

YORK REGION COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

ACTIVITY REPORT: PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES FUNDED IN 2024

This document provides details about the community agencies, projects and funding allocations supported through York Region’s Community Investment Fund in 2024. Community Investment Fund activity is guided by [program priorities](#) as approved by York Regional Council.

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
Priority: Housing Stability			
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.	83,934
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.	156,249
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.	114,971
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.	156,673

1-877-464-9675
 TTY 1-866-512-6228
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No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
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.	88,166
6	Community Legal Clinic of York Region	Eviction Prevention Project: Legal supports for tenants with mental health challenges who were at risk of eviction.	378,464
7	Community Legal Clinic of York Region	Tenants Rights Education for Newcomers: Housing rights education to newcomer tenants.	45,000
8	Inn From the Cold Inc.	Housing Retention Program: Case management supports for residents with high risk of recidivism back into homelessness maintain housing retention.	75,125
9	Jewish Family and Child Services of Greater Toronto	Housing Program Worker: Housing assessment, case management, search/placement support, eviction prevention, stabilization, and referrals.	109,108
10	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.	205,814
11	Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health	Application Support Worker: Case management to guide residents through Ontario Disability Support Program application process.	139,620
12	Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health	Peer Support Outreach Program: Engagement activities, referrals to community resources, and assistance with housing needs and employment.	103,818
13	LOFT Community Services	Crosslinks Street Outreach: Mobile supports offered to residents dealing with homelessness, poverty, mental health and addictions issues. Harm reduction supports and supplies, sexual health education and referrals to other services.	410,751
14	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	309,465

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		health and addiction challenges so that they can live sustainably and independently in their communities.	
15	Midaynta Community Services	HomeSafe York: Culturally sensitive tenants' rights education and advocacy, information and system navigation, landlord engagement, and housing counseling and support.	361,687
16	The Housing Help Centre	Eviction Prevention: Information dissemination to target populations, landlord-tenant mediation and settlements, and tenant rehousing supports.	173,836
17	The Housing Help Centre	Information and Case Management: Help for residents to find and maintain affordable housing and education on housing rights and responsibilities.	207,212
18	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.	184,324
19	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.	67,143
Priority: Mental Well-being			
Projects funded to help residents to have positive mental health.			
20	Blue Door Support Services	Wellness Warriors: Psychotherapy support and wellness workshops to participants of Blue Door's Construct program.	165,851
21	Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe	Gender Affirming Health Clinic: Counselling, referrals, and support for residents who identify as transgender.	93,558
22	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.	183,208

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
23	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.	113,584
24	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.	79,380
25	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.	117,811
26	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.	109,240
27	Family Services York Region	Priority Counselling: Prioritized counselling services for residents from equity-seeking and marginalized populations who are currently waitlisted for services.	64,890
28	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.	99,120
29	Hong Fook Mental Health Association	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.	112,952
30	Hong Fook Mental Health Association	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	112,512

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		self-expression, confidence, leadership skills, and mental health knowledge.	
31	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.	164,994
32	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.	45,547
33	Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS)	Newcomer Mental Health and Wellbeing: Culturally appropriate group services focused on mental health, parenting, psychoeducation, and settlement support for vulnerable newcomer communities.	90,173
34	John Howard Society of York Region	Family and Adult Intervention and Reunification (FAIR) Chances Initiative: Comprehensive wraparound supports (e.g., counselling services, peer support, and system navigation) for families of individuals who were in contact with the criminal justice system.	176,208
35	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.	166,835
36	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.	126,566
37	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.	166,499
38	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.	115,625

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
39	Project Abraham	Reaching Yezidis - Support and Empowerment: Trauma-informed and culturally sensitive life management services for Yezidi newcomer women.	149,525
40	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.	161,671
41	Yellow Brick House	Pathways to Mental Health Support: Mental Health Counsellor to provide trauma training to staff and counselling for clients.	109,252
42	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.	103,404
43	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.	105,492
Priority: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion			
Projects and initiatives that are responsive to the unique needs of York Region's diverse communities.			
44	Odeiwin Foundation	Connect Community Cultural Program: A land-based program designed to foster community connections and collaborations, while promoting cultural revitalization and improved mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, with Indigenous ways-of-knowing. The program aims to provide a renewed sense of belonging and identity, an increase in cultural knowledge, language revitalization, and traditional teachings, strengthened community connections, and empowerment of future leadership for all participants.	30,000
Priority: Food Security System Development			
Projects and initiatives funded to improve food system access and strengthen the local food security system.			
45	Aurora Food Pantry	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire fresh produce, dairy products, and non-perishable items for residents in need.	36,692

