

York Region's  
Community Plan  
to Address Homelessness  
UPDATE - 2003

**December 2003**

*Prepared for York Region's Community Planning Group  
By Christine Pacini and Associates Inc.*

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APPENDIX 1 – Successes in Partnerships and Capacity Building

APPENDIX 2 – Assets and Gaps (Updated November 2003)

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# 1. Introduction & Background

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*York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness - Update* (the Update) has been developed in response to the extension of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

## **1.1. Overview of SCPI Initiative**

The Government of Canada announced on December 17, 1999 that \$753 million would be invested over three years in a strategy to reduce and prevent homelessness across Canada. The Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) builds on the successful past experiences of all levels of government. This initiative recognizes that no single level of government or sector of our society can solve homelessness and it encourages new partnerships to be formed with all levels of government, as well as private and volunteer sectors.

SCPI recognizes that the particular problems of the homeless vary from community to community. Therefore, a community-based approach has been taken which will enable community service providers in a particular community to work together to jointly plan, prioritize activities and recommend how funds should be disbursed. The development of a Community Plan for Homelessness and this Update are crucial tools in achieving this objective.

The program was originally established to run between April 1, 2000 and March 31, 2003. York Region received \$1,635,000 for the first three year period of the initiative. In addition, York Region under the federal government's Youth Employment Strategy received \$90,741 per year for this three year period.

In July 2003, York Region received confirmation from the federal government that the program would be extended for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2006. The Region was allocated \$1,626,865 for the second three year period of the initiative. A requirement of receiving funding is the completion of a Community Plan Update.

## **1.2. Purpose of the Community Plan Update**

The Update is intended to provide a focal point for joint community action and to achieve the following objectives:

- To give community service organizations a framework within which to work together to achieve common goals;

- To assist the community to make the best possible use of scarce resources by reducing overlap and duplication;
- To enable the community to evaluate its progress in reaching its shared objectives; and,
- To set a common vision for the identification of matching funding for SCPI funds.

### **1.3. *Format of the Update***

The Update covers the following key topics:

- Geographic Area
- Community Plan Development and Implementation
- Overall Objectives
- Supports to Sustainability – Partnerships & Community Capacity Building
- Communication Strategy
- Assets and Gaps
- Priorities
- Community's Contribution
- Evaluation Strategy

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## **2. Geographic Area**

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The geographic area targeted by the Community Plan lies within the boundaries of the Region of York, including the municipalities of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The geographic area of York Region covers 1,756 square kilometers (678 square miles) that stretches from Steeles Avenue in the south to Lake Simcoe and the Holland Marsh in the north. The total estimated community population that will be covered by the updated Community Plan is 842,000. This is a 2003 estimate provided by the York Region Planning Department.

The geographic area targeted by the Update remains the same as that targeted by the original plan.

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## 3. Community Plan Development & Implementation

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Every attempt was made to ensure that the planning process was representative of the views and needs of all stakeholders.

The Community Planning Group provided overall guidance and stakeholders across the Region had several opportunities to participate in identifying priority issues and target areas. The process for developing this plan is described in the following.

### 3.1. *Establish Community Planning Group*

The Region of York, in consultation with the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness (known as The Alliance), identified community members to form the Community Planning Group. Many of the members participating in the preparation of the Update were part of the original Community Planning Group. The Terms of Reference for the group were updated from those first established in 2001 to reflect the requirements of the Update.

The members of the Community Planning Group are as follows:

<b>Shelters:</b>	Monica Auerbach	Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region (TSHSYR)
<b>Public Health:</b>	Cathy White	York Region, Public Health
<b>Mental Health:</b>	Colleen Zakoor	Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) – York Region
	Krista Binkle MacKinnon	Krasman Centre
<b>Women:</b>	Patti Bell	Sandgate Shelter for Womens' shelter of Georgina
<b>Youth:</b>	Marg Campbell	Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region
<b>Police:</b>	Deputy Chief Harridge	York Region Police
<b>Private Sector:</b>	Carmen Cornacchia	Prime Imaging Products

<b>Offenders/ Ex-offenders/ Tenants/etc:</b>	Dennis Bailey	Community Legal Clinic of York Region
<b>Refugees/ Immigrants:</b>	Stephen Lam	Catholic Community Services of York Region
<b>Homeless Individuals/ Families</b>	Valerie Gillingham	York Region, Community Services and Housing, Homelessness Programs
<b>Human Services Planning Coalition</b>	Craig Piper	York Region, Human Services Planning
<b>Regional Municipality of York</b>	Catherine Frid	York Region, Community Services and Housing, Program Funding and Communications
	Christina Harding	York Region, Community Services and Housing, Senior Policy Analyst
	Sylvia Patterson	York Region, Community Services and Housing
<b>HRSDC:</b>	Stacey Morning	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

### **3.2. *Process for Development of the Update***

A work plan was developed for the preparation of the plan, including identifying key points when material would be presented to the Alliance for input.

York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness was updated during the period August to November 2003. The following outlines the process undertaken to update the plan.

#### **a) Hire Facilitator**

The Region hired a facilitator, Christine Pacini and Associates Inc., to assist the Community Planning Group in updating the plan, including facilitating meetings and preparing the Update template and supporting documents. Christine provided continuity to the community planning process as she facilitated the preparation of York Region's initial Community Plan.

## **b) Consult with Alliance**

Consultation with the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness continued to be an important consideration in the updating of the Community Plan. The Alliance is a group of more than 60 individuals representing over 30 different agencies/organizations in York Region who meet on a monthly basis to understand, plan and co-ordinate activities related to homelessness and social isolation in York Region.

The Alliance was involved in the process of updating the plan by suggesting new members of the Community Planning Group, reviewing the work plan for updating the Community Plan and reviewing and providing input into the draft Update.

## **c) Undertake Working Sessions**

The Community Planning Group met on four occasions during the three month period to review the work plan; undertake a detailed review of the assets and gaps; review and update objectives, priorities, target areas, and funding priorities; review and comment on the draft Update.

## **d) Review Existing Documents**

Some studies relevant to homelessness in York Region have been undertaken since the original plan was prepared. The following documents were reviewed as part of the Update:

- Region of York Emergency Housing Study, October 18, 2001 (prepared by Jim Ward Associates)
- Youth Homelessness in the 905: An Evaluation of the Services at Pathways' Home Base Youth Drop-in Centre, July 2003 (prepared by Kelly N. Cameron, Yvonne Racine and Dr. David R. Offord)
- Evaluation of the Region of York Homelessness Prevention Program, December 2002 (prepared by Campbell Research Associates)

Other information which informed the Update includes 2001 Census Data and information from various Regional departments, including Community Services and Housing and Human Services Planning Branch.

### **e) Incorporate Preliminary Findings of Preventing Homelessness in York Region – Understanding the Challenge**

The Region recently evaluated a range of Homelessness initiatives, including those funded under the SCPI program. The evaluation involved interviews of representatives of 13 different agencies that had sponsored 22 initiatives. In addition, a number of focus groups were conducted with homeless/at risk individuals, including families, women, youth, seniors, men, people with mental illness, and people with disabilities. Preliminary findings from the interviews and focus groups were incorporated into the Update.

### **f) Survey Primary Community Agencies Serving Homeless**

Between August and October 2003, more than 30 community agencies were approached to provide the Community Planning Group with supplementary information on the current demand for supports and services for homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness, as well as the identification of any gaps in supports or services.

### **g) Obtain Input from Aboriginal Organizations**

A representative from the Chippewas of Georgina First Nation was involved in the preparation of the original Community Plan. In Spring 2003, as part of the evaluation of homelessness programs and services in York Region, it was proposed to the Chippewas of Georgina First Nation that a focus group be held to discuss issues specific to the Aboriginal community. The First Nation declined participating in such a group citing a lack of homelessness within the community as their reason.

The Community Planning Group was not able to identify any other local organization representing Aboriginal people; as a result, the Group approached HRSDC for assistance in identifying organizations which could assist the Community Planning Group in their efforts to involve the Aboriginal community in the development of the Update. Three Aboriginal organizations were approached for input into the development and implementation of the Update: Barrie Anishnabe Homeless Coalition (Kim Sandy), The Enahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre, Midland (EMHI) (Yvon Lamarche) and Barrie Area Native Advisory Council (BANAC).

Kim Sandy (Barrie Anishnabe Homeless Coalition) met with the Community Planning Group to explain the process that was undertaken by the Aboriginal community in Simcoe County for the development of their Community Plan. Although York Region does not have any community-based, off-reserve organizations representing Aboriginal people (five exist in Simcoe County), the Community Planning Group identified some opportunities for further involvement of York's Aboriginal residents in the community planning and implementation process.

Yvon Lamarche is the Project Co-ordinator of EMHI. He provided comments on the first draft of the Update from the Aboriginal perspective, although he was not able to give insight into York Region's Aboriginal issues as he is from Simcoe County. The Community Planning Group incorporated Yvon's comments into the final draft of the Update, as appropriate.

York Region staff plan to meet with BANAC to discuss possible partnerships in the implementation of the Community Plan Update.

#### **h) Obtain input from Youth or Youth Serving Organizations**

Several individuals from various organizations involved in serving Youth throughout York Region were involved in preparation of the Community Plan Update. Of these six individuals, five were also involved in the preparation of the original plan. The following is a list of the people involved and the organization which they represent.

Marg Campbell	Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region
Monica Auerbach	Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region
Cathy White	Public Health
Patti Bell	Sandgate Women's' Shelter of Georgina
Dennis Bailey	Community Legal Clinic of York Region
Colleen Zakoor	Canadian Mental Health Association – York Region

Additional input was obtained through a focus group held with a number of youth who were homeless or had been homeless. Focus group participants were asked to identify what they felt were the gaps in service for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This information has been incorporated in the Community Plan Update.

An informal discussion session was also held with a number of youth participating in programs at the Newmarket Youth & Recreation Centre. They were asked for their feedback on the gaps identified for youth services in the first draft of the Update. Their feedback was incorporated into the final draft of the Update.

And finally a research paper entitled *Youth Homelessness in the 905* (Fall 2003), was used to help inform the Community Plan Update. The research paper surveyed youth in York Region who used the Pathways' Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre. The paper documented the characteristics of youth using the drop-in centre and the factors contributing to their homelessness or risk of homelessness; determined the

needs of the youth and related supports required; evaluated current services supplied by or through Pathways and identified gaps in services.

#### **i) Review Draft Community Plan Update and Finalize Update**

A draft Community Plan Update was prepared and input was obtained from the Alliance to End Homelessness in York Region, relevant York Region staff and HRSDC. The Update was finalized based on comments from all parties.

### **3.3. Process for Implementation of the Update**

The Community Plan Update was endorsed by the Alliance to End Homelessness in York Region, and the Region and HRSDC, staff from the Community Services and Housing Department will be responsible for implementing the Update. Implementation of the Update will involve preparing and administering the Request for Proposal process to allocate SCPI funds, coordinating the activities of the Community Advisory Board, undertaking the communication strategy, monitoring the implementation of the Update throughout the funding period, evaluating the results once the SCPI funds have been spent, and overall administration and management of SCPI within York Region.

It is anticipated that the Community Plan Update will be a catalyst for action by community agencies, funders and government. It is also an important tool for the community to advance its way of thinking about homelessness. Most agencies involved in providing services in the Region will use the Update to improve service delivery, as they did when the Community Plan to Address Homelessness was released in 2001. Community agencies will review the gaps identified in the Update and find ways for their agency to address the gap, either by changing the way they provide their service, partnering with other agencies, or requesting new funding dollars to address the gap. Agencies may also use the information in the Update to support their funding requests and to obtain information about services provided by other agencies.

#### **a) Community Advisory Board**

A Community Advisory Board (CAB) has been established to develop evaluation criteria for proposals for funding based on the principles outlined in the Update and to make recommendations to the Region (Community Entity) for funding allocations under SCPI. The Community Advisory Board is comprised of a minimum of five members from community funding, planning and interested agencies and stakeholders. CAB is an objective, arms length body which does not include agencies that might apply for funding.

## **b) Aboriginal Organizations**

As previously mentioned York Region does not have a local Aboriginal community organization which could be involved in the implementation of the Update, other than the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. As noted above, representatives from Georgina Island have indicated that homelessness is not an issue on the island. In lieu of input from a local organization representing Aboriginal people, York Region will work with organizations in nearby Simcoe County to ensure that, where possible, Aboriginal people are involved in the implementation of the Update. The two organizations which have been approached for assistance are Barrie Area Native Advisory Council and Barrie Anishnabe Homelessness Coalition.

In addition, as part of the implementation process, a focus group with Aboriginal people working in the community will be held. Representatives from York Region Police, Sandgate Shelter, York Region District School Board and other community groups including BANAC and the York Region Native Women's Association have agreed to participate in the discussion.

Further, all community agency proposals for SCPI funding will need to articulate in their proposal how they intend to involve Aboriginal people in the implementation of their initiative, as well as its evaluation.

## **c) Youth and Youth Serving Organizations**

Youth serving organizations which will be involved in the implementation of the Update include Pathways, Canadian Mental Health Association, Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region, Public Health, Community Legal Clinic and other community agencies providing services to youth. These organizations, which provide supports and services to youth, will continue to share their experiences and findings about the needs of youth in York Region throughout the implementation process. In addition these community organizations will involve youth in helping them to develop proposals for funding, as appropriate, and will also provide assistance to youth-lead groups interested in accessing funding.

All community agency proposals for SCPI funding will need to articulate in their proposal how they intend to involve youth in the implementation of their initiative, as well as its evaluation.

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## 4. Objectives & Principles of the Community Plan

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The Community Planning Group established a set of objectives and principles of the Community Plan that are in keeping with the SCPI objectives. As part of the Update, the Community Planning Group reviewed the objectives and principles and made revisions to them based on the community's experience addressing homelessness during the last two years.

