\$9,000	-	\$112,500
Physician Recruitment	\$40,000	-	-
Hospital Grant	\$250,000	-	-
Overall Total	\$19,648,194	\$28,215,929	\$3,787,938

2025 Budget

	County Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Other
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Paramedics (911)	\$9,967,976	\$8,631,522	-
Community Paramedicine	\$158,882	\$362,398	-
Community Paramedicine LTC	-	\$3,000,000	-
Long Term Care (GPL)	\$10,888,271	\$15,300,813	\$4,015,924
Public Health	\$2,757,120	-	-
Walk in Clinic (County Contribution in kind estimated)	\$18,000	-	\$22,500
Physician Recruitment	-	-	-
*Hospital Grant	\$250,000	-	-
Overall Total	\$24,040,249	\$27,294,733	\$4,038,424

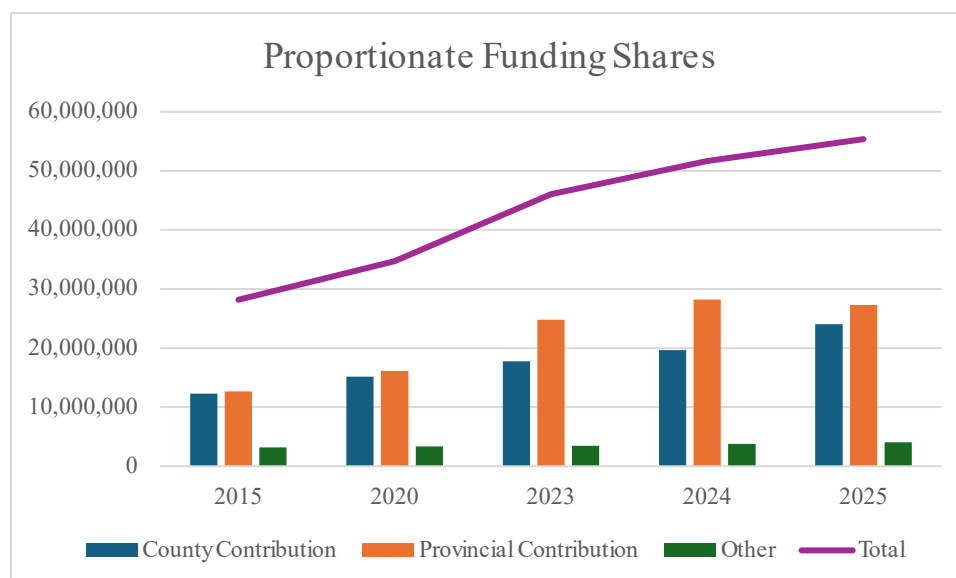
* Note - Council resolution subsequent to budget approval occurred to reallocate \$187,500 of the budgeted \$250,000 Hospital Grant to the Port Hope Walk-in Clinic

The County will be participating in a survey conducted by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) about how the 444 Ontario municipalities are "filling gaps in the health-care system with significant investments from the property tax base." AMO hopes to have responses by mid-May, with subsequent utilization for evidence-based advocacy.

Financial Impact

As displayed in the matrix above there have been significant increases in both County and Provincial contributions to the noted healthcare-related services. Funds provided for some of the services such as hospital grants and the Port Hope Walk in clinic are discretionary and outside the scope of mandatory services to be provided by the County. The Provincial contributions represent annual funds provided directly to the County for the Provincial proportionate share. The Province does contribute towards financing services of public health and for hospital operations. These funds are provided directly to the service providers based on their specific funding agreements.

The chart below displays the total proportionate shares of funding by year:



The Provincial share relative to the County increased in 2023 with the implementation of Community Paramedicine and Community Paramedicine LTC programming. This funding is currently committed until March 31, 2026 and the ability to sustain these services subsequent to this is unknown. In 2025, there is a significant increase to the County portion of funding for the Golden Plough Lodge (GPL) long-term care home primarily as a result of debt-servicing costs commencing for a partial year on capital costs for redevelopment of the new GPL. The full extent of this will be realized in 2026 representative of \$7.1M annually over a 20-year term. Although the Province provides an annual construction funding subsidy and basic care per diem over 25 years this is estimated to be only \$1.5M per annum. Provincial per diem funding envelopes do increase related to operations based on the increase in resident beds from 151 to 180 in the new facility; however, this is not significant enough to cover the incremental increased operating costs resulting in an increased County contribution from the levy.

Member Municipality Impacts

There are no direct impacts on the member municipalities because the downloaded services are unique to the upper-tier. The costs of the downloaded programs/service and contributions to discretionary health care funding have increased levy requirements for the taxpayer at the upper-tier level.

Conclusion / Outcomes

The total amount of 2025 levy that is estimated will be necessary for the provision of the downloaded programs of Health Services and County contributions towards discretionary health care financing is \$24,040,249, with the Provincial contribution of \$27,294,733.

Attachments

- 1) Report 2025-085 ATTACH 1 'Council Resolution 2025-01-30-058 - Discretionary Services Review'