

# YORK REGION COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

## ACTIVITY REPORT: PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FUNDED IN 2025

This document provides details about the community agencies and projects supported through York Region’s Community Investment Fund in 2025. As outlined in the Community Investment Fund Framework, some projects span multiple years. Community Investment Fund activity is guided by [program priorities](#) as approved by York Regional Council.

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
<b>Priority: Housing Stability</b>			
Projects funded to help residents find or keep stable housing.			
1	360 Kids Support Services	Landlord Engagement Specialist: Engage and connect landlords and property managers to prospective youth tenants and support landlord-tenant relationship to resolve issues and maintain tenancy.	87,093
2	Blue Door Support Services	Housing For All: Funding support for the development of an agency-led Affordable Housing Land Trust (securing of donated properties and housing units for use as community-owned affordable housing) and development of a vulnerable tenants handbook.	170,724
3	Canadian Centre for Housing Rights	Capacity Building and Education on the Right to Housing in York Region: Housing rights workshops and Region-specific housing rights resources for residents and front-line workers to assist low-income and equity-deserving individuals to stabilize their housing.	191,717
4	Canadian Centre for Housing Rights	Housing Access, Stabilization and Eviction Prevention: Legal information, advice, system navigation, and referrals to pro bono legal assistance for renters facing eviction and housing insecurity in York Region.	261,489
5	Community & Home Assistance for Seniors (CHATS)	Hoarding/Tenancy Risk Reduction: Support to low-income adults living with mental illness, specifically hoarding disorder, to achieve sustainable and positive behaviour change that reduces risk of housing loss.	94,060

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
6	Community Legal Clinic of York Region	Tenants Rights Education for Newcomers: Housing rights education to newcomer tenants.	50,000
7	Inn From the Cold Inc.	Housing Retention Program: Case management supports for residents with high risk of recidivism back into homelessness maintain housing retention.	96,062
8	Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto	Housing Program Worker: Housing assessment, case management, search/placement support, eviction prevention, stabilization, and referrals.	145,243
9	John Howard Society of York Region	Access to Home: Intervention, community reintegration, and intensive case management of precariously housed adults in York Region, with a focus on those involved with the justice system.	262,083
10	LOFT Community Services	Crosslinks Supported Eviction Prevention Pilot: Individualized and group-based life-enrichment supports tailored towards addressing challenges for tenants in social housing experiencing complex mental health and addiction challenges so that they can live sustainably and independently in their communities.	383,696
11	Midaynta Community Services	HomeSafe York: Culturally sensitive tenants' rights education and advocacy, information and system navigation, landlord engagement, and housing counseling and support.	443,066
12	Project Hostel (o/a Yellow Brick House)	Support for Survivors – Ensuring Housing Stability: Personalized consultations, ensuring ongoing support during the housing transition process, and securing long-term housing for those affected by domestic violence.	113,175
13	The Housing Help Centre	Eviction Prevention: Information dissemination to target populations, landlord-tenant mediation and settlements, and tenant rehousing supports.	212,949
14	The Housing Help Centre	Information and Case Management: Help for residents to find and maintain affordable housing and education on housing rights and responsibilities.	170,169