### 4.1. Objectives

The goal of the Update is to build upon the long-term strategies to address homelessness issues identified by the York Region Homelessness Task Force. The community's objectives are supportive of the Government of Canada's long-term objectives on homelessness and contribute to the sustainability of community efforts. The objectives that York Region hopes to achieve by March 31, 2006, through the implementation of the Community Plan Update are:

#### Short-term Objectives (2003 to 2005)

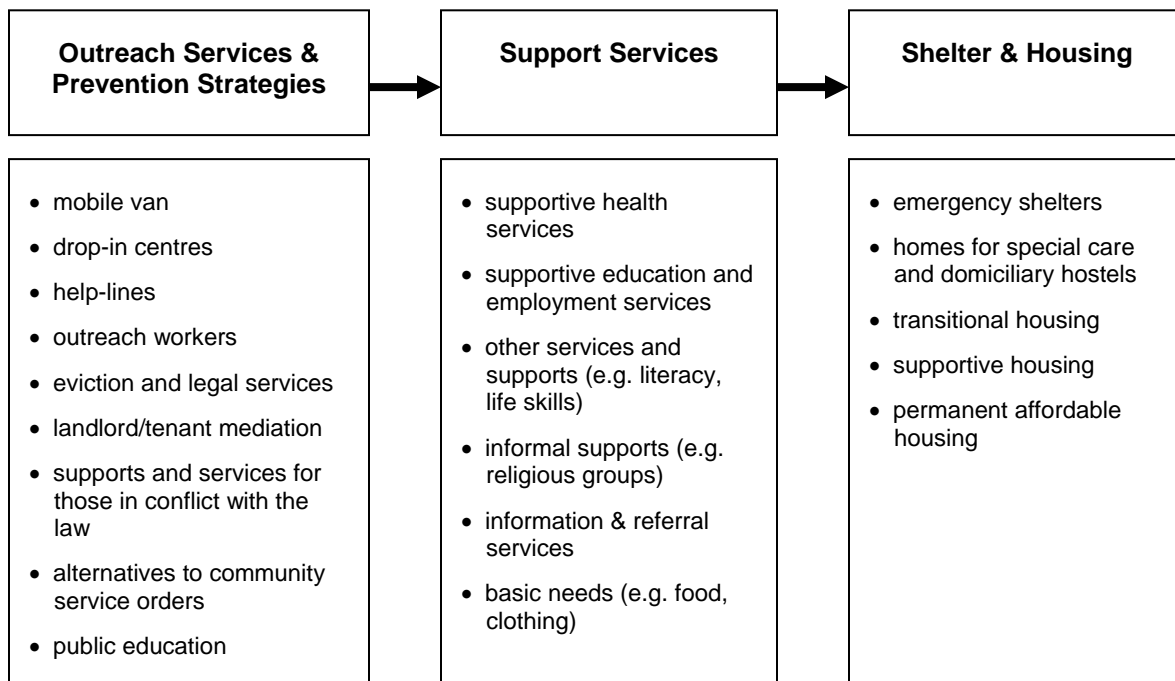
- 1) to alleviate the hardship of those who are absolutely homeless by increasing, for example, the number of beds available in shelters (either directly, by providing alternative housing for current long-term shelter residents, or directly by providing additional shelter space) and supports;
- 2) to promote a "continuum of supports" approach to reducing homelessness;
- 3) to strengthen the capacity of the community to serve homeless people and those who are at risk of homelessness;
- 4) to reduce homelessness by bringing community service providers together to develop plans that address all the needs that are common to homeless people;
- 5) to address the issue of homelessness at a community level by promoting the development of collaborative processes and broad-based partnerships among all stakeholders---e.g. the private, non-profit and voluntary sectors, labour organizations and all levels of government; and
- 6) to develop a base of knowledge, expertise and data about homelessness and share it among all concerned parties and the general public.

Long term objectives have also been identified that will guide the community in planning the way in which it addresses homelessness. These objectives are as follows:

## Long-term Objectives (5 Years +)

- 1) to ensure that no individuals are involuntarily on the streets by providing sufficient shelters and adequate supports;
- 2) to significantly reduce the number of individuals requiring emergency shelter and transitional and supportive housing by providing, for example, sufficient health services, low-cost housing, discharge planning, early intervention and prevention strategies;
- 3) to help individuals move from homelessness to self-sufficiency;
- 4) to help communities strengthen the capacity to address the needs of their homeless population; and,
- 5) to improve the health, social and economic well being of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The “continuum of supports” approach has three basic categories. The categories and examples of supports and services that fall into these categories are as follows:



## 4.2. Principles

During the development of the Update, the Community Planning Group reviewed the list of principles used to guide the selection of proposals funded under the original Plan. Some revisions have been made to the principles based on the experiences of the original Plan, changes which have occurred in the Region, and the review of assets and gaps.

The Community Planning Group has endorsed the following principles for the Update (2003-2006).

### Overriding Principle

*It is recognized that SCPI is limited, one-time funding available to the community and that to use these limited funds in the most effective manner, activities funded by SCPI should leave a legacy of strength in the sector. The legacy does not need to be bricks and mortar. The legacy could be lessons learned or new knowledge which could be shared amongst community agencies in York Region.*

Initiatives funded under SCPI should address as many of the following principles as possible:

- 1) have the goal of preventing homelessness and addressing the conditions that put people at risk of homelessness;
- 2) mitigate the reality of poverty of the homeless or those at risk of homelessness through initiatives aimed at increasing access to adequate income;
- 3) address the continuum of supports approach to meeting the needs of homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless;
- 4) ensure the appropriate services are in place to support any new shelter beds, transitional housing and supportive housing;
- 5) integrate new initiatives with existing programs and services and ensure that services are not duplicated;
- 6) build upon existing partnerships or develop new partnerships, including public/private partnerships with other community agencies, all levels of governments, the private sector, and funders;
- 7) provide or move towards a comprehensive approach to providing services to homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless (i.e. 24/7 basis);

- 8) include addressing the transportation needs of homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless, especially due to the extensive geographic area, limitations of existing transit system, and the urban/rural nature of the Region;
- 9) focus on meeting the basic needs of homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless (e.g. food, shelter, clothing, safety);
- 10) give priority to proposals for funding that address multiple priority issues and target areas;
- 11) meet the diverse needs of York Region's multi-cultural residents.

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## **5. Supports to Sustainability**

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Partnership development and community capacity building are viewed as essential elements to achieving SCPI's overall objective of ensuring the sustainable capacity of communities to address homelessness.

This section identified community projects and activities that will contribute to partnership development, capacity building and ultimately, sustainability.

### **5.1. Partnerships Strategy**

Partnerships are a key component of a community's sustainability strategy. They assist in strengthening and enhancing projects as well as the community process.

The development of both the Community Plan and Update were endorsed by The Alliance. Most members of the Community Planning Group are members of the Alliance. The Alliance is a group of more than 60 individuals representing more than 30 agencies/ organizations which meet on a monthly basis to understand, plan and co-ordinate activities related to homelessness and social isolation in York Region. The Alliance is an effective network which links agencies in the community process and also, where feasible, at project levels. Alliance members continue to be instrumental in helping the Community Planning Group identify gaps in services.

The community will continue to work on improving partnerships with the Aboriginal community in York Region. A focus group with Aboriginal people in the community is planned for this purpose. In addition, York Region staff have planned a meeting with the Barrie Area Native Advisory Council (BANAC) to discuss possible partnerships.

The following identifies potential new partners for involvement in the development or implementation of the Community Plan and/or projects and the way in which these partners can contribute to enhance the community process, projects or fill gaps.

<b>Partnership Strategy</b>		
<b>New Partners</b>	<b>Organization(s)</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
<b>Provincial Government</b>	Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program	<p>The Province's full participation in the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, specifically providing matching funding to the federal contribution of \$25,000 per unit, could result in the creation of at least 300 new affordable housing units in York Region in the next two years.</p> <p>This new partnership could help to address Community Priority#1: There is a crisis in affordable housing supply in York Region.</p>
<b>Private or Corporate Sector</b>	Corporate commitment for funding through the United Way's "The Hands that Build" Campaign.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Increase corporate commitment to funding for homelessness initiatives on an annual basis through the United Way's "The Hands That Build" initiative.</li> <li>2) Investigate the feasibility of York Region, and other community-based organizations involved in homelessness, giving preferential treatment to private sector businesses that provide donations to organizations which provide supports and/or services to the homelessness or those at risk of homelessness in York Region. Preferential treatment may mean awarding bidders extra points when evaluating their proposals for work.</li> <li>3) Invite local businesses to target some or all of the proceeds from their annual Golf Tournaments to homelessness initiatives.</li> </ol> <p>These new partnerships could enhance the community process by increasing the private sector's involvement in addressing homelessness in York Region. They could also address a wide range of priorities and gaps identified in the Community Plan by providing the necessary funding to address these gaps.</p>
<b>Visible Minorities, Recent Immigrants and Refugees</b>	Catholic Community Services of York Region	Community agencies directly involved in assisting visible minorities, recent immigrants and refugees may be able to work with community agencies directly involved with providing supports and services to homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness by providing their staff and board members

<b>Partnership Strategy</b>		
<b>New Partners</b>	<b>Organization(s)</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
		<p>with sensitivity training, other training or education workshops which could help agencies better understand the unique needs of visible minorities, recent immigrants and refugees, and continued support with translation services.</p> <p>This new partnership could help address Priority #4: Demographics of the clientele are changing, as is their geographic distribution.</p>
<b>Municipal Government</b>	Local municipalities	Work with local municipalities to obtain their support of the priorities and initiatives identified in the Community Plan Update, including assisting with securing community support for projects sponsored by community agencies.
<b>Universities/Colleges</b>	Universities with co-op programs and/or departments involved in research in areas relevant to homelessness.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with Universities and Colleges that have co-op programs to investigate the feasibility of a new partnership whereby co-op students could assist community agencies in providing services and supports to homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness. The Region could have a role in recruiting potential candidates on behalf of community agencies and handling the administrative aspect of the co-op program.</li> <li>2. Work with Universities and Colleges interested in conducting research on homelessness and related topics. In partnership, find ways to fund relevant research initiatives with grants and funds other than SCPI.</li> </ol> <p>This new partnership could build on the success of the Pathways/ McMaster University research initiative. It could also help to increase the services to homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness by providing, in a limited way, some additional resources to community agencies. These new partnerships would address most of the ten community priorities.</p>
<b>Service Clubs</b>	Local service clubs	Work with local service clubs to find more meaningful ways to meet the desires of the service clubs and the needs of the community with respect to homelessness.

<b>Partnership Strategy</b>		
<b>New Partners</b>	<b>Organization(s)</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
<b>Media</b>	Local media	Work with the media to develop a comprehensive campaign to increase the public's awareness of homelessness issues in York Region.
<b>People Living in Poverty</b>		Participate in the "Poverty Forum".
<b>School Boards</b>	York Region District School Board and York Region Catholic District School Board	Work more closely with local school boards to create more effective links between local agencies providing services to homeless youth and those at risk of homelessness and the schools.
<b>Aboriginal People</b>	Community agencies	<p>Community agencies or nearby agencies (i.e. Simcoe County) directly involved in providing services to Aboriginal people may be able to work with community agencies directly involved in providing supports and services to homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness by providing their program staff and board members with training or education workshops which could help agencies better understand the unique needs of Aboriginal people, as well as continued support with translation services and cultural specific programs.</p> <p>In addition, the planned focus group with Aboriginal people working with community organizations will be used to develop partnerships with community-based, grass roots agencies including BANAC, the York Region Native Women's Association and people who are homeless.</p> <p>These new partnerships could help address Priority #4: Demographics of the clientele are changing, as is their geographic distribution.</p>

## 5.2. Community Capacity

Developing community capacity is an ongoing process that strengthens the capacity of individuals, agencies, networks and the broader community to develop a meaningful and sustainable response to homelessness. During the Community Plan Update process the following were identified as priorities for further development.

- Support agencies to continue to develop the necessary skills and tools to develop and manage projects.
- Support agencies to partner with other community groups to achieve common goals and provide better service to clients.
- Assist agencies to develop networks to undertake joint activities and coordinate their services
- Support agency networks to work with other sectors to achieve common goals and provide better service to clients.
- Actively expand the range of funders and potential contributors at community planning and implementation tables.
- Further develop federal/provincial/municipal collaboration.
- Seek out innovative funding partnerships.
- Link agencies and networks with potential partners for funding and other resources.
- Promote best practises in project development, management and sustainability.
- Further develop community awareness of homelessness.
- Further develop a common vision and community ownership of homelessness issues and solutions.
- Market the concept of socio-economic development for sustainability of projects.
- Undertake research projects.
- Improve data management within community.

The following are the key priorities identified for initial action and the corresponding activities needed to strengthen the capacity of the community.

Priorities	Activities
Promote best practices in project development, management and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider organizing annual workshops where agencies share best practices in project development, management and sustainability.</li> <li>• Establish a process for sharing best practices on an ongoing basis (i.e. monthly Alliance meetings)</li> </ul>

Priorities	Activities
Improve data management within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tools to help service providers report statistics in a consistent manner</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of Homeless Individual and Family Information System (HIFIS) for the York Region Community</li> </ul>
Support agencies to develop the necessary skills and tools to develop and manage programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the training needs of front-line workers and develop a collaborative approach to training.</li> <li>• Consider the expertise of community agencies to train each other in specific areas, for example, cultural sensitivity, mental illness, addictions, etc.</li> </ul>

To summarize the community’s proposed policy/strategy for project proposals, it is recognized that SCPI is limited, one-time funding and that to use these limited funds in the most effective manner, activities funded by SCPI should leave a legacy of strength in the community . The legacy does not need to be bricks and mortar. It could be lessons learned or new knowledge which could be shared amongst community agencies in York Region.

The community will not consider project proposals which have funding needs beyond the end of the Initiative and do not leave a legacy of strength in the community. Projects that may be renewed from the first phase of SCPI must meet the overriding principle of "leaving a legacy of strength in the community" to be considered for additional funding.

**5.3. Successful Partnerships & Building Community Capacity**

In the last two years, the York Region community has made significant progress in creating successful partnerships and building community capacity to address homelessness. Appendix 1 summarizes examples of a number of success stories in partnerships and capacity building. Many of these initiatives continue to exist and will be instrumental in supporting the sustainability of initiatives funded under SCPI II.

## 6. Communication Strategy

A co-ordinated and effective communications strategy for the Community Plan Update development and implementation process is an important element in the success and the sustainability of a community's efforts on homelessness. The following outlines the objectives of the community's communications plan and the corresponding activities and target groups.

