

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

For Immediate Release

## York Region to purchase \$3.6 million in social services from community-based agencies in 2009

*Low income and vulnerable residents assisted by investment in necessary social services*

**NEWMARKET** – To assist the working poor and other vulnerable residents throughout 2009, York Regional Council has approved the purchase of programs and services from community-based social services agencies under the Community Development and Investment Fund (CDIF) strategy. The Regional Municipality of York will invest \$3.6 million toward 45 projects provided by 33 community agencies.

"Every year over 35,000 residents from across York Region directly benefit from community services purchased through the CDIF Strategy," said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. "This new investment will do even more to help residents find and keep employment, reduce child poverty and prevent homelessness and it helps those who are homeless get back on their feet."

What is new this year is that some projects will receive annual funding, under a renewable funding stream of the CDIF strategy. This will ensure that key services are enhanced and achieve improved efficiencies. Consistent funding levels will also allow the agencies that deliver the services to attract and retain high calibre staff. Under this funding stream, 11 projects worth a total of \$1.4 million per year will be funded for up to three years beginning this month.

In addition, a total of 34 community service projects worth more than \$2.2 million will receive funding under the CDIF one-year project funding stream.

"The CDIF strategy addresses the causes and not the symptoms of some of the challenges faced by low income and vulnerable residents across the Region," said Town of Richmond Hill Regional Councillor Brenda Hogg, Chair of the Region's Community Services and Housing Committee. "These important community-based programs reduce the need for more costly social and community services at a later point in time."

In September, York Region invited community service agencies to propose services for 2009 under the three priority funding areas: homelessness programs, family and children's services and employment supports.

The services funded range from employment supports such as skills training and testing to housing support services that help young parents and the homeless to secure and maintain affordable housing. Other projects are designed to give children and youth positive role models through activities that include mentoring, counselling and goal-setting that develop important life skills.

Under the CDIF strategy, York Region manages community funding initiatives that include both provincial and regional funds. These are administered through CDIF to enhance efficiencies and optimise services to residents.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York and our services, please visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

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**Attachment – 6 pages, "CDIF Purchase of Service Projects for 2009"**

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## CDIF Purchase of Service Projects for 2009

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
<b>One Year Funding Projects</b>			
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York - Making Our BIG Family BIGGER	Create an electronic database and develop a communication strategy to re-engage with past participants to increase capacity to generate revenue, and increase volunteer base in order to increase services.	\$41,367
2	Blue Door Shelters - Development Co-ordination for Homeless Women's Shelter	Development of a model and preferred site/property on which to establish an emergency homeless shelter to serve single women in York Region and embark on steps to secure the chosen site.	47,600
3	Blue Door Shelters - Enhancement for the YR Youth Shelter	This project aims to improve service delivery with the creation of a functional and ergonomically efficient work environment providing privacy for homeless clients and improve the health and safety of staff. The Shelter serves about 200 homeless and at risk youth annually.	3,971
4	Blue Door Shelters - Service Delivery Improvement	To improve service delivery to homeless residents and those at risk of being homeless in York Region by building staff competencies through training to meet the changing needs of clients. To also develop a standardized performance management system to assist in the recruitment and retention of qualified staff. The agency serves over 1,000 clients annually.	48,000
5	Canadian Mental Health Association - Community Development Project	Using a community development model, the project will facilitate both inter- and intra-community activities in Housing York Inc. (HYI) to enhance residents' abilities to support each other and their communities, creating an environment for positive change. This project has been serving three HYI communities of about 765 residents.	86,000
6	Community Alliance for York Region Education - Co-ordinating Early Learning and 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. The coordination of early learning, child care and parenting programs in low income communities will be supported.	63,812
7	Community Alliance for York Region Education - SLAPSHOT	Provide low income, newcomer children 8 to 12 years old living in Markham with a 4 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 100 low income, newcomer children a unique experience and help link them and their families with the community.	40,900

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
8	Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women - South Asian Case Management Project	To connect low income South Asians living in Vaughan to existing individual and family services. This will reduce social isolation and help support integration into the community.	56,050
9	Family Services York Region - Families and Schools Together	Bring together low income families including recent immigrants, selected by local school personnel, to participate in 8 week sessions of specific, fun, research-based activities aimed at strengthening families, empowering parents and building supportive communities. The intent is to help children to succeed at home, at school, and in the community.	78,875
10	Future Possibilities Canada - Ready, Set, Goal	To deliver an increasing number of life skills & leadership development programs to York Region children & youth ages 8 to 14 from low income families attending Performance Plus schools. Future Possibilities for Kids (FPK) "KIDS" set & accomplish unique "Goals of Contribution" of benefit to themselves and their communities, guided by adult mentors.	80,000
11	Georgina Trades Training Inc.- Sector Specific Credentials to Gain Employment	A pilot project to provide an integrated systemic approach to employment credentials for people entering occupations in the motive power, construction and service sectors. This program will combine literacy/numeracy assessment and upgrading, developing employability skills, acquiring job-related certifications, developing basic computer skills and building awareness of the job market.	46,400
12	Girls Incorporated of York Region - Operation Smart	Improve child and youth outcomes by helping families with financial barriers gain access to the economic opportunities, formal and informal supports, and community-based services that they need to raise their children.	15,540
13	Inn From The Cold Inc - Inn from the Cold Inc	To continue with the emergency overnight shelter program, providing food, and clothing as needed. Continue to work with other housing support groups offering transitional housing and expand our program to include employment search support. The temporary shelter is open from December to March, 4 nights a week, plus nights when the temperature drops to -15 degrees or lower. This agency served approximately 780 homeless during the last winter.	58,638
14	Jewish Family & Child Service - Family Resource Centre	Strengthens families and reduces the depth of child poverty by providing low income families, many of whom are newcomers, with culturally appropriate programs that facilitate settlement, reduce isolation, create linkages to the community, support parenting/care giving and provide accessible social, learning and recreational activities for children. The project addresses service gaps and reduces overlap by collaborating with partnering agencies in the creation and delivery of programs.	60,000
15	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. Training for youth counsellors and tutors will occur. The program will take place at the Jewish Family & Child Family Resource Centre. The program will benefit approximately 205 persons.	16,000
16	Job Skills - New Beginnings for	To assist 80 unemployed or low income residents who are foreign-educated to develop the skills and abilities they need to compete for employment within the Canadian labour market. The project will help	130,000