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
15	VHA Home HealthCare	Rebound and Reclaim: Comprehensive cleaning services and ongoing support to individuals with serious mental illness and/or physical disabilities, at-risk of eviction.	314,738
Total:			2,996,264
<b>Priority: Mental Well-being</b>			
Projects funded to help residents have positive mental health.			
1	Blue Door Support Services	Wellness Warriors: Psychotherapy support and wellness workshops to participants of Blue Door's Construct program.	105,594
2	Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe	Gender Affirming Health Clinic: Counselling, referrals, and support for residents who identify as transgender.	59,570
3	Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association	South and East Asian Mental Well-being Endeavors In Action: Engagement of caregivers and residents as volunteer Community Ambassadors to conduct culturally-appropriate and trauma-informed theatre performances to support positive mental health outcomes.	107,100
4	CAYR Community Connections	Rainbow Space for Youth: Mentorship and peer support program to provide supportive spaces for LGBTQ2S+ youth aged 13 to 20 to build resilience and reduce negative mental health impacts.	66,188
5	Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton	Community Counselling/Court Liaison: Counselling for marginalized women who are experiencing homelessness or in conflict with the law to support reintegration in the community and promote personal well-being.	50,543
6	Family Services York Region	Families and Schools Together: Supports for newcomer parents to strengthen parenting skills for academic performance, attendance and address behavioural issues with their children.	75,012
7	Family Services York Region	Mental Well-Being Outreach & Support Services: Culturally and linguistically appropriate counselling and mentorship for newcomers to address social and emotional issues.	69,555

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
8	Family Services York Region	Priority Counselling: Prioritized counselling services for residents from equity-seeking and marginalized populations who are currently waitlisted for services.	66,188
9	Girls Inc. of York Region	Improving Mental Health and Well-Being Outcomes for Vulnerable Girls Before and After COVID-19: Counselling sessions with a Social Worker and Psychotherapist for girls aged 6 to 18 from vulnerable and marginalized communities, and parents, wellness and safety checks by Social Workers, and assessments, referrals, and system navigation support.	57,411
10	Hong Fook Mental Health Association (o/a HF Care)	Asian Youth Mental Health Clinical Counselling: Counselling, psychoeducational groups, and community outreach to immigrant youth of Asian ethnicity aged 12 to 29, and their families.	66,188
11	Hong Fook Mental Health Association (o/a HF Care)	Strengthening Healthy Interconnected Families Together (SHIFT): Workshops for Asian youth aged 12 to 29 on mental health and mental illness signs and symptoms, development of a peer-support Youth Ambassador training curriculum with emphasis on developing self-expression, confidence, leadership skills, and mental health knowledge.	66,188
12	Human Endeavour	Information for Newcomer Families on Mental Health (INFORM): Culturally sensitive and linguistically accessible mental health promotion and prevention services, resources, and community engagement opportunities for newcomer families.	105,056
13	Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto	New Horizon: Supports to reduce social isolation and improve mental health for women impacted by intimate partner.	25,052
14	JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto	Newcomer Mental Health and Wellbeing: Culturally appropriate group services focused on mental health, parenting, psychoeducation, and settlement support for vulnerable newcomer communities.	57,414
15	John Howard Society of York Region	Family and Adult Intervention and Reunification (FAIR) Chances Initiative: Comprehensive wraparound supports (e.g., counselling	107,100

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		services, peer support, and system navigation) for families of individuals who were in contact with the criminal justice system.	
16	Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health	Peer Support Pathways to Wellbeing: Peer-based recovery education group services that will provide access to immediate support and mental health resources.	106,225
17	Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe	Strategies for Life: Counselling program for young people aged 19 to 29 to build life skills and enhance well-being of individuals with diagnosed learning disabilities and/or ADHD.	64,159
18	Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association	Black Community Mental Wellness - A Way Forward: Mental wellness support services (e.g., counselling services, cultural workshops, and recreational activities) that are focused on improving the mental health and well-being of the Black community.	106,012
19	Next Generation Arts	Health Empowerment and Arts Leverage: Art-based trauma-informed program that utilizes the power of the arts to engage youth in unpacking and processing feelings and experiences with grief, trauma, violence and mental health challenges.	65,654
20	Play Forever	Thrive Youth Program: Sports engagement, mental health support, and employment opportunities for youth.	90,000
21	Project Abraham	Reaching Yezidis - Support and Empowerment: Trauma-informed and culturally sensitive life management services for Yezidi newcomer women.	70,932
22	Project Hostel (o/a Yellow Brick House)	Pathways to Mental Health Support: Mental Health Counsellor to provide trauma training to staff and counselling for clients.	66,188
23	The Canadian Centre for Men and Families	Early Intervention Strategies for Youth: psychotherapy, life skills training, and employment readiness workshops for at-risk youth in York Region.	90,000
24	Women's Support Network of York Region	Meeting the Needs of Sexual Violence Survivors in York Region: Crisis online chat and texting service, counselling and outreach, virtual drop-in and art group for survivors of domestic violence.	99,754

