

Monday, January 11, 2010

For Immediate Release

## The Regional Municipality of York purchases \$2.8 million in community services

**NEWMARKET** – York Regional Council, through the Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF), will fund 33 community service projects to assist low income and vulnerable residents of York Region in 2010. The projects, ranging from Employment supports, Family and Children’s services to Homelessness services, will receive a total of \$2.8 million.

“The services purchased by the Region under CDIF assist residents find and keep work, and provide families with options that allow parents to stay in the workforce and reduce child poverty,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Other services supported through this fund actively prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless or help those who are homeless re-establish themselves.”

Since 2003, the focus of the CDIF Strategy has been on purchasing high priority services from community agencies that provide programs and services which meet one or more of the three priority funding areas of child and family supports, homelessness prevention programs and employment supports.

“Many community-based agencies rely on CDIF to provide them with the funding necessary for the staffing and other resources needed to implement programs and services in the community,” said Town of Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair of the Region’s Community and Health Services Committee. “During this challenging economic time, now more than ever, these services are needed to support our most vulnerable residents.”

In 2008, approximately 50,000 residents benefited from services and programs purchased through CDIF, and service levels are expected to be the same for 2009.

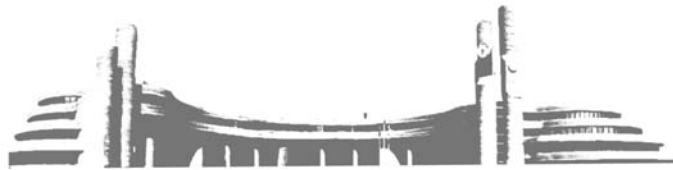
This year, more than 50 proposals for funding totalling almost \$6 million were submitted in response to the Region’s request for proposals. Each proposal was evaluated based on a range of established criteria, including the agency’s service delivery capability, effectiveness and track record of sound financial management and benefits in the priority areas. Examples of 2010 CDIF investments include:

- Citizens for Affordable Housing (System Navigation) – Provides assistance to York Region residents who are homeless or at risk for being homeless who do not meet eligibility criteria for the services of other agencies. This will prevent persons from falling through the cracks in the system.
- Jewish Vocational Services of Metropolitan Toronto (Action Towards Self Sufficiency and Employment) – A service that provides psychological and vocational assessments and action planning towards employment to individuals in housing need due to unemployment.
- Family Services of York Region (Families & Schools Together) – A project that delivers a number of eight-week sessions for low income families and recent immigrants to encourage participation in activities that strengthen the family bond as well as develop links between families, their schools and the community.

Please see the attached Media Backgrounder for a complete list of the 33 programs and services to be purchased in 2010 through CDIF and how residents will benefit from them.

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### CDIF Purchase of Service Projects 2010

**NEWMARKET** – Below is the complete list of the 33 programs and services to be purchased in 2010 through CDIF and how residents will benefit from them. For more information on these specific programs and services, please contact the organization directly.

Project/Service Name	Description	Funding Allocation
Blue Door Shelters – Child and Youth Support for New Leeder Family Shelter	Provide families in the Leeder Family Shelter with the supports they need to deal with serious upheavals in the lives of children and youth. Having Child and Youth Workers on-site will provide regular programming and allow families to address trauma-related issues faced by homeless children and youth and will also help families to negotiate local systems such as educational, community sports, and others.	\$89,500
Canadian Mental Health Association – York Region - Community Development Project	This project will build the capacity of Housing York Inc. communities. Using a community development and empowerment approach, provide training to identified leaders and facilitate both inter and intra community activities, creating an environment for positive change.	\$86,000
Citizens for Affordable Housing - System Navigation	Provide York Region residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and those with low or no income with help getting their needs met that are not being met by other service providers. These are individuals/families that ‘fall through the cracks’ as a result of not meeting the eligibility requirements/mandates of other social service agencies.	\$75,000
Community Alliance For York Region Education (CAYRE) – Early Learning & Parenting Supports	To provide services for low income families that improve the learning and social development of children and skills of parents. An Early Learning Specialist will provide monthly professional learning opportunities for staff from agencies delivering programs for young children to share with parents and will conduct site visits geared to the agencies and families at each multi-service site.	\$67,000
Community Alliance For York Region Education (CAYRE) – Slapshot	Provide 200 low income newcomer children age eight to 12 years old living in Markham and Vaughan with a six- week hockey program aimed at improving leadership skills, socialization, nutrition and health. On and off-ice activities in school gyms and arenas after school will give a unique experience that, due to financial or other family circumstances, they would not otherwise have.	\$57,500
Family Services York Region – Families & Schools Together	Bring together low income families, including recent immigrants, selected by local school personnel to participate in eight-week sessions of specific fun, research-based activities designed to systematically strengthen the family’s bond to each other, their school and the community.	\$78,875