Objectives	Activities	Target Group(s)
To explain the purpose of the plan, process for updating the plan and how the plan will be used in the future	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Post update on York Region corporate website, media release and frequently asked questions.</li> <li>2. Present the final Update at a regular Alliance meeting. Develop a communication plan to support the release of the Update.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-profit/non-governmental agencies, specifically Alliance members and other networks and co-ordinating bodies.</li> </ul>
To raise public awareness of the issues and solutions to homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a communication plan to support the release of the Update.</li> <li>2. Make a presentation to the Human Services Planning Coalition.</li> <li>3. Make a presentation and/or participate in the Poverty Forum.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private sector</li> <li>• General public</li> <li>• Regional and local Councillors</li> <li>• Municipal staff</li> <li>• Provincial government (i.e. MCSS, MOH-LTC, MMAH)</li> </ul>
To inform service providers how SCPI funding will be distributed in the community, when and how much funding is available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email any Request for Proposal (RFP) announcements via the York Alliance to End Homelessness email system, the Funder Alliance and the Human Services Planning Coalition.</li> <li>2. Place RFP advertisements and/or announcements in Metroland newspapers and applicable websites, specifically, <a href="http://www.yorkregion.com">www.yorkregion.com</a> and <a href="http://www.bidnavigator.com">www.bidnavigator.com</a>.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-profit/non governmental funding agencies</li> <li>• Community agencies</li> </ul>

Objectives	Activities	Target Group(s)
	3. Have fact sheets available at the Information Kiosk. 4. Hold an information session on the RFP and its requirements.	
To continue to gather information on the unique needs of Aboriginal people in the York Region community and foster new partnerships	1. Hold a focus group session with Aboriginal people working with community-based agencies as described in section 2 above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal government</li> </ul>

The outcomes of each individual project funded by SCPI will be consolidated and presented to the community as part of its annual review process. At that time, the Community Entity will report to the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness, Regional Council and HRSDC on the progress that has been made toward achieving the plan's objectives. Any required modifications to the Update based on changing needs in the community will be identified at the annual review and communicated to interested parties.

The Community Planning Group recognizes that there is a need for the community to get a better understanding of what initiatives are the most successful in addressing the needs of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Consequently, information will be gathered from agencies that receive SCPI funding on what works well, what could be improved and what new knowledge has been gained.

In addition, the Community Planning Group acknowledges that the community needs better data to make decisions. The Region will evaluate both HIFIS and other systems to support an improved data management process in York Region.

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## **7. Assets and Gaps in Supports and Services**

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In order to define what the York Region community envisions as the necessary components of its continuum of supports, an inventory of the existing supports and services, the demand for these services and gaps were identified in the development of the original Community Plan to Address Homelessness. As part of the Update process, all community agencies identified in the original plan were contacted to update their information on assets and gaps and to identify any other agency which should be added to the inventory.

The table in Appendix 2 summarizes what services and supports currently exist in York Region, the demand for these services and gaps in shelter, supports and services. As this is an inventory of all community needs related to homelessness, the items identified may not necessarily be eligible for SCPI funding.

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## **8. Priority Issues and Funding**

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### **8.1. *Priorities***

One of the key elements of a Community Plan is to identify priority issues or areas of greatest need for homeless people in the York Region community based on the community's objectives and the analysis of the assets and gaps. The following are the community's priorities and potential corresponding activities.

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
<p>1. <i>There is a crisis in affordable housing supply in York Region</i></p>	<p>a) To provide support to the community in co-ordinating access to funding programs for the creation of new affordable housing units;</p> <p>b) To create more transitional and supportive housing, including second stage housing and single room occupancy (e.g. rooming houses, boarding houses).</p> <p>c) To examine the role of second suites in providing affordable rental housing, and, as appropriate, encourage local municipalities to broaden their regulations to permit second suites in more areas throughout the Region;</p> <p>d) To research alternative models in the creation of new affordable housing units;</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5 and the long-term community objectives 2, 3, 4, 5,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> <li>• Enhanced access to information.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Inclusion of homelessness in policy options at all levels of government.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 1 cont'd	e) To work with landlords to encourage them to rent to York Region's marginalized population and to encourage them to enter into rent supplement agreements with community agencies providing support services; f) To advocate for sustainable funding for second stage housing; g) To create transitional housing for youth with sustainable funding for support services.		
2. <i>Supports and services for homeless people and families, and for those who are at risk of becoming homeless, are limited.</i>	a) To increase services and expand access to services directed to the prevention of homelessness; b) To expand access to, and increase supports and services to, homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless; c) To provide a more comprehensive approach to outreach services for homeless people and those who are at risk of becoming homeless (e.g. more hours, rural areas, specialty team);	The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> <li>• Enhanced community ownership of process and solutions.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 2 cont'd	<p>d) To co-ordinate services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless;</p> <p>e) To conduct research on co-ordinated service planning;</p> <p>f) To recognize the faith community's important role in providing services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>g) To train staff by giving them the tools necessary to carry out their work more effectively; in particular, by increasing their understanding of the rigidity of existing help-lines, and becoming more culturally sensitive to the unique needs of all York Region residents;</p> <p>h) To better service homeless people, and those at risk of homelessness, who are hearing impaired;</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to information.</li> <li>• More comparative research.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Co-ordinated response between sectors to address homelessness.</li> <li>• Broader range of partnerships.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 2 cont'd	i) To better connect with the local business community in order to obtain more resources for the range of supports and services needed in the community;  j) To improve transportation to and from the various facilities across the Region offering services to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.		
3. <i>There is a limited number of shelter beds</i>	a) To protect existing programs/beds by, for example, repairing existing facilities and enhancing space; b) To create new shelter beds, as identified in the Emergency Shelter Study with a focus on meeting the needs of individuals with multiple barriers; c) To advocate to the province for an increase to the per diem rates for shelters; d) To improve transportation to and from shelters; e) To continue to monitor the need for more shelter bed and shelter services.	The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
<p>4. <i>Demographics of the clientele are changing, as is their geographic distribution</i></p>	<p>a) To gain a better understanding of the unique cultural needs of homeless people and those at risk of homelessness;</p> <p>b) To investigate the type of home services needed by seniors with mobility problems and to find ways to meet the identified service needs;</p> <p>c) To prepare a needs assessment to determine the unique needs of Aboriginal individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in York Region;</p> <p>d) To determine the causes and extent of homelessness and risk of homelessness of foreign-born individuals and visible minorities.</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objective 4 and the long-term community objective 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Improved information and data on the homeless population and homeless issues.</li> <li>• More comparative research.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> </ul>
<p>5. <i>Risk of homelessness is increased with mental health or substance abuse problems.</i></p>	<p>a) To provide mobile mental health services for the community, including shelters, second stage housing and private homes;</p> <p>b) To increase the number of transitional and supportive housing units for individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse problems;</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 5 cont'd	<p>c) To increase the availability of non-traditional addiction services for homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless (e.g. outreach services to shelters);</p> <p>d) To provide non-traditional employment strategies and programs for people with mental health and/or substance abuse problems;</p> <p>e) To increase harm reduction services for individuals who are addicted and actively using substances:</p>		<p>to prevention).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to information.</li> <li>• More comparative research.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Co-ordinated response between sectors to address homelessness.</li> <li>• Broader range of partnerships.</li> </ul>
6. <i>Violence against women often drives women and children from their home.</i>	a) To create additional second stage housing for victims of violence;	The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
	<p>b) To provide services to enhance the safety and security of women and children who have left or are leaving a violent situation (e.g. security cameras, locks, mobile phones).</p> <p>c) To educate and increase awareness of women’s legal rights and responsibilities concerning landlord and tenant issues, financial support, the family home, etc.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> </ul>
<p>7. <i>Youth (12-29 year olds) are a significant group of the homeless population and those at risk of becoming homeless and they need specific services.</i></p>	<p>a) To create more multi-service centres (e.g. facilities that provide food, clothing, shower facilities, outreach) that meet the basic needs of homeless youth or those at risk of becoming homeless throughout the Region;</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 7 cont'd	<p>b) To provide innovative programs to address the specific needs of youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and, in particular, to provide access to services for youth on a more continuous and stable basis throughout the Region;</p> <p>c) To provide non-traditional pre-employment and employment services to youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;</p> <p>d) To gain a better understanding of the implications of the recent changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, especially as it impacts homelessness or risk of homelessness amongst youth;</p> <p>e) To better understand the support and service needs of marginalized youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced community ownership of process and solutions.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• More comparative research.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Co-ordinated response between sectors to address homelessness.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
<p>8. <i>There is a need for improved health services for homeless people and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.</i></p>	<p>a) To identify and investigate “best practices” to increasing opportunities for homeless people and those at risk of becoming home-less to access health services (e.g. street health services);</p> <p>b) To outreach to doctors, nurses and teaching hospitals to find ways to improve health services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness;</p> <p>c) To find ways to provide consistent access to medication for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness;</p> <p>d) To provide a better understanding amongst community agencies on how to access the available funding for medications for homeless or those at risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency to prevention).</li> <li>• Enhanced community ownership of process and solutions.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to information.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 8 cont'd	<p>e) To improve services for youth and people experiencing episodic mental health problems so that appropriate trustees can be assigned to ensure payment of rent and vital services, for those who require a trustee.</p>		
<p>9. <i>There is a need for more public education and advocacy on homelessness in York Region.</i></p>	<p>a) To provide public education and increased awareness of homelessness issues in York Region, especially within the Region's business community and policy/decision makers;</p> <p>b) To advocate for improved funding, services, etc. for homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless from provincial and federal governments;</p> <p>c) To increase programs aimed at educating and increasing awareness of community organizations (e.g. police, housing providers, hospitals, schools, faith communities) to help homeless people or those at risk of</p>	<p>The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the long-term community objectives 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Improved and more inclusive decision making around investments.</li> <li>• Enhanced community ownership of process and solutions.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Improved information and data on the homeless population and homeless issues.</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 9 cont'd	<p>becoming homeless access appropriate services, programs and housing;</p> <p>d) To advocate for a community agency offering services for people involved in the correctional system to locate in York Region;</p> <p>e) To improve public education and outreach to increase awareness of foreign-born individuals and visible minorities on all services which are available to them in time of emergency;</p> <p>f) To increase awareness and outreach to doctors and teaching hospitals to find better ways to serve the homeless population of York Region.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Co-ordinated response between sectors to address homelessness.</li> </ul>
10. <i>There is a need to mitigate the impacts of poverty.</i>	<p>a) To provide financial support to homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless;</p> <p>b) To increase access for homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless to basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, transportation);</p> <p>c) To advocate to the province for</p>	The priority and proposed activities address short term community objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 and the long-term community objectives 1, 2, 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased local capacity and resources to deal with homelessness.</li> <li>• Projects and partnerships undertaken by communities to improve services and facilities for homeless people (from emergency</li> </ul>

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objectives	Expected Outcomes
Priority 10 cont'd	an increase to minimum wage and income supports (i.e. OW, ODSP)		<p>to prevention).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased awareness of the nature of homelessness and effective responses.</li> <li>• Increased application, sharing and exchange of knowledge, and best practices.</li> <li>• Co-ordinated response between sectors to address homelessness.</li> <li>• Inclusion of homelessness in policy options at all levels of government.</li> </ul>

## 8.2. Funding Envelopes

For the purposes of establishing overall funding priorities, the Community Priorities and Proposed Activities have been grouped into “funding envelopes”. The table below shows funding levels for each funding envelope based on the SCPI funding available between April 2003 and March 2006.

The Community Planning Group recognizes the importance of putting in place strategies and initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness. The funding envelopes will be used as a guide for the allocation of funding for homelessness initiatives in York Region. The Region of York may adjust the funding envelope guidelines as required. The funding guidelines will be revisited as part of the annual review of the Community Plan.

Funding Envelope	Funding Guideline	Total Funds Available
<p><b>Capital Funding and Improvements</b></p> <p>Transitional &amp; supportive housing, including second stage housing, SROs and housing for individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse problems (1b), (5b), (6a)</p> <p>To create transitional housing for youth with sustainable funding for support services (1g)</p> <p>Protection of existing programs/beds (3a)</p> <p>New shelter beds (3b)</p>	45 – 75%	\$732,089 to \$1,220,149
<p><b>Programs and Services</b></p> <p>To increase services and expand access to services directed to the prevention of homelessness (2a)</p> <p>Services directed to the prevention of homelessness (2b)</p> <p>Provide a more comprehensive approach to Outreach services (2c)</p> <p>Provide better service to those at risk homeless who are hearing impaired (2h)</p> <p>Better connect with the local business community in order to obtain more resources (2i)</p> <p>Improved transportation to and from services and shelters (2j) (3d)</p> <p>Mobile mental health services for community, including shelters (5a)</p> <p>Non-traditional addiction services (5c)</p> <p>Harm reduction services (5e)</p> <p>Non-traditional employment strategies &amp; programs for people with mental health and/or substance abuse problems (5d)(7c)</p> <p>Services that enhance safety and security of women and children who have left or are leaving a violent situation (6b)</p> <p>Multi-service centres that meet basic needs of homeless youth or those at risk (7a)</p> <p>Innovative programs to address specific needs of youth (7b)</p> <p>Non-traditional pre-employment and employment services for youth who are</p>	15 – 25 %	\$244,030 to \$406,716

Funding Envelope	Funding Guideline	Total Funds Available
<p>homeless or at risk (7c)</p> <p>Better understanding of the implications of the recent changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act and its impacts (7d)</p> <p>Better understanding of support and service needs of marginalized youth (2g) (7e).</p> <p>Improved health services for homeless or those at risk, including access to medications. (8b) (8c) (8e)</p> <p>Financial support to homeless people or those at risk (10a)</p> <p>Access to basic needs for homeless individuals or those at risk (10b)</p>		
<p><b>Planning, Research &amp; Education</b></p> <p>Co-ordinate access to funding programs (1a)</p> <p>Examine the role of second suites in providing affordable housing (1c)</p> <p>Research on alternate models in the creation of new affordable housing (1d)</p> <p>Co-ordinate services throughout Region (2d)</p> <p>Research on co-ordinated service planning (2e)</p> <p>Monitor need for shelter beds (3e)</p> <p>Recognition of the role of Faith communities in serving the homeless (2f)</p> <p>Shelter needs study to confirm client groups, cultural and diversity issues, location (4a)</p> <p>To prepare needs assessment and/or determine needs of Aboriginals, foreign- born and visible minorities in the community (4c) (4d)</p> <p>Training for frontline workers to give them the tools necessary to effectively do their work (2g)</p> <p>Educate landlords to encourage them to enter into rent supplement agreements (1e)</p> <p>Education and awareness raising of women's legal rights re landlord issues, etc. (6c)</p> <p>Best practices to increase opportunities for homeless people or those at risk to access health services (8a)</p> <p>Public education of homelessness issues in York Region (9a)</p> <p>Advocate for improved funding for homeless or those at risk (9b)</p> <p>Advocate for funding for second stage housing (1f)</p> <p>Advocate to the Province for increased shelter per diems, minimum wage and income supports (3c) (10c)</p> <p>Programs to educate and increase awareness of community organizations re access appropriate services, programs &amp; housing (9c)</p>	10 - 20%	\$162,687 to \$325,373
<p><b>Administrative/Evaluation</b></p>	5 - 10%	\$81,343 to \$162,687
<p><b>Total</b></p>		<b>\$1,626,865</b>
<p><b>Total SCPI Funds Available (2003- 2006)</b></p>		<b>\$1,626,865</b>

The table below shows the proposed SCPI funding guidelines by year.