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
25	Your Support Services Network	Outreach Mobile Support Team: Mental health crisis worker to provide accessible follow-up support to individuals and families who have contacted police services for a non-urgent mental health reason.	70,434
26	Youth Assisting Youth	The Lifeline Program: Mental health counselling for children and youth aged 6 to 15, their mentors (aged 16 to 29), and parents/caregivers and the development enhanced mental health training for youth mentors.	65,640
Total:			1,979,157
<b>Priority: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</b>			
Projects and initiatives that are responsive to the unique needs of York Region's diverse communities.			
1	Anishnabeg Outreach Employment and Training Inc.	Hope Begins Here: Community needs assessment led by a local Indigenous steering committee to explore the establishment of a healing centre in York Region	55,000
2	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation	Circle of Care Team: A mobile, Indigenous led wellness team will provide holistic mental health, addictions, and aftercare support across York Region, addressing critical service gaps through culturally grounded, wraparound care.-led wellness team will provide holistic mental health, addictions, and aftercare support across York Region, addressing critical service gaps through culturally grounded, wraparound care.	100,000
3	Odeiwin Foundation	Organizational Capacity & Community Wellbeing Initiative: Support key staffing and oversight to strengthen Odeiwin's infrastructure, evaluation, and partnerships, positioning the organization to sustainably deliver its cultural and land-based programming	50,000
4	South Asian and Tamil Women's Collective (flow-through ACSA Community Services)	Flourish Mentorship Program: Provide culturally responsive mentorship and career coaching for South Asian and Tamil youth, expanding hybrid mentorship and employer engagement.	90,000
Total:			295,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
<b>Priority: Food Security System Development</b>			
Projects and initiatives to improve food system access and strengthen the local food security system.			
1	Georgina Community Food Pantry	Recovery Efforts in Georgina: Support for residents affected by the spring 2025 ice storm by providing grocery gift cards to address food spoilage, reduce food insecurity, and promote community resilience.	5,000
2	York Region Food Network	Good Food Markets: Operation of place-based food markets providing access to healthy low-cost food to residents in need and creation of an up-to-date contact list of food system service providers, re-engagement of service providers via the Emergency Food Cluster Table and mapping of existing assets in the local food system.	31,566
Total:			36,566
<b>Priority: Organizational Development and Capacity Building</b>			
Projects and initiatives that support community agencies based in York Region to strengthen their ability to operate sustainably and deliver effective services to residents.			
1	Agincourt Community Services Association (o/a ACSA Community Services)	Update of internal health and safety policies and systems guided by Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion principles with an aim to improve staff recruitment, retention, and workplace safety.	42,500
2	Blue Door Support Services	Upgrade cloud-based financial system to enhance accountability, scalability, and service delivery across York Region.	42,330
3	CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors)	Establish a unified, data-driven strategy to standardize service delivery and improve reporting.	42,500
4	Georgina Community Food Pantry	Develop a unified, data-driven strategy to standardize services and enhance reporting to meet Food Banks Canada's certification standards.	10,455
5	Hong Fook Mental Health Association (o/a HF Care)	Enhance fundraising strategies and implement a new fundraising model through an assessment of the organization's current	42,500

