



Community and Health Services Department
Office of the Commissioner

Memorandum

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner, Community and Health Services Department

Date: November 3, 2016

Re: **Community Investment Strategy - 2015 Activity Report**

In February 2013, Council approved the [Community Investment Strategy](#). The Strategy is designed to strengthen community services supporting low and moderate income York Region residents.

In providing funding to eligible community agencies that serve low and moderate income York Region residents, the Strategy enhances the expertise and resources of the non-profit sector and enables it to provide cost-effective services.

The implementation of the Community Investment Strategy in 2015 followed Council approval to fund 33 one-year projects and 19 multi-year projects totaling \$6,106,109

This report can be accessed through the following link: [2015 Funding Report](#).

During 2015, the Commissioner of Community and Health Services approved an additional \$115,489 of funding that had become available within the approved budget. This increased total 2015 funding to \$6,221,598.

Assistance was provided to approximately 60,000 residents in need

Through four Community Health projects, over 38,493 residents received services that included healthy breakfasts and snacks for students (which helped improve their academic achievement); community kitchens; nutrition education; and support for seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia. Accessing and distributing fresh food products from the Ontario Association of Food Banks to outlets serving low and moderate income residents enhanced the food security of residents.

Supports that helped 1,474 residents move towards or achieve economic independence were provided through 12 projects. The services provided by these projects included: hands-on-training, life skills and job search assistance. The unemployed, underemployed, youth at risk, recovering addicts and women benefitted from these projects.

Homeless residents or those at risk of homelessness received supports that helped move them towards housing stability. Sixteen projects provided a range of services to 9,462 residents. Residents were helped to find suitable, affordable housing, were provided with information about the housing market in York Region, received legal assistance when facing eviction and were provided emergency shelter during the winter.

Sixteen projects provided assistance and opportunities for 9,701 residents to become more socially integrated and included. Services included drop in, after school and recreational programs for youth, regular social activities for seniors, and counselling supports for newcomer families and young mothers.

Limited funding has also been made available to enhance organizational capacity

Also included in the 2015 Strategy were two organizational development projects that enhanced the capacity of community agencies and two innovation and collaboration projects for new initiatives. In addition, six professional development workshops were offered.

Projects funded by the Strategy in 2015 are listed in Attachment 1.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner of Community and Health
Services

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Attachment (1)