**Guideline for SCPI Funding By Year**

<b>Funding Envelope</b>	<b>Funding Guideline (2004)</b>	<b>Funding Guideline (2005)</b>	<b>Funding Guideline TOTAL</b>
Capital Funding & Improvements (based on 60%)	\$488,060	\$488,060	\$ 976,120
Program & Services (based on 20%)	\$162,687	\$162,687	\$325,374
Planning, Research & Education (based on 10%)	\$81,343	\$81,343	\$162,686
Administration/Evaluation (based on 10%)	\$81,343	\$81,342	\$162,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 813,433</b>	<b>\$ 813,432</b>	<b>\$1,626,865</b>

## 9. Community's Financial Contribution

Under the terms of SCPI, a matching financial contribution is required from the community. Funds must be non-federal and used to address homelessness in the community over the three-year period of SCPI to be eligible as community contributions.

The table below describes funds eligible to match SCPI from the Region and the Government of Ontario. The contributions listed for each year may not be exact because funding from the Region is based on calendar year budgeting.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Inkind or Dollars</b> (total Apr. 2003 – Mar. 2006)	<b>Amount/Value</b> (total Apr. 2003 – Mar. 2006)
<b>Provincial</b>	Domiciliary Hostels, Homes for Special Care, Emergency Shelters, Regional Homelessness Initiatives (Cost-shared with Region)	\$10,800,000	\$10,800,000
<b>Municipal</b>	Domiciliary Hostels, Homes for Special Care, Emergency Shelters, Regional Homelessness Initiatives (Cost-shared with Province)	\$3,450,000	\$3,450,000
<b>Total Community Contribution</b>			\$14,250,000
<b>SCPI Allocation</b>			\$ 1,626,865
<b>Difference between Total Community Contribution and SCPI Allocation</b>			\$12,623,135

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## **10. Evaluation Strategy**

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### **10.1. Measurable Outcomes and Evaluation**

The Community Planning Group has identified the following five major measurable outcomes that the community will use to measure the progress and success of their efforts.

1. What difference has expending the SCPI funds made to increasing York Region's ability to address the needs of homeless people or those at risk of homelessness?
2. What difference has expending these funds made in building public awareness about the issues that cause individuals to become homeless or at risk of homelessness?
3. What difference has expending these funds made in providing opportunities for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to make positive changes in their lives to reduce that risk?
4. What legacy has been left behind to strengthen the sector by expending these funds?
5. Have the funds been used effectively?

Each individual initiative will be evaluated in terms of:

1. the extent the initiative achieved agreed upon targets or;
2. the extent to which the contracted service providers complied with the terms and conditions of their contractual agreement.

Should York Region put in place a data management system (such as HIFIS), the system could be a tool which could be used as part of the evaluation process and provide a consistent data collection process for the community.

### **10.2. Baseline for Evaluation Purposes**

Based on the information gathered in the assets and gaps analysis, the following is a roll-up of the number of outstanding beds, shelter facilities, support facilities, support services and transitional housing facilities that are required by the

community. This will serve as a baseline against which the York Region community can evaluate its progress in meeting these needs.

<b>Number of Required Beds, Facilities and Services</b>	
<b>Summary of Gaps</b>	<b>Estimate number required</b>
<b>Beds</b>	20 beds for women victims of violence, 15 beds for young men, 15 beds for young women, 10 beds for families and couples (Based on Shelter Study), additional beds for single men (identified by local agencies)
<b>Sheltering Facilities</b>	At least 3 new facilities are needed, with one in the south end of the Region. Other required increases in shelter beds may be accommodated by expanding existing facilities.
<b>Support Facilities</b>	At least 2 more intervention centres or other facilities that provide food, clothing, shower facilities and outreach services are needed, possibly in Vaughan and Markham; 1 pre and post treatment centre for addictions; 1 medical clinic that provides services to homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness
<b>Support Services</b>	The range of support services required to prevent homelessness and to address the needs of homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness are too numerous to quantify. The community's approach to tackling this issue is to strive for solutions which are the most comprehensive and, where possible, address the needs of more than one group of people. Support services which have been identified in the Assets and Gap Appendix include mobile services & community outreach, drop-in centres/day programs, help lines, meal programs, clothing/furniture banks, homelessness prevention, public education, eviction/ legal/support services, financial support services, access to housing & services, food bank/food support services, community mental health services, addiction treatment, employment services, life skills programs, youth services, services for women, Aboriginal services and cultural services.

<b>Number of Required Beds, Facilities and Services</b>	
<b>Summary of Gaps</b>	<b>Estimate number required</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	<p>1 detox centre; 1 second stage housing project specific to women who have experienced violence; 1 second stage housing project for individuals leaving detox centres; at least one transitional housing project for individuals with concurrent disorders; 1 transitional housing project for youth.</p> <p>NOTE: These estimates are for all gaps identified. It is recognized that it will not be feasible to address all these gaps within the limited timeframe and with the resources available.</p>

## **APPENDIX 1 – SUCCESSES IN PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

The following are examples of a number of recent success stories in partnerships and capacity building to address homelessness in York Region.

### **CMHA's Research, Education, and Deliver (R.E.D.) Project**

The Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region (CMHA) sponsored this initiative. CMHA is committed to advocacy, education, partnership and the provision of respectful and responsive services to promote the mental health and well being of people and their communities within our Region.

The goal of the initiative was to develop and implement an *Identification Clinic* whereby individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless have an opportunity to receive the identification needed to access services, secure employment or receive health care, to provide public information sessions/workshops to increase the awareness of homeless issues in York Region, and provide administrative support to the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness.

Six *Identification Clinic* locations have been established through partnerships with other community organizations in Georgina, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, Aurora, Richmond Hill and Markham. The worker at the *Identification Clinic* provided individual support when necessary, advocated on clients' behalf and connected individuals with other services such as housing, food sources, financial resources and other community supports.

A *York Region Homeless Resource List* was compiled listing key community service telephone numbers to increase awareness of services available to individuals who are homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless. The list also provides a snapshot of community services to interfaith groups and social service organizations.

The initiative benefited the agency's capacity as it extended its range of services, putting it in contact with new organizations and providing further information on the needs and circumstances of the homeless population.

### **Home Base Weekend Extension**

The Home Base Drop-in Centre in Richmond Hill sponsored by Pathways for Children, Youth and Families, received funding to extend hours of operation to the weekends. Pathways services include a residential program for youth and Family Resource Centres providing drop-in playgroups, parent/caregiver resources, and toy lending libraries.

The Home Base drop-in targets at risk youth providing a safe place to stay off the streets, free meals, counselling, help with job search, housing and linkage to

other services. The extension of hours allowed the Agency to be open seven days a week from 1:00 p.m. –8 p.m.

Operating the drop-in centre has broadened Home Base's focus, positively impacting its capacity in terms of planning, co-ordinating and delivery. It has also provided new information on the characteristics and needs of youth which has informed the board's planning.

### **Housing Help Centre's Initiative**

This initiative has been funded under the Community Partners Program since 1994. The Housing Help Centre was set up to maintain a housing registry to assist individuals and families to secure affordable housing in the private rental market in York.

The Centre has a co-operative relationship with the regional shelters, other agencies serving the homeless or at risk population, and private and non-profit housing providers. Most recently, the Centre partnered with CMHA by offering its location as a site for the I.D. Clinic. This is an example of a new partnership which has increased the community capacity to provide services for the homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

### **Krasman Centre's Client Laundry Facility/Transit Ticket Initiative**

The Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health sponsored this initiative. The Centre operates as a Resource Centre providing information, referral and support to people who have experience with mental health issues, and their families and friends.

The Centre has had a practice of providing/making available laundry facilities to the homeless. It has also utilized petty cash to assist homeless individuals in the southern part of York Region to get to a shelter. When the Centre recently relocated, it quickly found that the apartment sized washer/dryer it had brought from the previous location was not sufficient to handle the volume of use. This initiative sought to replace the washer/dryer so laundry services could continue for the homeless, and to secure some designated funding to assist the homeless with transit to shelters.

The primary impact of the initiative on Krasman's capacity building was in increasing contacts with the shelters, and in highlighting problems for the homeless, specifically around transportation and the need for a shelter for young women in York Region.

## **Leeder Place Expansion**

Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region (TSHSYR), sponsored Leeder Place Expansion. TSHSYR runs shelters for homeless families, youth and men, a home for special care and has a community housing support worker program. The Leeder Expansion will create an additional 10 units.

The launch of the initiative has resulted in greater interest by the Board and TSHSYR in the need to look at data on recidivism and what happens to individuals who are redirected. The government funding is helping TSHSYR to fundraise and leverage funds from the private sector as virtually all major donors wanted to know what the government had contributed before they would pledge, indicating they wanted their contribution to be in partnership with government, not replacing government contributions.

## **Crosslinks/LOFT & York Region Public Health Outreach Van**

Crosslinks Housing and Support Services/LOFT Community Services in conjunction with York Region Health Services sponsored the Outreach Van initiative. The Outreach Van initiative provides basic and harm reduction services to homeless and/or street involved persons in York Region. Services include mobile outreach (Monday to Thursday and on-call Fridays) with public health nurse and mental health community worker participation, case management and follow-up of long-term clients, provision of food, clothing, sleeping bags and other supplies, provision of resource and service information and referrals.

This successful partnership has also increased community capacity by offering some joint training with two other community agencies --- Public Health and Pathways. Training was provided to frontline workers in CPR/First Aid, Critical Incident Stress Management, Youth and Substance Abuse, and Issues in Housing for the Homeless.

Operating the Outreach Van has broadened the community's understanding of homelessness in York. It is an example of where the increased knowledge of one agency can benefit many other agencies in the community. The initiative has also assisted the agency in broadening its knowledge of the nature and extent of its contacts with other community agencies, thereby impacting on the way it plans, co-ordinates and delivers services to the homeless and at risk population.

## **Pathways' Research Initiative**

The research initiative was intended to provide information that would assist Pathways and other agencies in York Region serving youth, by: documenting the characteristics of youth using the drop-in centre and the factors contributing to

their homelessness or risk of homelessness; determining the needs of the youth and related supports required; evaluating current services supplied by or through the centre and identify gaps in services.

The initiative provided a range of information on whom the centre was serving and how its services were addressing the needs of those attending the drop-in program. This information served to enhance its capacity to plan, co-ordinate and effectively deliver the program. Through its involvement in the research, Pathways was also able to develop additional internal expertise on data gathering and evaluation processes, which would be transferable to its other programs.

### **Salvation Army's Homelessness Prevention Program**

This initiative was sponsored by the Salvation Army: Ontario Central Division, an organization that provides a range of services to families and individuals in York including accommodation, clothing and emergency food banks.

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) offers help to households in danger of eviction or who are already homeless. The help is in the form of one-time financial assistance for moving costs, first/last months rent and/or arrears payment. It may also include landlord/tenant mediation, referral to credit counselling, addiction counselling or other support services based on the agreement plan developed based on client needs.

*The review of the HPP program concluded that HPP had significantly benefited those accepted into the program, in either assisting some from a shelter to stabilized housing or in maintaining others in their current housing. As well the, program was cost-effective relative to what the costs would have been in the shelter system, and the program was well regarded by landlords and agencies.*

This initiative has expanded the Salvation Army's linkages in the community, particularly with landlords, the shelter's addiction counselling services and budget counselling, as well as other Salvation Army locations in the Region. It has utilized experience gained from the initiative in its planning process and may follow up with further initiatives addressed at the homeless and at risk populations.

The requirements to collect data relevant to client characteristics, and client service needs for the Region and to evaluate the program have provided valuable information for use in educating funders regarding homelessness and have also enhanced the agency's capacity around data collection and evaluation.

### **Sandgate's New Women's Shelter Beds Initiative**

Sponsored by Sandgate, Women's Shelter of Georgina, an emergency shelter for victims of violence and their children, the initiative was aimed at adding 20 permanent shelter beds as the Agency has been operating above capacity since it opened in 1991.

### **TSHSYR's Community Housing Support Worker Initiative**

This initiative was sponsored by Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region (TSHSYR) to respond to difficulties their shelter clients were having in finding affordable housing on their own and transitioning from the shelter. The project provides two workers who help individuals and families find, get and keep housing in the community. The workers also are available to assist in job search, educational or school, and child care activities; linkages for personal, family or budget counselling; access to food banks, legal assistance and other activities related to the needs of the individuals and families.

The addition of the community housing workers has extended TSHSYR contacts with landlords and with other service providers, benefiting its service delivery and service planning. It has also provided TSHSYR with additional information on clients and what they need to adjust in moving back to the community, which has enhanced understanding of the client, and which has been used by the Board in strategy sessions and yearly service reviews.

The community housing workers have developed co-operative relationships with the Housing Help Centre and the Homelessness Prevention Program among others. TSHSYR has also joined in partnering with the "safe beds" network.

### **TSHSYR's Replacement Van Initiative**

This initiative was sponsored by Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region (TSHSYR) for the use of clients of its programs. The van transports residents in all of the agency's shelters and programs to and from services, centre of transportation, to medical, work and rehabilitation appointments, and to activities and events. This initiative allowed the TSHSYR to avoid the distraction involved in fundraising for a new van and concentrate on providing much needed services directly to homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness.

### **United Way's "The Hands that Build"**

United Way of York Region (UWYR) is the Region's single largest private fundraising engine. Each year in January, UWYR mobilizes a team of volunteer corporate leaders who make face-to-face calls on existing UWYR supporters and prospect accounts. The intent of the calls, usually occurring from April through to August, is to secure corporate commitment to UWYR, including a corporate gift,

an employee campaign, sponsorship of events and/or loaned representatives to help out over the Campaign period, etc.

“The Hands That Build” initiative, funded under SCPI I, provides an opportunity to diversify what United Way of York Region currently does by adding a new option for donors in York Region. It affords donors the opportunity to strategically direct their donation to services that support individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Beyond the initial start up of year one, “The Hands That Build” will also afford the community a single, comprehensive and sustainable approach to raising and then distributing funds to programs that support the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. This new fund will be accessible to all non profit organizations in York Region, be it member and non member UW agencies, be it services supported by current Provincial Homelessness Initiative Fund (PHIF) or SCPI and those currently not receiving PHIF or SCPI funds.