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		fundraising systems and integration of culturally informed approaches to philanthropy within East and Southeast Asian communities to strengthen long-term sustainability.	
6	Jewish Family and Child Service of Greater Toronto	Develop a technology strategy to support improvements to the organization's case management system and overall service delivery.	42,500
7	JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto	Develop an agency-wide evaluation framework to enhance organizational planning, performance measurement, and evaluation capacity.	42,500
8	John Howard Society of York Region	Enhance on-site security, upgrade staff technology, and implement a staff survey to improve workplace culture and organizational effectiveness.	42,500
9	LOFT Community Services	Improve organizational evaluation practices by developing a consistent, research-based evaluation framework.	42,500
10	Midaynta Community Services	Strengthen operations through updated policy manuals, a risk management framework, enhanced board oversight, and improved financial reporting.	25,500
11	Play Forever	Develop fundraising strategies and strategic partnerships to explore a service-based revenue model that supports sustainable growth.	42,500
12	Project Hostel (o/a Yellow Brick House)	Develop a new strategic planning framework, a fund development audit, and upgrade to security systems to support a secure environment for clients and staff in shelter care.	42,500
13	Routes Connecting Communities Inc.	Enhance governance, leadership, and technology infrastructure, including the implementation of a new client management system and website redesign, to improve service delivery and support long-term sustainability.	42,500
14	Urban Change Lab Action Coalition (o/a Ontario for All)	Establishment of a York Region Nonprofit Network and related advocacy activities to strengthen sector collaboration and capacity.	36,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
15	Victim Services of York Region	Develop a fundraising strategic plan and conduct a comprehensive review of HR policies and practices.	42,075
16	Women's Support Network of York Region	Develop resource plan to improve fundraising strategies and activities and purchase software to strengthen communications and donor engagement.	42,479
Total:			623,839
<p><b>Priority: Other critical service and emergency needs, and needs identified in Regional human services plans</b></p> <p>Projects and initiatives that respond to needs of residents victimized by crime and human trafficking, funding for initiatives that advance the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region, and funding for community organizations to host events and activities that celebrated immigrant inclusive communities as part of York Region's inaugural Welcoming Week.</p>			
Responding to needs of residents victimized by crime and human trafficking			
1	Victim Services of York Region	Crisis Intervention and Human Trafficking Counselling: Supports for persons victimized by crime and tragic circumstance. Services include crisis intervention, counselling supports, practical assistance, and referrals to community resources.	464,100
2	Women's Support Network of York Region	Enhancing Youth Safety: Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Supporting Survivors: In partnership with Aura Freedom International this project provides individual counselling and prevention-focused education and workshops to diverse and marginalized youth of all genders aged 12-28 who are at risk of and affected by human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence.	209,458
Total:			673,558
Initiatives that advance the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region			
1	Agincourt Community Services Association (o/a ACSA Community Services)	Building Engagement, Advocacy, Collaboration, Outreach, and Navigation: BEACON aims to empower residents living in Markham with tools and knowledge for advocacy, service access, and systemic change, including a Right to Housing Framework, election	50,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		information, key housing and mental health policies, and strategies for engaging officials.	
2	Agincourt Community Services Association (o/a ACSA Community Services)	Community Action Table – South Central Markham: Funding to operate as a lead agency to bring together community partners to identify community risks, determine risk mitigation strategies, and provide insights to inform the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region.	140,569
3	Family Services of York Region	Community Action Table – South Central Richmond Hill: Funding to operate as a lead agency to bring together community partners to identify community risks, determine risk mitigation strategies, and provide insights to inform the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region.	140,569
4	Family Services of York Region	Community Cares: Leveraging a collaborative delivery model with local service providers and Community Ambassadors this project distributes food boxes and provides access to housing stability supports and other services to respond to food insecurity and housing instability needs of residents living in south-central Richmond Hill.	50,000
5	Routes Connecting Communities	Community Action Table – Northern Georgina: Funding to operate as a lead agency to bring together community partners to identify community risks, determine risk mitigation strategies, and provide insights to inform the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region.	140,569
6	Routes Connecting Communities	Community Action Table – Central Newmarket: Funding to operate as a lead agency to bring together community partners to identify community risks, determine risk mitigation strategies, and provide insights to inform the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region.	140,569
7	Routes Connecting Communities	Georgina Learning Café: The Georgina Learning Care will serve individuals under 30 years of age who are facing barriers to traditional employment opportunities with career exploration, economic opportunities, mentorship, skills development and training.	50,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
8	Routes Connecting Communities	Newmarket Heights Nourishing Homes: This project will establish a pay what you can farmers market and a Newmarket Heights housing association. Subject matter ambassadors (Newmarket Heights housing ambassadors) will work alongside residents who have housing issues to support them to find answers to their questions, share information and provide peer support through any housing infractions.	50,000
9	The Housing Help Centre	Improving Safety Outcomes for Female Victims of Violence: Culturally-responsive supports for youth experiencing domestic and family violence including outreach and access to counseling and legal/housing information.	90,000
Total:			852,276
Initiatives funded as part of York Region's inaugural Welcoming Week			
1	Catholic Community Services of York Region	Welcoming Week art exhibition featuring newcomer and immigrant artists to support integration, build community connections, and celebrate their cultural and economic contributions.	6,658
2	Centre for Immigrant and Community Services	Newcomer dodgeball tournament with community resource booths, offering a fun, low-barrier way for families to connect, access supports, and build a sense of belonging.	5,791
3	East Gwillimbury Public Library	Welcome Week event celebrating cultural diversity with performances, readings, food, traditional knowledge sharing, and information booths on local and regional services.	10,000
4	Newmarket Public Library	Multilingual library tours that connect newcomers with community resources and foster cross-cultural and social connections in a welcoming environment.	1,200
5	Social Enterprise for Canada	Multiple Welcome Week events that build inclusion and belonging by creating welcoming spaces for newcomers to connect, access community resources, and share their immigration journeys.	10,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
6	York University Markham Campus	Welcome Week event that connected newcomers, students, and employers through speed mentoring and networking to help internationally educated professionals build connections and strengthen their job search skills.	1,659
Total:			35,308