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**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|--|---|---|--------------|---|
| Projects Supporting Community Health | | | | |
| 1 | Alzheimer Society of York Region | A Brand New Day: A comprehensive day program provided respite care for family caregivers through structured and individualized mental health supports, as well as a recreational and social day care program for 1192 clients living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The service helped clients maintain or enhance their daily functions and provided them with relief. | 55,000 | Towns of Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville |
| 2 | LifeCorps International | LifeCorps Food Share: The project enhanced food security in York Region by collecting and delivering surplus healthy food to locations that serve low to moderate income residents. Approximately \$915,165 worth of food was donated to 39 agencies. | 106,000 | York Region |
| 3 | York Region Food for Learning | York Region Food for Learning: Inclusive access to nutritionally balanced snack and breakfast programs was provided to approximately 37,000 York Region students in priority schools through trained community volunteers. This helped improve academic performance as reported by teachers and school staff. Students were engaged as program volunteers. | 125,850 | York Region |
| 4 | York Region Food Network | Community Food Hub: The Community Food Hub delivered a range of programs, including the Good Food Box, Common Stock Lunches, Breakfast Drop-in, Reclamation, and Cooking in the Kitchen. The programs provided access to healthy local food, opportunities to develop food preparation skills, and volunteering opportunities for 609 individuals. | 67,217 | York Region |
| Projects Supporting Economic Independence | | | | |
| 5 | COSTI Immigrant Services | Life Success Strategies: The agency delivered an employment-based Life Success Strategies program to 125 low income individuals and Ontario Works recipients. Of the 82 participants that completed the program, 19 gained employment. | 99,800 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 6 | Georgina Trades Training Inc. | SET for Employment: The project was delivered to 36 recently laid off, unemployed or underemployed individuals and Ontario Works recipients. Participants gained skills, education, training and industry certification to improve employment chances. Eight participants secured and retained employment. | 85,610 | Town of East Gwillimbury, Georgina, and Newmarket |
| 7 | Inn from the Cold Inc. | Comprehensive Employment Program: A 12 week Comprehensive Employment Program with both classroom and hand-on skills training was delivered to low and moderate income residents with multiple barriers. The project had 18 participants of which 14 successfully completed the training. | 97,600 | York Region |
| 8 | Job Skills | Job Find Club for Internationally Trained Individuals: This project was delivered to 135 low to moderate income individuals and Ontario Works recipients with international training. The program trained clients in job search practices, employability skills, career planning and self-assessments, and provided job development and job retention supports. Forty-five individuals gained sustainable employment. | 145,652 | York Region |
| 9 | Job Skills | Smart Start Program: Through the Smart Start Program, the agency assessed delivered food/beverage and service sector specific skills training, certification and employability skills to 89 unemployed or underemployed individuals and Ontario Works recipients. The agency exceeded its target with 36 participants gaining employment. | 179,692 | York Region |
| 10 | JVS Toronto | YouthReach II: This project delivered pre-employment and one-on-one case management supports, employment counseling, and job development services to 132 moderate income youth between the ages of 15 and 30 with a history of conflict with the law. Thirty-five youth gained full-time employment. | 169,500 | York Region |
| 11 | Literacy Council York-Simcoe | Essential Skills Development Program: The project provided essential skills development opportunities such as computer training and employability skills to 316 low and moderate income individuals, including Ontario Works recipients. Individuals enhanced their skills in order to secure or improve employment opportunities and economic stability. | 84,600 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|--|---|--------------|-----------------|
| 12 | March Of Dimes Canada | Customer Service and Retail Training Program: The project provided training to 160 unemployed or underemployed low to moderate income individuals, including Ontario Works recipients. The program included job-specific skills training, employment placement and job retention supports in the customer service and retail industry. The project included job placement and retention supports. | 183,881 | York Region |
| 13 | STEPS to Recovery | STEPS Training Employment and Preparation Services: The agency delivered the S.T.E.P.S. Training Employment and Preparation Services program to 82 individuals and Ontario Works recipients in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction. Fifty-nine clients completed the program, 19 gained employment and 26 were assisted to pursue further education or training. | 159,594 | York Region |
| 14 | Vaughan Community Health Centre | Youth Life Skills Training Program: This project delivered 16 workshops to 96 low and moderate income youth between the ages of 16 and 24 to provide them with practical skills and knowledge to enhance their life skills and employability. Workshops included employment readiness training and industry certification training such as First Aid and CPR, Safe Food Handling, Cash Register and WHMIS. Participants stated that the training made them better prepared and more confident in seeking employment. | 22,432 | City of Vaughan |
| 15 | Women's Centre of York Region | Enterprising Careers: This project is a career exploration program that included individual action plans, supports and referrals to life skills programs, with the goal of assisting 232 low to moderate income women to become aware of their employment potential and job possibilities. Thirty-eight clients gained employment. | 119,375 | York Region |
| 16 | Youth Unlimited (Toronto YFC) | The Shop Employment Initiative: This social enterprise project mentored 53 unskilled youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 to assist them in developing work and life skills, and provided innovative on-the-job training and job placement opportunities. Ten youth participated in the social enterprise and 20 youth gained employment. | 93,840 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|--|--|---|--------------|----------------------|
| Projects Supporting Housing Stability | | | | |
| 17 | 360°Kids Support Services | Housing Support Services: A housing support worker provided youth identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness across York Region with housing support services that included assessments, life skills supports, information on community housing and other services, and housing search assistance. One hundred forty-seven youth were served and 44 obtained housing. Youth reported that their health, life skills, outlook, community knowledge and housing situation improved. | 78,800 | York Region |
| 18 | Blue Door Shelters | Community Housing Support Worker: The agency provided direct, individualized support to 981 homeless York Region residents at three shelters in the north part of the Region to assist them to obtain and maintain permanent housing in York Region. The project also increased clients' chances of successful tenancy by providing knowledge and awareness of tenant rights and responsibilities. | 162,650 | York Region |
| 19 | Blue Door Shelters | Intensive Case Management -Assisting People with Complex Needs: The agency provided intensive case management services to 390 low income clients with complex needs at three shelters in the north part of the Region. The project built individualized wrap-around supports and services to assist clients in becoming housing ready and to secure sustainable housing in the long-term. | 112,800 | York Region |
| 20 | Citizens for Affordable Housing | Housing Help Centre: 1570 residents used the centre's services and online housing directory of available affordable rental units in their housing search. The project also provided referrals to other services and programs. Sixty-eight residents found housing. | 136,310 | Northern York Region |
| 21 | Citizens for Affordable Housing | Identification Clinic: This project assisted 203 residents to receive replacement identification, which is necessary to access housing, banking and employment. | 204,230 | Northern York Region |
| 22 | Community Legal Clinic of York Region | Eviction Prevention Project: This agency provided housing retention services by assisting 188 low income tenants at risk of eviction to retain their housing. Clients received case management support and referrals to other appropriate services, including mental health supports. | 186,115 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|---|---|--------------|--------------|
| 23 | Inn from the Cold Inc. | Shelter Program: The agency provided seasonal emergency shelter and support services during the winter months to homeless men and women. The agency expanded service from 4.5 months to 5.5 months. 152 unique individuals accessed supports and 379 volunteers were recruited and trained. | 184,520 | York Region |
| 24 | Jewish Russian Community Centre | JRCC Furniture Depot: The JRCC Furniture Depot project provided gently used furniture free of charge to 325 households with 1,194 low and moderate income York Region residents. This service included working with individual and commercial donors, and partnering with 28 community agencies. Thirty families received free furniture delivery. | 128,000 | York Region |
| 25 | The Lance Krasman Centre for Community Mental Health | Application Support Worker: This project delivered non-clinical case management supports to assist 124 low and moderate residents on the Ontario Works pending list for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and other residents not on Ontario Works. Clients were assisted in navigating the complex ODSP application system. ODSP was granted to 39 clients, which significantly improved their income level and economic stability. | 77,000 | York Region |
| 26 | The Lance Krasman Centre for Community Mental Health | Prevention/Drop-in Worker: The program provided year-round drop-in services to 589 residents with mental health challenges who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Supports included social networking, counselling, referrals to community programs and employment, and basic needs. The Drop In Centre was accessed 7,634 times, and clients experienced increased social connectedness and improved health. | 48,433 | York Region |
| 27 | LOFT Community Services | LOFT Crosslinks Street Outreach and Services Network: The street outreach van operated throughout York Region seven days each week. It assisted individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless and may be coping with mental illness and/or addiction issues. Clients were provided with basic needs and opportunities to engage in changing their circumstances. The agency served 1,462 unique individuals. | 291,800 | York Region |