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
46	East Gwillimbury Food Pantry (flow-through Town of East Gwillimbury)	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire promotional and other materials to support residents' food pantry access.	3,512
47	Georgina Community Food Pantry	Food Security System and Access: Funding to acquire equipment to enhance operational capacity of the food pantry and food items to stock pantry shelves for residents in needs.	28,786
48	King Township Food Bank	Food Security System and Access: Funding to acquire equipment to enhance the operational capacity of the food pantry and food items to stock pantry shelves for residents in needs.	30,000
49	Markham Food Bank	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire nutritious food for residents in need.	30,000
50	Newmarket Food Pantry	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire nutritious and culturally appropriate food for residents in need.	30,000
51	Richmond Hill Community Food Bank	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire culturally appropriate food (including Halal meats) to distribute to residents in need.	28,665
52	Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Food Bank	Food Security and Access: Funding to acquire equipment to enhance food bank operational capacity and food items for residents in needs.	30,000
53	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.	133,912
Priority: Other critical service and emergency needs Projects and initiatives funded that respond to needs of residents victimized by crime, tragic circumstance, and human trafficking, and funding for initiatives that advance the Community Safety and Well-being Plan for York Region.			
54	Victim Services of York Region	Crisis Intervention and Human Trafficking Counselling: Supports for persons victimized by crime and tragic circumstance. Services	455,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		include crisis intervention, counselling supports, practical assistance, and referrals to community resources.	
55	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.	104,730
56	York Region Centre for Community Safety	Intimate Partner Violence Campaign Support: Funding for the hiring of staff to answer phone calls during evening and weekend hours as part of a public awareness media campaign to recognize, prevent and report Intimate Partner Violence, in partnership with York Regional Police.	2,400
57	Agincourt Community Services Association	Benches 2 Bridges: Creation of intergenerational spaces where people of different ages can come together to promote social inclusion and access to community supports and resources for residents living in south-central Markham.	50,000
58	Agincourt Community Services Association	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.	139,813
59	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.	137,813
60	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	50,000

No.	Agency Name	Project Name and Description	Amount Funded (\$)
		supports and other services to respond to food insecurity and housing instability needs of residents living in south-central Richmond Hill.	
61	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.	137,813
62	Routes Connecting Communities	Community Action Table – 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.	137,813
63	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
64	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

COMMUNITY NEEDS INITIATIVES

Organizational Development and Capacity Building for Community Agencies is a priority area for the Community Investment Fund program. In 2024, a competitive call for applications process was held to support local not-for-profit organizations and registered charities with funding needs related to the purchase of small capital items, operational expenses, and supports for residents. Through this Community Needs funding opportunity the Community Investment Fund was able to support the capacity of local community agencies to be responsive to local needs by easing cost pressures and/or enhancing services delivery.

No.	Agency Name	Amount Funded (\$)
1	360 Kids Support Services	12,255
2	Aura Freedom International	10,000
3	Better Life for Seniors	16,700
4	Centre for New Immigrant Well-Being	12,430
5	Clarico Place of York Region Inc.	6,800
6	Elsbeth Heyworth Centre for Women	12,900
7	Evergreen Hospice	24,140
8	Future Leaders Club	7,500
9	Georgina Arts Council	2,840
10	Jewish Russian Speaking Community of Toronto	24,445
11	Learning Centre for Georgina	2,200
12	Learning Disabilities Association of York Simcoe	9,240
13	Living Water Counselling Centre	21,707
14	Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)	2,150
15	Markham Dynamic Wellness Seniors Club	9,816
16	Multicultural Exchange Association of Canada	3,955
17	Multicultural Organization for Promoting Music and Arts Education	18,500
18	New Canadian Community Centre	20,227
19	Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA)	17,410
20	Next Generation Arts	11,720
21	Nova Aurora Music and Performing Arts Group	18,000
22	Richmond Hill Community Food Bank	21,452
23	Shaanxi Association of Canada	10,000

No.	Agency Name	Amount Funded (\$)
24	Shine Through the Rain Foundation	2,554
25	Social Dance Senior Club	20,700
26	Toronto Cultural Mingle Association	25,000
27	The Markham/Stouffville Crisis Pregnancy Centre Inc.	25,000
28	The Salvation Army, Northridge Community Church	11,936
29	Unionville Alliance Church	25,000
30	United Hindus Federation of Canada	6,750
31	WA to Canada	4,845
32	Welcoming Arms	13,600
33	Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Food Bank	10,462
34	York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities	6,728
35	York Region Food Network	8,031

TRANSIT ASSISTANCE SUPPORT PROGRAM

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

No.	Agency Name	Amount Funded (\$)
1	360 Kids Support Services	1,200
2	Blue Door Support Services	6,000
3	Canadian Mental Health Association, York Region and South Simcoe	4,800
4	Catholic Community Service of York Region	2,800
5	CAYR Community Connections	3,200
6	Centre for Immigrant and Community Services	6,000
7	Centre francophone du Grand Toronto	15,600
8	Cherish Integrated Services	6,000
9	Community Family Services of Ontario	2,000
10	Community Living York South	2,400
11	Cornerstone to Recovery	800
12	Family Services York Region	1,200

No.	Agency Name	Amount Funded (\$)
13	Fengcao Arts Association	12,000
14	Inn From the Cold Inc.	6,800
15	Jewish Vocational Service Of Metropolitan Toronto	2,000
16	John Howard Society of York Region	2,800
17	Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health	2,000
18	Learning Centre for Georgina	3,600
19	Live & Let Live Foundation	6,000
20	Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA)	400
21	Next Generation Arts	4,000
22	Routes Connecting Communities	2,800
23	Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region Inc.	3,200
24	Toronto Cultural Mingle Association	8,00
25	The Salvation Army, Northridge Community Church	400
26	Welcoming Arms	20,000
27	Women's Centre of York Region	2,000
28	Yellow Brick House	6,000
29	York Region Centre for Community Safety	1,600
30	York Region Women's Foundation	800
31	Your Support Services Network	800
32	Youth Assisting Youth	2,800