The results gleaned in similar projects between the United Way and the community indicate positive outcomes for all stakeholders: increase in targeted funds raised for ‘special project’ over a 3-5 year horizon; increase in funds allocated back to community programs and services to address the special project; increase in the number of underdeveloped or untapped donors supporting the United Way through the special project; increase in number of donors supporting the special project who, over 3-5 years, also financially support the overall United Way Community Fund.

### **Winter Needs Initiatives**

The six Winter Needs initiatives funded under SCPI came about through a January 2002 call for proposals by the Region to agencies serving the homeless or those at risk of homelessness. It was designed to help agencies meet the needs of their clients over the winter months. Proposals were to be to a maximum of \$5,000 and to address needs such as sleeping bags, clothing, furniture and appliances and such other items as would have a direct impact on the improvement of services to the homeless over the winter months.

Some enhancement in the physical structure of the two shelters and hence in their capacity to meet the needs of their client population was a result of this initiative. The use of tickets and winter packages in some cases brought the agencies into contact with individuals and agencies/businesses they might not otherwise have had dealings with, thereby broadening their network. Another local transit company providing transit service to food security received matching funding from a community agency and was able to serve a greater number of individuals requiring this service.

### **York Region Neighbourhood Services’ “Lifeline” Initiative**

York Region Neighbourhood Services (YRNS), a multi-service organization offering programs around supervised access, prenatal nutrition, an Early Years Centre, Boys and Girl Club, and Translation and Accreditation Services, sponsored the “Lifeline”.

The “Lifeline” project was aimed at homeless or at risk youth 16-24 years of age. It sought to work collaboratively with five to seven host sites across York to reach out to youth, assess their needs, and help link them to existing services or life skills workshops. The objectives were to prevent early home leaving, provide life skills where appropriate and where necessary, help the youth to access necessary services in their community.

Partnerships were developed with five host sites in Georgina, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville and site staff was trained in the Lifeline model.

York Region Neighbourhood Service found this initiative extended them into a new area involving homeless youth through developing this innovative project. This has impacted planning and the YRNS is undertaking fundraisers to increase its capacity to attempt further innovative or high-risk youth development strategies.

### **York Support Services Network’s ‘Safe Beds’ Initiative**

This initiative has been sponsored by York Support Services Network (YSSN), an agency which primarily provides case management and crisis response to people with developmental delay, mental illness or with a dual diagnosis. The “safe beds” network of services was designed to serve persons with the above disorders, as well as individuals with an acquired brain injury, who are not in an acute psychiatric crisis and who if unable to remain in their current living situation without supports, are at risk of homelessness.

The initiative seeks to provide a continuum of crisis support services: telephone crisis lines, mobile crisis teams, in-home supports, short-term community residential care in ‘safe beds’, support in day programs, emergency beds and in-patient care through increased co-ordination based upon mutually agreed protocols across services including both hospitals and community based Agencies.

The initiative has served to broaden the agency’s linkages with other community agencies and demonstrated the potential of partnering in addressing complex needs so as to better maintain vulnerable people in the community. The initiative has served as an effective demonstration of the ability of diverse community agencies in York Region to work in a complex partnership relationship to provide a range of necessary services on a crisis basis to a highly vulnerable population.

**APPENDIX 2 – ASSETS AND GAPS**

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

Type of Shelter, Services & Support	Assets	Gaps
<b><i>Outreach Services &amp; Prevention Strategies</i></b>		
<b>Mobile Services &amp; Community Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mobile Street Outreach Health Services Van</b> (primarily along the Yonge Street Corridor of York Region) is operated by Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services/ LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health. It provides mobile outreach services and operates 4 nights per week from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., and it is on call on Fridays during business hours since 2002. About 607 different individuals used the van services in 2002 exceeding the target of 300, 1631 visits in total. Sutton and Keswick served twice weekly since 2002. (Source: Report on the First Year of Operation of the Street Outreach Van Project)</li> <li>• <b>Canadian Mental Health Association</b>, York Region (Aurora, Keswick, Markham, Newmarket). CMHA delivered the Youth Wellness Program to 12,000 students in the region in 2002/03.</li> <li>• <b>Kinark Child and Family Services/310 COPE Mobile Crisis Response</b>. 310-cope has a mobile capacity each evening to respond to persons in crisis on mental health issues</li> <li>• <b>York Region Crisis Support Network</b> (SCPI funded) is made up of 15 different agencies in York Region committed to providing an urgent and immediate response for up to 30 days to help individuals with complex needs maintain their existing living situation and/or find a stable living situation. The outreach component is very important in assisting people to access services. The York Region Crisis Support Network is able to provide a mobile service to a broad spectrum of persons in crisis (Developmental disability, mental illness, Acquired Brain Injury, Dual Diagnosis). The Crisis Support Network is assisting with mobile services, and is able to assist shelters and housing programs by providing training support to increase staff skills.</li> <li>• <b>Krasman Centre</b> (Richmond Hill) provides outreach services to individual psychiatric survivors and family members of psychiatric survivors, (not limited to a biological relationship). Among other activities, these include outreach to families through local hospitals and to individuals residing in HSC, Dom Hostels and the community. Krasman Centre is also co-ordinator of the Self-help Network of York Region. Krasman's transition and outreach workers provide individual and group support throughout the community. Their services are available 7 days per week. They provided service to 503 psychiatric consumer/survivors in the year ending 2003. It lists Crisis and Shelter numbers on its after-hours message.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to provide more comprehensive Mobile Street Outreach Health Services to include a broader geographic area and improve diversity to meet multicultural need. (Source: Report on the First Year of Operation of the Street Outreach Van Project)</li> <li>2. There is a need for a Mental Health advocate who could offer outreach, advocacy and information to psychiatrized women who are dealing with or fleeing abusive situations. (Source: VAWCC)</li> <li>3. There is a need for more mobile mental health services, and advocacy including in shelters, second stage housing and private homes for those living in poverty or homelessness. (Source: Community Forum, Focus Group Session)</li> <li>4. There is a need for increased home services for seniors with mobility problems (Focus Group 2003)</li> <li>5. There is a need for mobile services and community outreach specifically for youth.</li> </ol>

## York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update

Type of Shelter, Services & Support	Assets	Gaps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Family Life Centre</b> (Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Bradford) <b>and the Markham Stouffville Family Life Centre</b> provides outreach and early intervention services in many local elementary and high schools in the region through the Youth At Risk School-Based Program. The program assists school personnel in identifying and responding to the needs of “at-risk” students exhibiting such issues as depression, anxiety, aggression/anger, bullying, social skills and relationship difficulties. It provides classroom-based intervention, small group and individual counselling, and referral services within the school setting. Also provided is outreach to families of these students to link them with appropriate services.</li> <li>• <b>Teen Anger Management Group</b> is provided on a weekly basis at the Youth Shelter in Newmarket in partnership with Transitional and Supportive Housing.</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Counselling and Legal Support Services</b> provided counselling and legal support services in various languages to 1000 plus women in 2002/2003</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Transitional Support Program</b> is designed to assist women who are preparing to leave or have left abusive relationships. In 2002/2003 counsellors assisted 258 women as they re-established themselves in the community</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Child Witness Program</b> provides group counselling to children who have been exposed to woman abuse in their families. Groups are run for moms and children 3x per year. 73 women and 120 children participated in the program in 2002/2003</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Support Group Program</b> provides group support for women who are in or have left abusive relationships. 228 women participated in the program during 2002-2003</li> <li>• <b>Transitional Housing and Support Services Outreach Program</b> (East Gwillimbury) and <b>Sandgate Women’s Shelter</b> (Georgina) also provide community outreach services.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers</b>, York Region, provides home and community visits to prenatal teens and young mothers through support counseling from 3 Outreach Support Workers.</li> </ul>	

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

<b>Type of Shelter, Services &amp; Support</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
<p><b>Drop-in Centres/Day Programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Faith Communities</b> provide showers, meals and support. Many of the churches participating in the Out of the Cold Program have facilities to adequately meet the needs of homeless individuals (e.g. showers, kitchens, fire safety).</li> <li>• <b>Pathways Home Base - Youth</b> (Richmond Hill) served a total of 4601 youth in 2002. The average number of youth served per month in 2002 to date is 383. Pathways home base was opened for Saturday and Sunday's from June 2002 to September 2003. Pathways relocation will expand and enhance services.</li> <li>• <b>Krasman – Mental Health</b> (Richmond Hill) services individuals and families everyday from 1-5pm, and in the mornings by calling to arrange a visit (due to staffing). The Krasman Centre offers access to housing resources, assistance in connecting with community services, use of the phone, FAX and photocopier, computer and Internet. The Centre also has a full-size washer and dryer available to Centre users along with use of Shower Facilities and toiletries.</li> <li>• <b>Youth Relief Partnership- York Region Neighbourhood</b>, offer resources, referrals, assessments &amp; workshops at host sites in York Region.</li> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre (NYRC) – Youth ages 12 - 24</b> (Newmarket) is open weekly Tues – Sat. in the evenings and Sun. 2 – 6pm. A small food bank and cooking facilities are available.</li> <li>• <b>In partnership with York Region Neighbourhood services and The Boys &amp; Girls Club, the Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre was a host site for the Lifeline Project, 2002 - April 2003.</b> This project was funded through SCPI. Lifeline provided support, resources and basic needs for homeless Youth and Youth at risk of being homeless.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers</b>, offers Drop-in in the on site Child Development Centre Tues, Wed and Thurs from 9 to 12 and 1 to 3:30. Parenting Programs offered Tues, Wed, and Thurs from 1- 3pm.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region – Drop Zone</b> About 468 different youth used the Drop Zone program at least 5 times in 2002.</li> <li>• Other organizations providing drop-ins/day programs include: New Directions – Mental Health (Aurora), Region of York with Town of Georgina – Sutton Youth Centre, Sandgate Women's Shelter, Women's Centre of York Region – Single mothers or women leaving difficult relationships (Aurora) and CMHA-Aurora Drop-</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to mobilize faith groups in a unified way to link to support systems.</li> <li>2. Although there has been improvement, there is still a need to expand services to evenings and weekends for homeless people in some geographic areas, including rural areas. (Source: Task Force Report, Statistics from Home Base)</li> <li>3. There is a need to create more intervention centres or other facilities that provide food, clothing, shower facilities and outreach for youth. Expansion of these services geographically is necessary. (Source: Task Force Report, Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>4. There is a need for a drop-in centre for people with mental illnesses. (Source Focus Group 2003)</li> <li>5. There is a need for drop-ins to be staffed by members of a range of ethnic and linguistic groups or by staff trained to be sensitive to the unique needs of the Region's multi-cultural residents. (Focus Group 2003)</li> </ol>

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

<b>Type of Shelter, Services &amp; Support</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
	<p>In Centre. In addition, people are using shelters as day programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>York Region is in the process of purchasing a property for youth which provides multi-purpose services.</li> </ul>	
<b>Help-lines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>310-COPE - York Support Services Network</b> (Region wide) is in its <b>fourth</b> year of operation and has answered 10,700 calls. Of these 10,700calls, about <b>156</b> were from homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness.</li> <li><b>Krasman Warm line- non crisis support line</b> The Warm Line is a non-crisis support line which is available in the “off hours” of Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.</li> <li><b>Sandgate 24/7 Crisis Lines</b> offer crisis support throughout the region with a local line, a 1-800 number and a TTY. In the year ending 2003 Sandgate handled 1,617 crisis calls.</li> <li><b>Yellow Brick House Crisis Line</b> staff responded to 2215 crisis calls in 2002/2003 from women who were in need of support due to homelessness or in abusive relationships. This is a toll free line.</li> <li><b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> has 24 hour telephone referral, support and counselling.</li> <li>Other organizations providing help-lines include: Women’s Sexual Assault Help-line (Region wide), Kids HelpLine, Parents HelpLine, YorkLink, Contact Centre, Yellow Brick House/Sandgate-24 hour counseling, Sexual Health Hotline, Health Connection, Info lines, Catholic Community Services of York Region</li> <li>Upcoming 211 (Information linkages around social services).</li> <li>There are informal linkages in place between the frontline and community in the areas of translation, mental health, eviction, etc.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a need to increase public awareness of 310-COPE’s services. (Source: Community agency)</li> <li>There is a need to increase front line workers’ understanding of the rigidity of the existing systems so that they can find the best way to work within the system and make appropriate linkages with mental health crisis support services, eviction services and translation services.</li> <li>Currently the Warm Line Trillium funding expires at the end of July, 2004. There is a need to make it more permanent.</li> <li>The need for some agencies to provide TTY lines to better service people who are hearing impaired.</li> <li>There is a need to train staff who provide help-line services to work better to provide accessible and culturally appropriate services.</li> </ol>

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

<b>Type of Shelter, Services &amp; Support</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
<p><b>Meal Programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Out of the Cold Program:</b> Temple Har Zion (Thornhill), St. Luke's Parish (Thornhill), Thornhill United Church (Thornhill), Richmond Hill United Church (Richmond Hill), Ja'Fari Islamic Temple (Richmond Hill), Aurora United Church (Aurora). Out of the Cold Program is utilized by between 40 and 50 people each night that the program operates. Most programs are open three nights per week. About 50% of those visiting the program come for a hot meal only and the other 50% stay the night. Program operators indicated that there are more women and youth using the Out of the Cold Program.</li> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth Centre – Stone Soup Supper Club</b> is utilized by 12 – 36 youth year round on Tuesday evenings. A full nutritious meal is prepared by participants. Kitchen use is available Tues – Sun for individuals to prepare their own food.</li> <li>• <b>Crossland Community Dinner</b> (formerly the Newmarket Soup Kitchen), <b>Kinsmen Club</b> (Main &amp; Water St.) is a drop-in program providing a meal and social support on Thursdays.</li> <li>• <b>LAMP – Trinity United Church</b>, Newmarket, offers a Lunch program on Tuesdays.</li> <li>• <b>Community Bread - St. John Chrysostom Church</b>, Main St., Newmarket, provides a meal and social support on Mondays.</li> <li>• <b>Mary's table, St. Mary Anglican Church</b>, Richmond Hill, provides lunch and social support on Wednesdays.</li> <li>• <b>Friday Lunch Club, Georgina Salvation Army</b>, 1816 Metro Road offers free food, fun, fellowship &amp; friendship every Friday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.</li> <li>• <b>The Gathering Place - Cornerstone Pentecostal Church</b> (Keswick) is a new soup kitchen which came into operation on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003. Dinner is provided on Thursdays at 5:00pm.</li> <li>• <b>Lunch with Grace</b> is a meal program run at the Grace Church in Markham (east off Hwy 48). The program is open to anyone. It begins at noon and runs the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month (except December).</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, ABC All Babies Count</b> is a prenatal nutrition program offering gift certificates for food, a take home bag of food staples, a shared snack, information and resources. Transportation is provided. The program is run at five sites. The Georgina, Markham and Vaughan sites are for prenatal women of all ages. The Newmarket site takes women under 25yrs.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to increase services, including meals, for homeless people on evenings and weekends and in some geographic areas, including rural areas. (Source: Task Force Report, Statistics from Home Base)</li> <li>2. There is a need to create more facilities and better access to food and meal programs.</li> <li>3. There is a need to provide transportation (either through the lease of a van or bulk purchasing of transit tickets) for individuals using meal programs. (Source: community agency)</li> </ol>