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| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|---|---|--------------|----------------------|
| 28 | Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold | Out of the Cold Program: The Out of the Cold Program provided seasonal emergency shelter beds, meals and support services from November to April to 494 individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The shelters are hosted by 12 faith communities and over 45 additional communities participate by providing volunteers and in-kind donations. | 280,429 | York Region |
| 29 | The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada - Sutton Youth Shelter | Employment and Educational Support Project: This project provided pre-employment support and an in-house educational program assisting 208 youth at the shelter with resumes, job searches and interviewing skills along with referrals to education and training programs. Thirty-eight youth found employment. | 108,700 | York Region |
| 30 | The Governing Council of the Salvation Army in Canada - Sutton Youth Shelter | Wrap-Around Housing and Community Supports: This project delivered a range of services to 46 youth who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Youth benefited from life skills workshops, basic needs, housing search assistance, advocacy and housing retention supports. Forty-three of the youth served gained affordable housing. | 121,600 | York Region |
| 31 | The Housing Help Centre (formerly Scarborough Housing Help Centre) | Information and Case Management: The project assisted 1,550 low and moderate income families to improve access to housing through its multi-lingual education workshops on tenant rights and responsibilities. The agency provided case management for clients in the search for housing process, matched tenants to potential landlords, and engaged and educated new landlords. Three hundred and thirty-nine clients were matched with landlords and found housing. | 86,700 | Southern York Region |
| 32 | Women's Centre of York Region | Stepping Stone: This project offered financial and life skills support to 164 low and moderate income women to increase their ability to sustain themselves and their families, reducing social isolation. Participants gained skills and knowledge to make decisions about their finances and to build and maintain healthy interpersonal relationships. | 151,000 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|---|---|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Projects Supporting Social Inclusion | | | | |
| 33 | 360°Kids Support Services | Home Base Richmond Hill: The Home Base youth drop in project provided basic needs, a range of support services such as counseling, life skills development, and referrals to other appropriate community services recreational activities geared to stabilize and build character traits and referrals to other appropriate community services in 689 homeless and at-risk York Region youth. Youth reported that they have more supports, have learnt new life skills, their overall health has improved, they feel better prepared for the job market and are more hopeful about their future. | 358,700 | York Region |
| 34 | 360°Kids Support Services | Home Base Vaughan: The project delivered support services to 497 youth from low and moderate income families in a rapidly growing neighbourhood. Services included basic needs, life skills development, nutrition and sexual health education, employment and educational supports, recreational activities and referrals to other appropriate community services. Youth learned new life skills, are more independent and stable, their overall health has improved, they can better handle difficult situations and are more hopeful about their future. | 91,120 | City of Vaughan |
| 35 | Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region | Valuing Diversity - York Region Inclusive Mentoring Project: The project provided mentoring programs and 30 engagement activities to 353 children ages 6 to 13 from low to moderate income families of diverse backgrounds. Both children and mentors are more actively involved in their community through attending community events and related group activities. | 75,000 | York Region |
| 36 | Catholic Community Services of York Region | Specialized Family Support Program: The agency delivered accessible, family centered counseling and group programs to 1,403 low and moderate income residents and families to help reduce their social and economic vulnerability and enhance personal and family well-being. Participants have gained a sense of community engagement that increased personal and family wellness. | 140,505 | York Region |

