

Memo

To: Mayor, Members of Council
From: Julie Mitchell, Director – Recreation and Culture
Date: May 15, 2023
Subject: Pop-Up Food Bank – Pilot Program at Town Hall

This memo is to inform Council of a pilot program to operate a weekly pop-up food bank at Town Hall in the North Atrium to help the surrounding community.

The following represents the key facts regarding this pilot initiative:

- Through survey data, Food for Life was able to identify that the area around the town hall, specifically Marlborough Court residents, indicated a high level of food insecurity even after support was received.
- In partnership with Food for Life, the pilot program food bank will operate on Thursdays for approximately three hours between by appointment only.
- The pilot will run between May and December 2023.
- This program is funded through the Halton Region Community Investment Fund.
- There is no financial impact to the town.

In further detail, Food for Life would like to initiate a component of their “Deepening the Impact” program by launching a pilot pop-up food bank program for the immediate area around town hall to help serve those in need who live on Marlborough Court and within the surrounding community neighbourhoods.

The program will also include a component that will assist residents to navigate and connect with community organizations and support systems to help drive meaningful change. This includes Recreation and Culture Community Development staff onsite regularly to help residents access the Recreation Connection subsidy program.

The goal is to serve approximately 100 households, once a week on Thursdays for approximately three hours between May and December 2023. The pilot pop-up food bank will be an appointment-based model, resulting in no line ups, and there will be Food for Life staff available for drop-ins that may arrive onsite. The food bank will be self-contained for each week of the pilot program. Visitors to this program will be guided to the set-up in the North Atrium.

The onsite food bank pilot program is to help test the concept based on the findings from Food for Life's last two years of research around quantifying food security using the Food Experience Index Scale (FIES). The theory is that if residents receive more food, and more choices, this will result in positive economic and health outcomes for these individuals. Those who choose to use the resources that are being leveraged can then connect with a representative for direct assistance and connectivity to other community supports.

Using the North Atrium for this pilot program will provide access to the loading dock and side entrance doors for set-up and take-down purposes and will not disrupt Service Oakville operations.

There will be appropriate communication notice to town hall departments and employees prior to the pilot being initiated.

Staff will report back in the fall on the success of the pilot program and recommendations.

Julie Mitchell

Director - Recreation and Culture
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