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

<b>Type of Shelter, Services &amp; Support</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transit Georgina</b> assists individuals to get to food banks/food programs.</li> <li>• <b>Krasman</b> provides bus tickets to meal programs</li> <li>• <b>Pathways – Home Base</b> provides meals to youth</li> <li>• <b>Corporate</b> donors provide assistance to meal programs</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> provides food.</li> </ul>	
<b>Clothing/Furniture Banks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pathways – Home Base's</b> new facility has a donations room with clothing, toiletries etc.</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House</b> has some storage space.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> has clothing</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive housing Services of York Region Shelters</b> receive donations and act as storage for furniture.</li> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre (NYRC) - Youth ages 12 -24 – Youth Relief Partnership</b> (Newmarket) has a limited supply of back packs which supply some basic necessities including: socks, toothbrush, jacket, sweater, sanitary pads, deodorant and toothpaste. The NYRC also has a clothing bank.</li> <li>• Other organizations which provide clothing and furniture include: Coats for Kids, Newmarket Clothing Centre, Salvation Army Family Services and Resource Centre, Sandgate Women's Shelter, Women's Centre of York Region, Unionville Alliance Church, The Helping Hand, Treasures and Circle of Warmth</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is need for better access and coordination of donations, i.e. transportation and storage.</li> <li>2. There is a need to better connect with the local business community and to coordinate donations.</li> </ol>

**York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update**

<b>Type of Shelter, Services &amp; Support</b>	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
<b>Homelessness Prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)</b> provides one time funding to prevent homelessness and provide support services.</li> <li>• <b>Habitat For Humanity</b> provides political awareness. Habitat For Humanity built one house in Newmarket in 2003 and two are planned for Georgina.</li> <li>▪ <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> - additional van staff has increased ability to provide community programs. <b>Public Health Harm Reduction Program</b> and <b>York Region Harm Reduction Coalition</b> have also supported these initiatives. <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services</b> also provides Homelessness Prevention through the Homeless Initiative and Residential Programs.</li> <li>▪ <b>Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre (NYRC)</b> offers support to assist youth in seeking housing, food, social assistance, clothing and employment.</li> <li>▪ <b>New Tomorrow Rent Supplement Program</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to increase services directed to the prevention of homelessness, including rent banks, stabilizing housing and other support services.</li> <li>2. There is a need to expand access to and services of the Homelessness Prevention Program.</li> <li>3. There is a need for decent, affordable housing to prevent homelessness.</li> <li>4. There is a need to improve services for youth and people experiencing episodic mental health problems so that appropriate trustees can be assigned to ensure payment of rent and vital services, for those who require a trustee.</li> </ol>

## York Region's Community Plan to Address Homelessness – An Update

Type of Shelter, Services & Support	Assets	Gaps
<p><b>Public Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Family Life Centre</b> (Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Bradford) provides the Families and Schools Together Program in schools throughout York Region. This prevention program invites families of K to Grade 3 students to participate for up to 2 years in a program that builds family cohesion and community capacity through strengthening relationships between parent and child, parent and the school and amongst parents/families in the community. This program is delivered in “high needs” communities where many families experience multiple disadvantages and are frequently at risk of homelessness. The program strengthens social supports and community bonds. The Youth At Risk School-Based Program is also offered through the Family life Centre.</li> <li>• <b>Women’s Sexual Assault Help-in</b> visits schools, primarily in the northern York Region</li> <li>• <b>Pathways</b> has an awareness campaign. Pathways visits schools in the Markham area.</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Public Education Program</b> visits schools in the Aurora area. From April 2002 to March 2003 the public education worker did 332 presentations to 10,805 students in both the elementary and secondary schools. These workshops focused on healthy dating relationships, woman abuse and homelessness.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> –The Outreach Van provides community consultation in Sutton/Keswick in order to increase awareness and identify needs, as well as, school and service groups presentations, information &amp; displays.</li> <li>• <b>Krasman Centre</b> (Richmond Hill) provides education, training, and resources.</li> <li>• <b>United Way</b> campaign has a speaker awareness program.</li> <li>• <b>Sandgate</b> provides public education in schools to faith groups and community service groups.</li> <li>▪ <b>York Region Violence Against Women Committee</b> will be doing outreach in the next year.</li> <li>• <b>CMHA, through the R.E.D project (Research, Education and Delivery)</b> provides education to schools and Community Services Agencies in York Region. The Canadian Mental Health Association also visits schools in Aurora, Keswick and Markham. In 2002/03, CMHA provided workshops to 11,093 individual students in</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for more public education on women’s issues, especially for landlords. (Source: Focus Group Session)</li> <li>2. There needs to be increased awareness of the issue of homelessness within the Region's corporate community.</li> <li>3. There is a need to outreach to doctors and teaching hospitals to identify doctors and other medical professionals who are willing to treat marginalized members of our community. In particular, it would be beneficial to have a doctor or resident visit the shelters on a regular basis.</li> <li>4. There is a need for more public education and outreach to increase the awareness of foreign-born individuals and visible minorities on all of the services which are available to them in time of emergency.</li> </ol>

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	<p>York Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The York Region Alliance to End Homelessness (CMHA)</b> received funding from the Region of York to provide Education and Training to frontline staff.</li> <li>• <b>The York Region Crisis Support Network</b> is able to provide immediate short-term support to assist in stabilizing housing and reducing the risk of loss of housing tenure.</li> <li>• <b>The York Region Food Network</b> provides public education on regional poverty and food security issues through presentations, information displays and a newsletter.</li> <li>• <b>Community Legal Clinic of York Region</b> presents free education seminars and distributes free public legal education information for tenants. The education material for tenants includes information on evictions, rent increases, maintenance of vital services and illegal lockouts.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, Teen Parent Speaker Program</b>, educates students in grades 7 through 12 in schools across York Region. Training in leadership and public speaking is provided. This program reaches over 7000 students annually.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region Staff Speakers Bureau</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Eviction, Legal Services &amp; Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Legal Clinic of York Region</b> (Richmond Hill and satellite space on an as needed basis in several other municipalities within York Region) provides advocacy for poor tenants and training for service providers to prevent unnecessary or illegal evictions.</li> <li>• <b>Tenant Duty Council Program of Legal Aid Ontario</b> gives advice and assistance to over 20% of the approximately 1500 families facing eviction each year at the Ontario Rental housing Tribunal in Newmarket.</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Legal Support Information</b> provides legal information, advocacy and court support for women who are staying or have stayed at the shelter. <b>Yellow Brick House Emergency Shelter</b> renewed its contract in 2003 with the Ministry of Corrections to provide beds to women leaving correctional institutions and relocating to York Region or to women almost finished their time incarcerated and about to give birth.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for landlord/tenant support services and education in York Region. (Source: Community agencies)</li> <li>2. There is a need for community support and advocacy for agencies offering services for people involved in the correctional system to locate in York Region.</li> <li>3. There is a need for community support of individuals from correctional institutions.</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian Mental Health Association (Aurora)</b> provided 294 individuals with court support in 2002/03 and 172 individuals with court support in 2000/01.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> - About 40% of 760 men that stayed in Porter Place in 2002 had some involvement in the corrections system. This is down from 55% in 2000. About 20% are on probation, bail or have restraining orders against them. About 20% of the 303 families that resided in Leeder Place in 2002 had some involvement with corrections. This percentage is down from 35% of 65 families in 2000.</li> <li>• <b>York Support Services Network</b> provides advocacy at Human Justice &amp; Service Co-ordination Committee (DHC) for: 1) Development of policies to facilitate access to methadone, psychiatric medications, HIV treatment &amp; other medications by prisoners in holding cells, detention centres and jails (progress is being made) 2) Entertaining proposal from the Committee to provide nursing service @ Newmarket Court House YSSN case management program supported 60 persons in 2002/03 with legal issues</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services</b> supports people with legal issues through all components of its program.</li> <li>• 400 <b>310-COPE</b> calls asked for support on a variety of legal issues.</li> <li>• About 65% of the 174 youth that resided in the <b>York Region Youth Shelter</b> in 2002 had involvement with corrections.</li> <li>• Other organizations in the community which provide eviction, legal services and supports include Public Health, Rose of Sharon and Sandgate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Financial Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Homelessness Prevention Program</b> provides one-time assistance to individuals or families at risk of Homelessness.</li> <li>• <b>CMHA in partnership with Newmarket Youth Centre</b> provides an ID clinic each Tuesday evening (<i>RED Project</i>). In addition it provides this service at five locations across the York Region. <b>Faith communities</b> donate to cost of identification.</li> <li>• <b>Share The Warmth</b> provides financial assistance to the needy to help keep their homes heated in the winter.</li> <li>• <b>Pay the rent – Feed the Kids</b> campaign is putting pressure on government to increase OW/minimum wage.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to provide financial support to homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless. (Source: Community Forum, Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>2. There is a need for a place in York Region to get identification at no <i>charge</i> or minimal fees. CMHA currently provides ID clinics, but it is</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Legal Clinic</b> has created a coalition to increase ODSP payments.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers</b>, provides gift certificates for food through the ABC All Babies Count program.</li> <li>• Corporate donations have increased for tangible items.</li> <li>• Other organizations which provide financial support to homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness include: Ontario Works, CPP, ODSP, OHIP, Northridge Community Church of the Salvation Army – Homelessness Prevention Program, and Trillium Drug Program</li> </ul>	<p>currently at risk of losing this funding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. There is a need to advocate for an increase to income supports – OW, ODSP, and minimum wage rates have not increased since 1991, while the cost of safe, affordable and stable housing continues to increase.</li> <li>4. There is a need to advocate to the province increase per diem rate for shelters.</li> <li>5. There needs to be a better understanding amongst community agencies on how to access the available funding for medications for homeless or those at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>6. There is a need to provide more support to youth needing to access emergency funding and the social support system, as it is a complicated and lengthy process.</li> </ol>

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<b>Support Services</b>		
<b>Access to Housing &amp; Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing Help Centre</b> (Aurora) Centre served about 7,250 people looking for housing in York Region in 2000. About 2,100 of these calls/visits were from community agencies. The average number of new listings of available rental units is about 42 per month.</li> <li>• <b>Home Base Drop-in Centre</b> (Richmond Hill). Approximately 10% of youth using the Home Base Drop-in Centre receive assistance with housing (approximately 24 youth per month).</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> provides referrals to housing &amp; services. 57 people moved to emergency shelters in 2002 and people moved to permanent accommodations.</li> <li>• <b>Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region</b> has a Case Management Program for Keswick, Newmarket, Markham, Aurora.</li> <li>• <b>YSSN</b> offers a case management program which is region wide.</li> <li>• <b>York Region Community Support Network (SCPI funded)</b> is based on a model of coordination and cooperation. The Community Support Program assisted almost 300 families, youth and single males to find housing in 2000.</li> <li>• <b>York Region Co-ordinated Access</b> manages the Regions social housing waiting list. There are access points throughout the Region. About 195 new applicants per month or about 2,340 applicants per year apply for social housing in York Region. There are 5300 applicants on the waiting list for social housing (August 2003).</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services offers region wide case management in addition to its Homeless Initiative &amp; Residential Program.</b></li> <li>• <b>Other organizations which assist homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness to access housing include Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region - Community Housing Support Program</b> (Newmarket, East Gwillimbury), <b>Catholic Community Services</b></li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to better co-ordinate services to homeless people. (Source: Task Force on Provision of Mental Health Services)</li> <li>2. There is a need for better understanding of the type of help that is currently available in the community by both staff and consumers. (Source: Focus Group Sessions and Violence Against Women Co-ordinating Committee (VAWCC))</li> <li>3. There is a need for more assistance for individuals and families looking for permanent housing (Source: Focus Group Session)</li> <li>4. There is a need to work with private landlords to try to change their negative attitudes towards renting to the “vulnerable population” (i.e. youth, women, homeless).</li> <li>5. There is a need for supportive accommodations specific for youth as a transitional phase to develop rental references might assist and serve to provide affordability with ability to move to more permanent after a 1 – 2 year term.</li> </ol>