Future Possibilities for Kids (FPK) Growing Leaders For Today and Beyond	Offers a six-month, outside of school program to deliver an increasing number of leadership and life skills development programs to approximately 270 children and youth (eight to 14 years of age) who live in underserved low income communities. Guided by adult volunteers, participants set "Goals of Contribution" that will benefit themselves and their community. The program also offers Run Kid Coaching workshops (to learn and socialize) for Parents to complement the Ready, Set, Goal! & Kid Council programs.	\$90,000
Georgina Trades Training Inc – Get S. E. T. for Employment	Provides residents who are recently laid-off, unemployed or underemployed literacy and numeracy assessment and upgrading, employability skills, job related certifications, basic computer skills and builds awareness of the job market through job site visits, tours and job shadowing.	\$52,656
Girls Incorporated of York Region – “Peersuasion”	Facilitates drop-in programs for 150 girls aged nine to 16 years outreaching to those from low income and minority backgrounds as well as girls with disabilities. The program will model healthy behaviour and help girls deal with the influences of peers, build communication skills, and learn to recognize and respond to stress in healthy ways.	\$15,840
Inn From the Cold Inc. – Winter Emergency	To continue with the emergency overnight shelter for the homeless four nights a week from December to March, plus nights when the temperature drops to minus 15 degrees or lower. The project will expand to include employment search support.	\$90,294
Jericho Youth Services – Bethany After School Program	Support for a 30-week, three day a week after school program at the Bethany Coop Housing complex for children aged six to 12.	\$12,648
Jewish Family & Child Service – The Family Resource Centre	A program that supports families by providing low income families, many of whom are newcomers, with culturally appropriate programs that reduce isolation, create linkages to the community, support parenting/care giving and provide accessible social, learning and recreational activities for children.	\$70,000
Jewish Family & Child Service – Youth Volunteer for Youth	An educational and recreational program that will engage high school and university newcomer students in supporting, leading and mentoring children and youth of newcomer and economically-challenged families.	\$16,000
Job Skills – Smart Start	A pre-employment project to help a minimum of 80 unemployed, low income residents of York Region to develop industry-specific skills and obtain certifications necessary to compete for employment in the food and drink or customer service sector.	\$167,108
Junior Achievement Of Central Ontario – Student Success In York Region	To deliver Junior Achievement programs to vulnerable middle school students in York Region to help them develop critical business and life skills.	\$65,000
Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto (JVS) Toronto – Action Towards Self Sufficiency and Employment	To offer psychological and vocational assessments and action planning towards employment to 18 individuals in core housing need due to unemployment.	\$100,264

Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto (JVS) Toronto - Learning Life Skills	Offer Ontario Works and low income clients with a significant history of barriers to employment who need life skills, an opportunity to address obstructive behaviours, create a set of priorities or short-term goals to work towards including attainable goals in relation to job searching and/or training.	\$102,958
Jewish Vocational Service of Metropolitan Toronto (JVS) Toronto – Youth Reach II	To assist 160 youth with a history of conflict with the law to overcome barriers and achieve employment and/or educational success.	\$159,728
Krasman Centre – Drop-In Support Worker	This program will provide practical support (with a focus on prevention) to people who use the drop-in centre and who are also homeless or at risk of homelessness.	\$36,000
Krasman Centre – ODSP Application Support Worker Program	The Application Support Worker will help people who are on the long-term Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) waiting list to navigate the system and its requirements and receive a decision concerning their application for the ODSP.	\$77,000
Learning Disabilities Association of York Region – “SOAR/Transitions”	Provide opportunities to at-risk youth 16 to 20 years of age to learn about learning disabilities, develop transitional skills, learning styles, strategies to use in everyday life and how to advocate for themselves.	\$26,400
Literacy Council York Simcoe – Skills for Employment	To provide literacy and essential skills upgrading, computer training and soft skills enhancement to improve the opportunity for under- and unemployed adult residents of York-Simcoe to gain or maintain employment.	\$59,000
Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold – Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold Program	To alleviate poverty and relieve the demand for shelter beds by providing emergency overnight shelter, meals, clothing, basic health care, harm reduction, and employment training services to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness during the winter season.	\$128,365
Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region – Home Base Youth Drop-In Centre	A youth drop-in centre in Richmond Hill that will provide services to approximately 1,200 homeless or at-risk youth by providing them with counselling, case management, employment services, housing services, social recreation, food, clothing, life skills, experiential learning, creative expression, and other resources.	\$330,000
Pathways for Children, Youth and Families of York Region – Housing Support Services	To provide Housing Supports to 100 homeless or at-risk York Region youth that will help them to secure housing. The project will provide assessments, coordinate community resources, negotiate with landlords, and help youth to secure financial resources for independent living.	\$77,796
Rehabilitation Foundation for the Disabled (Ontario March of Dimes) – The Grocery Store Project	To deliver an Employment Services program to 175 marginalized client groups in York Region while addressing the retention need of retail grocery sector employers. Participants will gain skills, knowledge, on-the-job experience and job placement assistance.	\$128,333

Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers – New Parenting and Personal Development Program	A project to provide parenting education and enhance skills of young mothers involved with the Children's Aid Society. It will also provide personal development and support to the target population, and provide counselling services to young mother's whose children have been apprehended. The project will benefit 30 clients and their children.	\$43,400
Social Services Network – Focus on Family Literacy	A two-part program for parents and grandparents in York Region's multicultural community delivered primarily by members of that community who will plan, deliver, and lead the family life education program which will improve the family's learning, social development and parenting skills.	\$65,000
Steps Society for Permanent Recovery – S.T.E.P.S. (Steps Training, Employment and Preparation Service)	Helps low income York Region residents who have dealt with their addiction to drugs and/or alcohol to overcome personal and emotional barriers, maintain their recovery and help prepare them to be able to choose a career and/or find employment.	\$136,750
Training Renewal Foundation – York Food Service Employment Training (YFET)	Provide skills training, team building and customer service to prepare Ontario Works and low income candidates for employment in the roadhouse cuisine and catering sectors of the foodservices industry. Participants are trained as line cooks, prep cooks, kitchen helpers, food servers and for future managerial positions.	\$47,425
Women's Centre of York Region – Bridging the Gap	This project will offer a variety of services to help low-income women bridge the gap between financial vulnerability and sustainability. The project will also provide short-term supports to meet family needs and also longer term resources to allow the development of sustainable livelihoods.	\$126,959
YMCA of Greater Toronto – PlayOn and Play IT Forward	This project will deliver two programs to a total of 160 children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PlayON after school recreation program for children six to 12 years of age in five social housing sites</li> <li>- The Play IT Forward program, delivered in four social housing locations to empower youth 13 to 18 years of age with leadership opportunities and sports skill training. Youth will then plan and deliver sports and recreational events for children in the community</li> </ul>	140,131
Youth Assisting Youth – Group Mentoring Project	A project that utilizes York Region Police volunteers and youth mentors to engage approximately 190 marginalized York Region youth in free, comprehensive group mentoring programs, providing them with a sense of belonging and moving them away from gangs, drugs and violence.	51,250
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,870,180</b>