

EDMONTON HEALTH CITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the April 13, 2022, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE00891, be received for information.

Report Purpose

Information only.

Edmonton Health City has submitted its 2022 annual budget, an update on its performance measures and a status report reflecting its work in 2021.

Executive Summary

- Edmonton Health City, rebranded in 2021 as Health Cities, has submitted its 2022 annual budget and audited financial statements for the year ending 2021.
- Health Cities has provided an update on its performance measures and a status report reflecting its work in 2021.
- This report serves to fulfill the requirement in the funding agreement between Health Cities and the City of Edmonton to annually report to Administration with an audit of financial records, budget and an update on its performance measures.
- Health Cities goals are to strengthen and grow Edmonton's health innovation ecosystem and to position Edmonton as a national and global leader in the health sector.
- Administration is currently reviewing requirements for external organizations to report to Council, and may not advance all annual reports through a Committee/Council meeting in the future.

REPORT

Health Cities is a not-for-profit economic development organization that aims to position Edmonton as the national leader in health innovation and foster the growth of the health innovation sector. Health Cities is governed by a Board of Directors, and the City of Edmonton is

EDMONTON HEALTH CITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

one of its primary funders. In September 2021, the organization rebranded to Health Cities, but its legal name remains Edmonton Health City.

The work of Health Cities advances many strategic goals of Edmonton. Specifically, Health Cities aligns with The City Plan to promote health and academic institutions as anchors for innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity. The outcomes and work delivered by Health Cities support the following Economic Action Plan actions:

- Action 2: Align relevant economic development activities, reporting metrics, funding agreements, and grants to ensure we're working together as effectively as possible
- Action 3: Support building capacity and access to resources for entrepreneurs from marginalized communities, such as racialized entrepreneurs, and newcomers
- Action 6: Leverage Edmonton's digital infrastructure, including Open Data, fibre optic network and the innovation corridor, to link research, educational and technology organizations
- Action 13: Work together to support emerging made-in-Edmonton technology solutions.

In late 2017, City Council approved funding for Health Cities, and in 2018, City Council committed to continuing funding the organization for an additional four years (2019-2022). Health Cities, as part of its funding agreement with the City of Edmonton, annually reports to Administration with an audit of financial records, proposed budget and an update on its performance measures. These measures form the conditions of payment through the funding agreement. Administration reviews these documents to ensure they fulfill the obligations identified in the Health Cities funding agreement. Payment has been issued for the January 2022 installment. Health Cities has begun conversations with Administration in preparation for the 2023-2026 budget.

Health Cities Annual Report 2021 (Attachment 1) provides detail on what the organization has accomplished in 2021, including their metrics, successes and 2022 budget. Some highlights include:

- Launched a new virtual series entitled Companies Growing Companies, which promotes Alberta assets to help companies find market success
- Participated in more than 30 speaking engagements and panels to advocate for policy change and to showcase the ability to provincially and nationally innovate, scale and commercialize
- Helped facilitate a Mobile Vaccination Clinic providing COVID-19 vaccinations, targeting hard-to-reach populations, including First Nations and rural communities.

GBA+

Health Cities is intentional in incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion into its operations and activities. Health Cities applies a GBA+ lens when developing and implementing operating policies, and demonstrates inclusivity in its social media, marketing and outreach. In the past year, Health Cities has spearheaded a number of projects, initiatives, and partnerships that promote improved health outcomes for equity deserving communities.

EDMONTON HEALTH CITY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

For example, Health Cities works with a variety of social services and health providers directly in the community to help eliminate barriers to equitable care for all Albertans.

As three examples of this work:

1. Partnering with Jasper Place Wellness Centre (JPWC) and DynaLIFE, a project was launched that allows for Wellness Centre staff to collect diagnostic testing samples on-site, thereby reducing the need for clients to attend unfamiliar and the potentially stressful setting of public labs, which previously often led to unfulfilled requisitions and an increased risk to clients not getting needed medical care.
2. In July 2021, Health Cities partnered with Alberta Health and a coalition of non-traditional industry partners known as the Industry for Vaccination Coalition (IFV) to create a mobile vaccine clinic that targeted hard-to-reach populations, including First Nations and distant rural communities.
3. In September 2021, Health Cities signed a Relationship, Cooperation and Enterprise Charter with Enoch Cree Nation. This partnership will look at models that serve as new ways of delivering care while showing how critical culturally relevant community-based care is to ensuring improved health outcomes for all Treaty Peoples.

ATTACHMENT

1. Health Cities - 2021 Report to the City of Edmonton