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		<p>6. There is a need for housing aid and counseling for seniors. (Focus Group 2003)</p> <p>7. Housing needs are growing rapidly in York Region. There is an urgent need to address the affordable housing needs of the community.</p> <p>8. There is a need to look at the issues of sex trade workers and their unique needs as users of local shelters.</p>
<p><b>Food Banks and Food Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Banks</b> in the Region include: Aurora Food Pantry, Georgina Community Food Pantry, Markham Community Foodbank, Newmarket Food Pantry, Richmond Hill Community Foodbank, Whitchurch-Stouffville Foodbank, Vaughan Food Bank, Unionville Alliance Church, Bread of Life Food Bank- Cedarview community Church, Newmarket. In 2002, over 37,000 individual food packages were provided by the five York Region food banks submitting stats to York Region Food Network. During the first 6 months of 2003, an average of 3,300 individuals per month were assisted;44% were children. This figure for the demand for food banks is underestimated because there are a number of food banks that do not participate in the gathering of food bank statistics.</li> <li>• <b>Community Gardens- York Region Food Network Community Gardens.</b> Plots of land are available to grow food in Aurora, Markham and Newmarket – free of charge; 230 families participating</li> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth and Recreation Centre- Food Room Program</b> (food bank for Youth using services at the Centre) provides a basic food bank which is available Tuesday - Saturday from 4 – 9 pm. Currently being used twice weekly. The Newmarket Youth Centre also operates a weekly food program called Stone Soup. It serves approximately 12 to 36 youth per week on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach van</b> provides basic food to homeless, street involved and at-risk individuals.</li> </ul>	<p>1. There is a need to support volunteers that provide many of the food support services in York Region. Volunteer fatigue is a common issue that many community organizations must deal with. (Source: community agency)</p> <p>2. There is a need to improve accessibility and reduce barriers to food banks. For example, transportation needs to be improved, especially in the rural area, and assistance needs to be provided to those who have difficulty carrying the packages, especially seniors, those who are housebound and mothers with small children.</p> <p>3. There is a need to access perishable items such as dairy</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>St. Vincent De Paul Society</b> provides food vouchers for emergency situations.</li> <li>• <b>Salvation Army</b> provides food vouchers for emergency situations. The Salvation Army Newmarket has an Emergency Foodbank</li> <li>• <b>Women's Centre of York Region</b> provides a food room program for clients only.</li> <li>• <b>Pathways Home Base</b> provided 7900 meals to youth in 2002.</li> <li>• <b>School Nutrition Programs - York Region Food for Learning</b> provides support to York Region Schools with nutrition programs.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon</b> provides emergency food supplies for clients only.</li> <li>• <b>Gleaning – Fresh Food Partners Program</b> Allows people living on a limited income to pick fresh produce at no cost; <u>325 participants in 2002</u>.</li> <li>• Other organizations which provide food support include Second Harvest Program and Faith Groups.</li> <li>• Corporate donors provide food to all of these organizations.</li> </ul>	<p>and fresh fruits and vegetables.</p>
<p><b>Community Mental Health Agencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region</b> (Keswick, Newmarket, Markham, Aurora). Between April 2000 and March 2001, CMHA served 4,821 units in Aurora, 687 units in Markham and 734 units in Keswick.</li> <li>• <b>York Support Services Network</b> (region wide) includes case management, crisis response, and Community Support Network. In 2002/03, YSSN provided mental health case management to 497 adults with serious mental illness, as well as urgent response to an additional 177 persons. 310-COPE responded to 10,700 crisis calls.</li> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre (NYRC) in partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association</b> provides access to supportive counseling each Tues evening from 5:30 – 7:30 pm (casual as needed). NYRC also offers a youth facilitated support group call VENT on Wed. evenings from 6 – 9 pm. It sees an average of 12 youth each week.</li> <li>• <b>Family Life Centres</b> (Georgina, Markham, Richmond Hill-Newmarket-Bradford) serve individuals with mental health issues who are functioning in the community. The service addresses issues of stress related to work, living situations and family/relationship difficulties that often result from mental health difficulties. Assistance in areas such as parenting or coping with a life transition often helps</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for mental health programs that are accessible on a 24/7 basis, especially during crises. (Source: Task Force Report, Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>2. There is a need for mental health supports for women staying in shelters. (Source: Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>3. There is a need to train frontline workers across the Region on mental health and substance abuse issues. (Source: Community Planning Group)</li> <li>4. There is a need for more peer</li> </ol>

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	<p>individuals stabilize in their relationships and living situations. Also provided are referrals to and coordination with primary mental health treatment and advocacy on an individual case basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The York Region Alliance to End Homelessness</b> (through CMHA) received funding from the Region of York to provide education and training to frontline staff.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> has mental health workers reaching out to those on the streets to assist with linkages to services and provision of information.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services</b> (Region wide) provides Case Management, Housing Outreach, Homeless Initiative, Outreach Van and Residential programs.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> - about 30% of the 303 families that resided in Leeder Place in 2002 had mental health issues. About 80% of the occupants of the men's shelter have mental health and addiction issues. (Source: Shelter Study p. 8). About 55% of the 760 men staying in Porter Place in 2002 had some form of mental illness. This is an increase from 40% of 760 men in 2000.</li> <li>• Over half of the youth interviewed for <b>Home Base's</b> research study showed a high level of mental health symptoms.</li> <li>• About 40% of the 174 youth that resided in the <b>York Region Youth Shelter</b> in 2002 had mental health issues.</li> <li>• Other agencies which provide mental health services to homeless individuals or those at risk of homelessness include Mental Health Services of York Region, Krasman Centre (Richmond Hill), York Centre of Children, Youth, and Families (Richmond Hill), and Blue Hills Children &amp; Family Services (Aurora &amp; Newmarket), Kinark Child and Family Services (Georgina, Newmarket Markham and region-wide outreach), Southlake Crisis team.</li> <li>• Studies show that, on average, two percent of the population suffers from a serious mental illness. Based on April 2000 figures, this works out to approximately 14,400 people in York Region. Approximately 19% of the population suffers from a diagnosable mental disorder. With the continued increase in population the number of people with a serious mental illness or diagnosable mental disorder will continue to grow. There is a 3 year waiting list for case management and other long-term</li> </ul>	<p>Support, particularly in the Dom Hostels and the areas of the community where people are isolated by geography.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. There is a need for peer Support Case Managers who could work directly with Survivors who are at risk of Homelessness.</li> <li>6. There is a need for increased funding from MOH-LTC - Funding has not increased to meet the needs in York Region due to the population growth.</li> <li>7. There is a need for cultural sensitivity training for mental health workers.</li> </ol>

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	<p>mental health services. Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services does not have a waiting list for services.</p>	
<p><b>Addiction Treatment Centres</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Addiction Services for York Region</b> (Aurora) offer a range of services including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community treatment which encompasses: assessment, referrals, outpatient counselling for substance abuse (including family members)</li> <li>○ Counselling for problem gambling</li> <li>○ Early years program for pregnant women who use substances</li> <li>○ Community withdrawal management</li> <li>○ Youth substance abuse counselling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>York Region Health Services Needle Exchange Sites – Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van and peer exchangers</b> (Oak Ridges, Richmond Hill). The Needle Exchange Program opened in April 1999 and is presently exchanging 900 needles per month. The Outreach Van exchanged approx. 60 needles by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2003.</li> <li>• <b>Woodbridge Addiction Treatment Centre</b> offers Methadone Treatment (Vaughan)</li> <li>• Other agencies provide addiction treatment services include NOATC (Newmarket Ontario Addictions Treatment Centre – formerly Oak Ridges Methadone Clinic), the Vitanova Foundation (Woodbridge) and Addiction Services Home Withdrawal Program.</li> <li>• There are approximately 4,800 admissions per year to the various clinical substance abuse services provided by Simcoe York agencies. The Simcoe York District Health Council estimates the number of substance abuse disorders in Simcoe York at 36,463 in 1996. This number is expected to grow to 57,611 by 2011. Simcoe York has one of the lowest per capita funding levels for addictions services in Ontario. Per capita funding in Simcoe York is \$2.97 per person, compared with an average of \$6.12 per person in Ontario as a whole.</li> <li>• Approximately 70% of youth that use the Home Base Drop-in Centre have substance abuse problems (or 158 per month).</li> <li>• More than 20% of the youth surveyed at Home Base indicated they had a substance</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for a detox centre. (Source: Community Forum, Focus Group Session)</li> <li>2. There is a need for pre and post treatment centre for addictions. (Source: Focus Group Session)</li> <li>3. There is a need for outreach addiction services to shelters, youth centres as well as transportation to treatment programs. (Source: Simcoe York District Health Council, Focus Group Session)</li> <li>4. There is a need for increased access to clean needles by users</li> <li>5. There is a need for a treatment program for concurrent disorders (mental health addiction).</li> <li>6. There is a need for harm reduction programs for residential settings (i.e. wet shelter). (Source: Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>7. There is a need to improve transportation to and from various facilities offering services.</li> <li>8. There is a need to increase the</li> </ol>

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	<p>abuse problem. 20% also indicated their parents were frequently intoxicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 70-75% of the 760 men that stayed at Porter Place in 2002 are estimated to have addictions problems.</li> <li>• About 40% of the 65 families served by Leeder Place in 2002 had addictions problems.</li> <li>• About 75% of the 174 youth that resided in York Region Youth Shelter in 2002 were diagnosed with addiction issues. Many more were using substances.</li> </ul>	<p>availability of supportive counseling and access to Harm Reduction Model information for youth.</p> <p>9. There is a need for increased funding for substance abuse services to address the needs of the region's large geographic area and rapidly increasing population.</p>
<p><b>General Hospitals, Clinics, Family Doctors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> has public health nurses on staff for basic health needs.</li> <li>• <b>Markham Stouffville Hospital</b> (Markham)</li> <li>• <b>York Central Hospital</b> (Richmond Hill)</li> <li>• <b>South Lake Regional Health Centre</b> (Newmarket)</li> <li>• Outreach workers and the shelters have indicated that <i>most</i> homeless people are having difficulties obtaining medical attention in hospitals and from family doctors.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for better accessibility to health services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. In particular, there is a need to explore "street health" type services. (Source: Community agencies)</li> <li>2. There is a need to research models in larger urban areas to provide the required medical services to homeless individuals.</li> <li>3. There is a need to increase awareness and outreach to doctors and teaching hospitals to find ways to better serve the homeless population of York Region.</li> <li>4. There is a need for consistent access to medication and health care.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Employment Services</b></p>	<p>Traditional employment services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Career Foundation;</b></li> <li>• <b>Centre for Information and Community Services;</b></li> <li>• <b>COSTI-IIAS;</b></li> <li>• <b>Job Skills;</b></li> <li>• <b>Career Solutions;</b></li> <li>• <b>Neighbourhood Employment Resource Centre;</b></li> <li>• <b>HRDC</b></li> </ul> <p>Non-traditional employment services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newmarket Youth &amp; Recreation Centre in partnership with Job Skills and YMCA Employment Services</b> provides access each Tues (5 – 7 pm) &amp; Thurs (6 – 8 pm) weekly.</li> <li>• <b>HRDC Employment Assistance Service - Youth Employment Access Help Program (EAS) - June 2003 – June 2004</b> The EAS will provide Needs Determination Assessments to unemployed youth between the ages of 15 and 30 with significant barriers to employment.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region – Drop Zone</b> (Newmarket) All shelters receive assistance in job searchpage 24. TSHSYR provides the program to everyone in the shelters it operates. The shelters service people from all over York Region.</li> <li>• <b>HRDC Youth Outreach North/South at Region.</b></li> <li>• <b>Pathways For Children, Youth and Families of York Region (Richmond Hill).</b> Approximately 70% of youth using the <b>Home Base Drop-in Centre</b> receive assistance with resume preparation (approximately 158 per month). Youth can access resources on a more informal basis in a comfortable and non-threatening environment.</li> </ul>	<p>1. There is a need for non-traditional employment strategies and programs, especially for youth and people with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. (Source: Focus Group Sessions, discussions with community agencies)</p>

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<p><b>Life Skills Programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Life Education Group Programs</b> offered in Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Markham and Bradford provide a supportive environment for individuals to gain information, develop skills and engage in problem solving to cope with a particular difficulty or life situation (i.e. anger management, separation/divorce, parenting difficulties, couple communication)</li> <li>• <b>YSSN</b> case management programs offer life skills groups in the Newmarket and Sutton areas.</li> <li>• Other organizations which provide life skills programs include <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> (Newmarket), <b>Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region</b> (Keswick, Newmarket, Aurora, Markham), <b>Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region</b> (Markham) and <b>Krasman Centre</b> (Richmond Hill), <b>Rose of Sharon</b> (Newmarket)</li> <li>• Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services offers life skills training as part of its residential program.</li> <li>• Life skills programs are a large part of the services and supports provided by most drop-in centres and shelters. Separate statistics are not gathered for these programs specifically. However, it is interesting to note that the CMHA provided about 6,242 units of service in 2000; and TSHSYR provided services to about 1,120 people in 2000.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for more anger management and life skills programs for youth and others staying in shelters/drop-in centres and on the street. (Source: Focus Group Session, Community Agencies)</li> <li>2. There is a need to better understand the implications of the recent changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act and possibly increase funding in the community to deal with these new requirements.</li> <li>3. There is a need for targeted programs to assist the hard to employ (literacy, numeracy, budgeting). (Source Focus Group 2003)</li> <li>4. There is a need for alternative education opportunities for women. (Source Focus Group 2003)</li> <li>5. There is a need for services to help seniors navigate the health and social service systems (Focus Group 2003)</li> </ol>