## TRANSIT ASSISTANCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

[Since 2014](#), the Community Investment Fund has been leveraged to provide community agencies located in York Region with York Region Transit fares to assist residents with transit access to obtain basic needs, employment and education, and community programs.

No.	Agency Name	Value of Transit Fares Provided (\$)
1	360 Kids Support Services	4,120
2	Anchor Canada	2,060
3	Blue Door Support Services	4,120
4	Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe	4,120
5	Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association	2,060
6	CAYR Community Connections	4,120
7	Centre for Immigrant and Community Services	4,120
8	Community Legal Clinic of York Region	4,120
9	Community Living Central York	3,296
10	Community Living York South	2,884
11	EFry Hope and Help for Women	824
12	Hong Fook Mental Health Association (o/a HF Care)	2,472
13	Human Endeavour Incorporation	4,120
14	Inn From the Cold Inc.	4,120
15	Jewish Russian Speaking Community of Toronto	4,120
16	JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) Toronto	824
17	Job Skills - Employment and Business Programs and Supports	2,884

No.	Agency Name	Value of Transit Fares Provided (\$)
18	John Howard Society of York Region	4,120
19	La Passerelle-I.D.E.	4,120
20	Learning Centre for Georgina	2,884
21	Midaynta Community Services	2,472
22	Next Generation Arts	4,120
23	Parents of Black Children Canada	4,120
24	Project Abraham	2,060
25	Project Hostel (o/a Yellow Brick House)	4,120
26	Routes Connecting Communities Inc	2,884
27	Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region Inc.	3,296
28	The Housing Help Centre	4,120
29	Victim Services of York Region	2,060
30	Welcoming Arms	4,120
31	Women's Centre of York Region	2,060
32	York Region Food Network	824
33	Your Support Services Network	1,648
34	Youth Assisting Youth	2,884
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>106,296</b>