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| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|--|--|--------------|---|
| 37 | Character Community Foundation of York Region | Slap Shot Hockey Program for Newcomer Children: The Slap Shot Program provided an opportunity for 295 newcomer and low income children to become socially integrated into their community by participating in a team sport. The program expanded to two more schools with the support of 41 peer mentors. The program has provided opportunities to encourage physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices and to develop positive character attributes. | 99,290 | Cities of Markham and Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill |
| 38 | Dr Roz's Healing Place | The Vital Intervention Breakthrough & Empowerment Youth Program (V.I.B.E.): This holistic, inclusive and interactive program assisted 454 youth ages 10 to 19 from low to moderate income families in the Markham area to make positive and healthy life choices, set positive future goals and develop leadership skills. Participants reported a greater sense of self-esteem and increased social engagement. | 62,625 | City of Markham |
| 39 | Family Services of York Region | Counselling and Support Services for Low and Moderate Income Families: The agency provided culturally sensitive and language-specific outreach, counseling and support services for 402 individuals from low and moderate income families who have experienced violence, mental health challenges and transitional stressors. The project helped strengthen, educate and empower newcomers and victims of violence to promote inclusion and connect with community resources. Participants felt more positive, confident, and an increased connection to their community. | 83,500 | York Region |
| 40 | Family Services York Region | Families and Schools Together: This collaborative project included schools and community partners to engage 275 parents and children from low income families, including recent immigrants. Participants participated in fun, research-based activities aimed to strengthen families, empower parents and encourage participants to become actively involved in their community and neighbourhoods. | 89,942 | York Region |
| 41 | Future Possibilities for Kids | Connecting Kids and Communities: This project engaged, inspired and connected 458 children between the ages of 9 to 12 from low and moderate income families with leadership opportunities in their communities to enhance their self-esteem, community awareness and to create and achieve meaningful goals. Children had improved self-esteem, developed a clear sense of their place and value and became engaged as leaders in their communities. | 114,240 | Cities of Markham and Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|-----|---|---|--------------|--|
| 42 | Human Endeavour Incorporated | Multi Community Building Project: The agency provided a range of culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including health and wellness programs, to 785 low and moderate income South Asian and Tamil communities. Services encouraged the development of parenting skills, community participation and familiarization with education and support systems. Participants reported increased health and better knowledge of community resources. | 93,506 | Cities of Vaughan and Markham |
| 43 | Jericho Youth Services | Bethany and Jackson's Point After School Programs: The program provided 131 children ages 6 to 12 years old with a safe, engaging place to go after school five days per week and during PA Days. Children participated in recreational activities, gained positive social skills and relationships and provided homework support. This allowed 85 parents/guardians the opportunity to focus on personal health, family and employment. | 82,807 | Town of Georgina |
| 44 | Jewish Family and Child | The Family Resource Centre: The Centre offered a range of programs including pre-school drop-in, public health information, a conversation café and an after school program to 1,434 children from 909 culturally diverse low and moderate income families. Fifty-six youth participated in the Homework Club and 69 newcomer adults participated in the Conversation Café. | 94,710 | Cities of Markham and Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill, and Township of King |
| 45 | Learning Disabilities Association of York Region | SOAR Mindful Transitions: The project provided a variety of supports to 610 low and moderate income York Region residents aged 13 to 25 with Learning Disabilities (LD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to gain life and employment strategies that enhance their ability to make mindful decisions about their educational and vocational transitions. All high school participants reported learning new skills that enhanced their self-esteem in school and work. Families and educators reported a better understanding of their children's/students' needs. | 43,500 | York Region |
| 46 | Social Services Network for the York Region | Peer Mentorship Café: This project provided workshops, presentations and planned activities that supported 132 low and moderate income residents from diverse communities, encouraging seniors and baby boomers to engage in community life. | 84,800 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| No. | Agency Name | Project Name, Description and 2015 Achievements | Funding (\$) | Service Area |
|------------|--|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| 47 | York Region Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers | Parenting and Personal Development Program: The project provided a holistic approach to services for young mothers under 25 years old and their children. Parenting programs, drop-in programs, individual counseling, and skill development workshops were delivered to 438 young mothers and 246 children. The project contributed to community health including mental health, economic independence and housing stability, in a non-judgmental environment. | 212,000 | York Region |
| 48 | Youth Assisting Youth | The Peer Project One-to-One and Group Mentoring Program: The program offered mentoring services to 1099 at-risk youth between 6 to 15 years old using 91 youth volunteers as mentors. Youth developed skills and positive relationships to empower them as well as their families to make healthy life choices and have a positive role in their community. Parents/families reported positive changes in their children, such as increased self-confidence, improved social skills and better grades at school. | 54,050 | York Region |

