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For Immediate Release

York Region invests \$1.1 million in community service projects for vulnerable residents

NEWMARKET – York Regional Council last week approved the disbursement of \$1.1 million to community agencies under its Community Development and Investment Funding (CDIF) Strategy for 17 community service projects in 2006.

Projects range from a community kitchen program that will help 150 low income women to a program that will assist homeless youth in making a successful transition from living on the street to permanent housing.

“Vulnerable individuals and families across York Region will benefit from this purchase of priority community services once again,” said Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “We are confident the service providers are best equipped to deliver these community programs and by monitoring the use of these dollars and the outcomes we achieve a very cost-efficient and effective way of supporting the needs of residents.”

Under its CDIF Strategy, York Region manages a number of community funding initiatives that provide services to York Region residents. These include the National Child Benefit, the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program and the Municipal Purchase of Service Fund.

Last year, approximately 30,000 residents received community services from programs that were purchased under the CDIF Strategy.

In late summer, York Region issued a Purchase of Service Request to purchase community-based services for 2006. Proposals were reviewed by an evaluation team comprised of staff from York Region, as well as funders from other levels of government and the not-for-profit sector.

“The CDIF Strategy provides sound accountability practices to disburse funds within the community through a transparent and equitable process,” said Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor, Chair of the Region’s Community Services and Housing Committee. “The participation of external funders also allowed initiatives that were not recommended for CDIF funding to be considered by other funding sources.”

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Selection was based on criteria set by Regional Council, provincial and federal funding sources, and focussed on the following priority areas:

- Employment Supports
- Family and Children Services
- Homelessness
- Capacity Building and Sustainability

Attached is a complete list of the community agencies and the 2006 community service projects that Regional Council has approved under the CDIF Strategy.

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For more information on the Regional Municipality of York and the services our Region offers, please visit our Web site at: www.york.ca

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Attachment – 2 pages

“Approved 2006 CDIF Purchase of Service Projects”

Approved 2006 CDIF Purchase of Service Projects

Agency Name	Services to be Purchased	Approved Funding (\$)
Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region	The Friends for Today, Leaders for Tomorrow project will provide an opportunity for volunteer teen mentors (16-18) from diverse community groups to participate in the In-School Mentoring Program with at-risk children from Performance Plus schools.	36,350
Canadian Red Cross, Region of York Branch	Two programs targeted to low-income families and those isolated by language and/or cultural barriers. 1) A program to provide skills in childcare for youth aged 11-15. 2) A ChildSafe Program for parents and caregivers of children to promote injury prevention.	17,540
Catholic Community Services of York Region - Focus on Fathers	Focus on Fathers - A project that provides multicultural parenting courses in several languages across York Region.	36,400
CMHA - Community Development Project	A project to strengthen communities identified by Housing York Inc., which need greater cohesion and growth by developing residents' abilities to support and help each other. The project will also help the community to sustain its own growth and development.	50,000
CMHA - ID Clinic	The ID Clinic works with individuals/families who are homeless and those with no or low income to obtain personal identification needed to get necessary services such as health care, income supports, employment supports, education, housing, food banks, opening a bank account and other services.	86,963
Job Skills Employment and Business Services	A project that will: 1) Provide low-income residents with a Return to Work plan and job search skills; and 2) Provide job search and family resources information to teenagers/young adults with families.	89,100
Loft Community Services - Crosslinks Housing & Support Service	A mobile outreach van to service the homeless, seriously mentally ill and/or street involved. The project focuses on homelessness outreach and provides potentially life-saving medical and clothing interventions.	135,000
Pathways Home base	A program that assists youth to make a successful transition from living on the street to permanent housing through delivering counselling, employment services, housing search assistance, social recreation, food, clothing, life skills and other resources.	225,000

Agency Name	Services to be Purchased	Approved Funding (\$)
Pathways Housing Support Worker	To maintain a support worker to assist youth to move from the street to permanent housing by providing assessments, coordination with community resources, negotiations with landlords and help to secure financial support for independent living.	15,000
RAINBOWS	Provides programs for pre-schoolers, children and youth who are at risk due to tragic, life-altering loss in their family.	42,000
Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Early Years	The Early Years Outreach Program links young mothers under age 25 to early years programs in their community. Uses strategies that are designed to best support young mothers.	40,000
Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Housing Outreach Worker	To keep a housing outreach worker to help young mothers secure and maintain safe affordable housing and to work with community organizations to address the issues of safe, affordable housing and homelessness. The project will also provide a depot with emergency supplies.	15,000
Training Renewal Foundation	Employment Assistance and Retention Network for Family Enrichment & Economic Renewal Program. Provides employment assistance for foreign-trained and unemployed people, including job retention, and social and educational support for clients and their families.	85,000
Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region (TSHSYR)	Individuals and families living in the homeless shelters and attending the programs operated by TSHSYR will be assisted to find housing in the community, and develop skills to retain their housing. The program also helps to address the issues that created homelessness for these clients and develops skills which will help them maintain housing.	124,000
York Professional Care & Education	Expansion of the After School Program (a program of planned and supervised activities for children in housing communities).	49,000
York Region Food For Learning Family Day Care Services	Provide breakfast, snack and/or emergency lunch programs to school children in need, and identify areas for expansion of this service.	45,000
York Region Food Network	The Community Kitchen will be available to an estimated 150 low income women in York Region who will learn new, economical and safe ways of cooking; will meet basic food needs through the provision of 2-3 days of nutritious food, for the participants and their families.	13,780

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