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<b>Youth Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Life Centres</b> (Georgina, Markham Stouffville, Richmond Hill/Newmarket/Bradford) offer counseling for teens.</li> <li>• <b>Family Life Centres</b> (Richmond Hill-Newmarket-Bradford) offer the following services:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Groups for teens re: anger management with parallel parent groups</li> <li>○ School-based programs (elementary and high schools)</li> <li>○ Youth Violence Prevention Program for teens in conflict with the law</li> <li>○ Teen Anger Management Groups and Youth Animal Project for teens on probation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Family Life Centre</b> (Markham Stouffville) offers a Youth in Transition program.</li> <li>• <b>Markham Stouffville Hospital</b> offers a Youth in Transition Program to youth in the Markham area.</li> <li>• <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> (Newmarket) offer a Youth Shelter and Drop Zone.</li> <li>• <b>CMHA</b> provide services for eating disorders.</li> <li>• <b>Southlake</b> has 10 mental health crisis beds for youth.</li> <li>• <b>Early Years</b> (YCFC, Kinark, Blue Hills) have added a 0-6 Program which offers parenting groups and in home intensive support to families of children under the age of 6.</li> <li>• <b>York Central Hospital</b> (Richmond Hill) houses The Shaw Clinic: Mental Health Services for Youth.</li> <li>• <b>York Region Health Services</b> offers Sexual Health Clinics throughout the Region.</li> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services and York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b> - Approx. 50% Outreach Van clients are between ages of 16 – 24 yrs. in 2002.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for more information on the services required for homeless youth or those at risk of homelessness. <i>(Source: Focus Group Sessions and discussions with community agencies)</i></li> <li>2. There is a need to increase services for individuals leaving corrections institutions. <i>(Source: Statistics from Home Base and other community agencies)</i></li> <li>3. There is a need to provide access to services for youth on a more continuous and stable basis throughout the Region. <i>(Source: Focus Group Sessions)</i></li> <li>4. There is a need to address the waiting list for children and youth who require day treatment spots. Due to the demand for spaces the focus is on a time limited (usually one year) attendance in the programs. This presents a challenge, as it is often difficult to return the child to a school setting that can adequately support their needs.</li> <li>5. There is a need to increase</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other organizations which provide services to youth include <b>Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region</b> (Aurora, Newmarket, Keswick, Markham), <b>Kinark Child &amp; Family Services</b> (Keswick, Newmarket, Sutton West, Markham and Vaughan), <b>New Path Youth &amp; Family Counseling – South</b> (Cookstown), <b>Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region</b> (Markham), <b>York Centre for Children, Youth and Families</b> (Richmond Hill), <b>York Support Services Network – Crisis Line For Youth</b> (region wide), <b>AIDS Committee of York Region outreach</b>, <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support/LOFT Community Services</b> and <b>York Region Public Health Outreach Van</b>, <b>Blue Hills Children &amp; Family Services</b> (Aurora &amp; Newmarket), <b>York Region Youth Advisory Committee</b></li> <li>• About 37% of the region's population is under the age of 25, with 14 percent aged 15 to 24. By contrast, the Crosslinks study found that 54.4% of the identified homeless in York Region were under the age of 25.</li> <li>• The Addiction Research Foundation's 1992 study revealed that more than 70% of young people leave home for the streets because of physical and/or sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Approximately <b>66%</b> of youth that visit the Home Base Drop-in Centre have been in trouble with the law (approximately 113 per month)</li> </ul>	<p>funding for services for youth (16-25) who have an eating disorder.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. There is a need to better understand the needs of more marginalized youth by obtaining input directly from these youth.</li> <li>7. There is a need for funding for resources to operate the 10 beds which have been allocated to the Markham-Stouville hospital for youth in a mental health crisis.</li> <li>8. There is a need for services for female youth.</li> </ol>
<b>Services for Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Life Centres</b> (Georgina, Markham Stouffville, Richmond Hill-Newmarket-Bradford) provide individual and family counselling for women and their children who have experienced or are experiencing abuse and/or sexual assault. Many are remaining in abusive situations due to lack of affordable housing options. Many who have left are at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Emergency Shelter</b> served approximately 371 women and children in the 2002/2003 fiscal year. More female teens were coming to the shelter and women were staying longer. Approximately 383 women called for space, but were referred elsewhere because the shelter was full at the time.</li> <li>• The two women's shelters in the region are <b>Project Hostel/Yellow Brick House</b> (Aurora) and <b>Sandgate Women's Shelter</b> (Georgina). Many of the region's existing services for the homeless are not appropriate for women and children fleeing abusive situations because they need extra security and supportive counseling.</li> <li>• <b>Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers</b>, offers support to prenatal teens and young mothers under the age of 25 yr. Supports are provided through individual counseling, school and parenting programs, Child Development</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need to provide services to enhance the safety and security of women and children who have left or are leaving a violent situation (e.g. security, cameras, locks, mobile phones). (Source: VAWCC, Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>2. There is a need for more services for single women without children who are homeless for reasons other than abuse &amp; for adolescent women</li> </ol>

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	<p>Centre, food and clothing bank, ABC All Babies Count, mentoring Connections program and Second Step program which links to the Ontario Early Years Programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other organizations providing services to women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include Women's Centre of York Region (Aurora), Women's Sexual Assault Helpline, York Region Sexual Health Clinics, York Region Hospital Sexual Assault Center, Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee (VAWCC), Health Clinic.</li> </ul>	
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are no off Reserve Aboriginal organizations located in York Region. This makes it difficult to identify the unique needs of Aboriginal individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for the preparation of a needs assessment to determine the needs of Aboriginal individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in York Region. The assessment should identify the size of the issue, what type of supports and services are needed, the most appropriate manner to provide the supports, and the location.</li> </ol>
<b>Cultural Services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Yellow Brick House Counselling and Legal Support Services</b> provides counselling and legal support in various languages (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Punjabi, and Italian) to women who are in danger of becoming homeless due to abuse.</li> <li>3. <b>Yellow Brick House Transitional Support Program's</b> Translational Support Counselor provides services in various languages (Farsi, Dari, Turkish and English) to women in the southern part of York Region</li> <li>4. <b>United Way LED program</b> has 3 year funding to assist the South Asian community with ethno-racial dialogue.</li> <li>5. <b>Home Base Drop-in Centre</b> for youth noted that with the hiring of an Afro Canadian worker, there was a significant increase in Afro Canadian youth attending the drop-in centre.</li> <li>6. <b>Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region</b> found that in</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for staff working with the homeless or those at risk of homelessness to reflect the cultural diversity of the community. (Source: Community Agencies)</li> <li>2. There is a need for cultural sensitivity training for some staff working in the more than 30 agencies providing services and supports to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.</li> <li>3. There is a need for better</li> </ol>

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	<p>2002, 25% of the 760 who stayed in Porter Place were non-white. Also, while white Anglo Saxon remains the primary descriptor of Porter Place clients, the shelter is starting to house people from a range of cultures. Of the 303 families that stayed at Leeder Place in 2002, 15% were non white. Many more cultural issues have arisen over the past two years, primarily related to diet and child rearing. Informal networks to link services to mainstream have been established. About 7/1120 people served by TSHYR had significant cultural and language needs. Translation rarely a problem.</p> <p>7. About 5% of the 174 youth that resided in <b>York Region Youth Shelter</b> in 2002 were non-white.</p> <p>8. Other local agencies which provide aboriginal and cultural services include COSTI-IIAS (Markham, Richmond Hill, Woodbridge), York Region Neighbourhood Services Inc. (Aurora, Concord, Maple, Thornhill, Woodbridge), Catholic Community Services of York Region (Richmond Hill, Unionville, Thornhill), Centre for Information and Community Services of Ontario (Markham), Chinese Social Service Network and Italian Social Service Network.</p> <p>9. There are no off Reserve Aboriginal organizations located in York Region. This makes it difficult to identify the unique needs of Aboriginal individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>information on the causes and extent of homelessness and risk of homelessness in foreign-born individuals and visible minorities.</p>
<b>Shelter &amp; Housing</b>		
<b>Affordable/ rental housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are approximately 6098 subsidized rental housing units in a number of non-profit, co-operative and public housing projects across the region.</li> <li>• There are 250 rent supplement units in private rental buildings in various communities in the region. This is an increase of about 100 RGI units since 2001. Recently, several mental health agencies received approval for additional rent supplement units.</li> <li>• However, there are 5300 applicants on the waiting list for social housing as of August 2003. In addition, CMHC's 2002 rental survey found that York Region had the lowest vacancy rate in the GTA.</li> <li>• <b>York Region</b> has targeted to develop 100 affordable rental housing units per year and has a work plan in place. In addition, Council has agreed to participate in the new Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. York Region has been allocated</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for more affordable rental housing throughout the Region, including rooming housing, boarding houses, other small housing units and accessible housing. (Housing Directions Study, Social Housing Waiting List, Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>2. There is a need to address the particular difficulties experienced by people living in shelters to accessing subsidized housing and private</li> </ol>

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	<p>funding for 300 units under this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Blue Willow</b> in Vaughan is in partnership with the City of Vaughan to build a 60 unit – active living centre for seniors and disabled.</li> <li>• <b>Habitat For Humanity</b> has built two homes in the last few years.</li> <li>• About five new long term facilities have been built in York Region in the last two years. Some long-term care beds will have beds dedicated for rent-geared-to-income, thereby freeing up RGI units in the community..</li> <li>• A multi-purpose centre for youth was built in Sutton.</li> <li>• A Community group in Markham is working on an affordable home ownership scheme.</li> <li>• York Region held a forum with developers to encourage them to build affordable housing and a partnership of local agencies received a Trillium Grant to look at affordable housing (York Region Housing Forum).</li> <li>• Newmarket passed a second suite by-law</li> <li>• Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services has 100 beds through the Homeless Initiative and 20 beds through the Residential Program.</li> </ul>	<p>rental housing. (Source: Focus Group Session and VAWCC)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. There is need to educate landlord and homeowners who have a second suite.</li> <li>4. There is a need to work towards a more liberal approach to the provision of second suites in the nine local municipalities in York Region.</li> <li>5. There is a need to provide support to the community to access funding for more affordable housing. (Source: Task Force Report)</li> <li>6. There is a need for a coordinated approach by all three levels of government towards increasing the supply of affordable housing.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Homes for Special Care &amp; Domiciliary Hostels</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Homes for Special Care</b> –There are 19 homes with 540 beds. The following list breaks this number down by area and number of homes: Newmarket – 10 homes, Aurora – 1 home, Jackson's Point – 2 homes, Holland Landing – 3 homes, Keswick – 2 homes and Queensville – 1 home</li> <li>• <b>Domiciliary Hostels</b> – There are 7 homes with 270 beds. The following list breaks this number down by area and number of homes: Mount Albert – 1 home, Newmarket – 2 homes, Jackson's Point – 1 home, Keswick – 1 home, Sutton – 1 home and Queensville – 1 home</li> <li>• The vast majority of Homes for Special Care (HSC) and Domiciliary Hostels are at full capacity most days. Overall HSC and domiciliary hostels have low vacancies (less than 1%) at any given time, with the more desirable homes having waiting lists. (Source: Special Needs Housing Study)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a lack of the full range of support services and a discrepancy in funding required by the many residents with mental illness that reside in HSC/ domiciliary hostels. (Source: Special Needs Housing Study)</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Transitional Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Reta's Place – Second Stage Housing for Women and Children</b> (Aurora) provides short term housing to abused women and their children. Although the length of stay is supposed to be 6 months, the average length of stay is approximately 8 months. Reta's Place presently has a waiting list. The Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee identified the need for additional second stage housing for women leaving shelters.</li> <li>• <b>Pathways</b> (Markham) has 13 beds for Youth. Pathways' group home for youth housed 32 youth in 2000. There is currently a waiting list of 9 youth for the group home. There has been a huge increase in the number of young women in the Pathways program in the last year and young women currently comprise 80% of the resident population.</li> <li>• <b>Sandgate</b> has plans to open three (3) second stage apartment units for abused women in 2004.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for second stage housing specific to women experiencing violence. (Source: Task Force Report, Focus Group Sessions, VAWCC)</li> <li>2. There is a need for second stage housing for individuals leaving detox centres and leaving treatment programs. (Source: Focus Group Sessions)</li> <li>3. There is a need for transitional housing for individuals with mental illness and concurrent disorders. (Source: Community Forum)</li> <li>4. There is a need for additional funding for second stage facilities.</li> <li>5. There is a need for transitional housing for youth.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Supportive Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crosslinks Housing &amp; Support Services</b> has the following number of units in their respective categories:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residential – 20 units</li> <li>○ Homelessness initiative – 100 units.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Support Housing</b> (Richmond Hill) has 6 beds.</li> <li>• <b>Canadian Mental Health Association</b> (York Region) has 5 beds.</li> <li>• <b>AIDS Committee of York Region</b> is presently looking into supportive housing.</li> <li>• <b>CMHA</b> served 343 consumers in supportive housing in 2000/01 and has 112 people on their waiting list for supportive housing.</li> <li>• <b>New Tomorrow Rent Supplement program</b> has developed 7 rent supplement units. (100% Provincial funding)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a need for supportive housing for individuals who are addicted and actively using substances, mentally frail youth and others who have mental health issues. (Source: Focus Group Session)</li> <li>2. There is a need for more supportive housing for seniors, as there will be a significant demand for supportive and/or assisted housing for seniors in the coming decade. (Focus Group 2003)</li> <li>3. There is a need for supportive housing for people with AIDS</li> <li>4. There is a need to educate and work with landlords so that available rent supplement funding is used to its fullest.</li> <li>5. Although the agencies serving people with mental health problems have received some new supportive housing dollars, there is still a need for more supportive in York Region.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Emergency Shelters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sandgate Women's Shelter</b> currently operates 30 beds (an additional 20 beds from 2002). In 2002 Sandgate Women's Shelter served 197 Women and 203 Children. Between April 2000 and March 2001, Sandgate Women's Shelter turned away approximately 384 women and children for housing and/or counselling due to lack of space (or approximately 32 people per month). (Source Shelter Study p. 7)</li> <li>• <b>Yellow Brick House Shelter for Women</b> (Aurora) has 21 beds.</li> <li>• <b>Porter Place Men's Hostel</b> (East Gwillimbury) has 29 beds. In 2002 more than 760 single males stayed at Porter Place.</li> <li>• <b>Leeder Place Family Shelter</b> (East Gwillimbury) houses 5 families. An additional 10 family units are currently underway. In 2002, 303 families lived at Leeder Place</li> <li>• <b>York Region Youth Shelter</b> (Newmarket) has 10 beds. In 2002, 174 youth resided in the youth shelter</li> <li>• <b>Motel/Hotels</b> (throughout the Region) – There are 10 motels/hotels providing rooms as needed. York Region has increased the number of contracts it has with private motel owners from two to ten in the last two years. In 2000, 313 clients stayed in motels for a total of 797 days.</li> <li>• <b>Out of the Cold Program</b> (including shelter) offers shelter at the following locations: Temple Har Zion (Thornhill), St. Luke's Parish (Thornhill). Thornhill United Church (Thornhill), Richmond Hill United Church (Richmond Hill), Ja'Fari Islamic Temple (Richmond Hill), and Aurora United Church (Aurora)</li> <li>• Shelter operators indicate that they are consistently turning away individuals looking for emergency accommodation due to lack of space. In 1999, almost 400 women and their children were turned away from the two women's shelters in York Region. More than 150 people were turned away from the other emergency shelters in York Region in 1999. . Approximately 22 families per month are turned away from Leeder Place. Porter Place Men's Hostel 8/ week and York Region Youth Shelter 2/week. (Source Shelter Study 2001)</li> <li>• Days of housing provided in shelters in York Region increased from 19,258 in 1996 to 26,506 in 1999. In 2000, many shelters experienced a high rate of repeat stays (about 65% at Porter Place)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although 10 new beds have been created in the last two years, there is a need for 20 additional beds for women victims of violence in order to fill current demand (Source Shelter Study p. 5)</li> <li>2. Recent research has shown that there is a need for approximately 30 additional beds for youth, 15 for young men and 15 for young women. The funding for shelters should include access to transportation lines, provision of supports such as counselling, linkages to other supports such as substance abuse etc. (Source Shelter Study p. 6)</li> <li>3. There is a need for a shelter in the south of the Region.</li> <li>4. There is a need for transit to the shelters.</li> <li>5. There is a need to increase shelter capacity and shelter services across the Region.</li> <li>6. There is a need for the expansion of family shelter and for couples without children --- a total of 10 beds are needed. (Source Focus Group 2003)</li> </ol>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2002, a total of 2,255 individuals were turned away for emergency shelter at Porter Place, Leeder Place, and the York Region Youth Services.</li> <li>• Some of the communities that are represented among shelter users include: Italian, East Indian, Iranian, Chinese, South American, Southeast Asian. (Source: Shelter Study 2001).</li> </ul>	