**2015 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROJECTS
Activity Report**

| Organizational Development Projects | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|-----------------|
| 49 | 105 Gibson Centre | Enhancing Centre Potential: This project developed and implemented a strategic plan that will guide the new agency's growth and enhance its response to the economic and social inclusion needs of low to moderate income and newcomer residents in Markham. | 65,180 | York Region |
| 50 | Healthy Start, Healthy Future | Reducing Isolation in Newcomer Parents: This project developed and implemented a new multi-lingual program that connected 613 low and moderate income newcomer parents in Markham with resources, peer-to-peer mentorship, cross-cultural parenting programs and social events. The agency formed 20 new partnerships. | 46,750 | City of Markham |
| Innovation and Collaboration Projects | | | | |
| 51 | 360°Kids Support Services | STAY Supportive Transitional Apartments for Youth: A collaborative pilot project between 360 Kids, York Regional Police and the York Region Children's Aid Society that provided transitional support services for four young females who were rescued from the sex trafficking trade to assist their stabilization and rehabilitation. Youth were stabilized and resumed interaction with their families, with one youth serving in a program supporting other youth. | 77,743 | York Region |
| 52 | York Region Centre for Community Safety | Justice, Health and Social Service System Navigation: The program provided integrated case management and wrap-around supports to 388 low and moderate income residents that have experienced or have been impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence. Each client received a risk assessment and safety plan for themselves and their children. 96 per cent of clients reported that the integrated service met their needs. | 96,900 | York Region |
| Total of 52 projects | | | 6,221,598 | |