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
	Newcomers	clients develop a return-to-work action plan, Essential Skills Assessment and training in job-specific English, Canadian Workplace Expectations and Norms, as well as a job placement and follow-up.	
17	Junior Achievement of Central Ontario York Region - Student Success in York Region	To deliver Junior Achievement programs Grade 7 'Dollars with Sense' and Grade 8 'Economics of Staying in School' to students of 60 middle schools in York Region to develop critical business and life skills.	65,000
18	JVS Toronto - YouthReach	To assist youth who are in conflict with the law to overcome barriers and achieve employment and/or educational success. Project will serve almost 100 youth.	95,760
19	Krasman Centre - Application Support Worker	This program will assist homeless individuals who are on the long-term Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) waiting list and those at risk of homelessness due to ODSP decision delays. The worker will provide practical and emotional support, service referral and system navigation to the homeless and those at risk due to their uncertain income support status.	75,000
20	Krasman Centre - Prevention/Drop-in Worker	To provide practical, [preventative] support to people who are accessing the drop-in centre and who identify as homeless or at-risk of homelessness. A worker will be recruited who has had personal experience with homelessness or immediate risk, and therefore this project also serves as employment.	34,500
21	Literacy Council York-Simcoe - Employment and Empowerment	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.	52,582
22	Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold/ Inn from the Cold Inc - Out of the Cold	To alleviate poverty in York Region and relieve the demand for shelter beds by providing emergency overnight shelter, meals, clothing, basic health care and harm reduction services to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness during the winter season, November to April, four nights per week. Seven York Region Faith-Based Communities in Thornhill, Vaughan and Markham are participating. 250 volunteers provided this service to over 1,200 individuals last season.	155,095
23	Rehabilitation for the Disabled/Ontario March of Dimes	To deliver an Employment Services program to marginalized client groups in York Region (i.e. Ontario Works recipients, persons with disabilities, new immigrants), while addressing the retention need of the Retail Grocery sector employers. The program will provide participants with skills, knowledge and on-the-job work experience, and job placement.	120,043
24	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter - YouthReach	To expand services to homeless and at-risk youth by offering workshops, training, life skills, access to computer lab and greater access to housing and employment support services. The Sutton Youth Shelter opened in March 2006 with 16 emergency and 10 transitional beds for youth between ages 16 and 24.	52,000
25	Skills for Change - Employment Preparation for Foreign Trained	Assist internationally trained accountants and bookkeepers to upgrade their technical and interpersonal skills, learn about Canadian work culture, labour market and job search strategies, certification and licensing process of their professions in Ontario, gain Canadian work	134,564

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
	Accountants and Bookkeepers	experience and obtain meaningful employment.	
26	The Cross-Cultural Community Services Association - Culinary Operations and Management Training	Provide job-specific skills training, as well as employment support, to 80 York Region residents that will enable them to find employment in the restaurant industry within four months of their completion of the training. Members of the Ontario Chinese Restaurants Association will hire all qualified graduates.	98,971
27	The Training Renewal Foundation - Coffee and Vending Employment	Provide pre-employment and skills training to prepare Ontario Works candidates for careers as Coffee and Vending Services Workers. In partnership with YR Community and Health Services, Alfa Cappuccino Imports, the Coffee and Vending Service Association and the Canadian Automatic Merchandising Association, qualified unemployed OW recipients will receive pre-employment preparation, theoretical and hands-on skills training, work experience placements and employment.	46,425
28	Women's Centre of York Region - Bridging the Gap	Identify and give practical supports that bridge the gaps in support between the community services and programs for women at risk of homelessness. The principles of this program are: a focus on women, an element of choice, a learning or knowledge-based component, and effective community partnerships.	94,983
29	YMCA of Greater Toronto - Expansion of YMCA After School program	Expand service from 3 days to 5 days in the after school program for children aged 6 to 12 years at Brayfield Manor, Mulock Gardens, and Ja'Fari Islamic Housing Cooperation. It will support parental employment while providing after school opportunities for children in a safe environment.	54,395
30	YMCA of Greater Toronto - PlayOn	Provide children and youth ages 6 to 16 years, living in low income cooperative housing communities, with the opportunity to participate in a recreational Drop-In Program, Try It You May Like It Skill Sessions, Character Development and YMCA Youth Leader Corp.	78,030
31	York Professional Care & Education - Communication Enhancement	To achieve more effective communication with families and the Region of York through Internet access at each child care site in York Region operated by the agency.	27,078
32	York Region Alliance to End Homelessness/Sage Centre - YRAEH Infrastructure Development	To enhance organizational infrastructure and sustainability of York Region Alliance to End Homelessness (YRAEH) to allow for a coordinated community response to homelessness in YR. The project will complete the YRAEH strategic planning process and write a business plan, develop a communications strategy, redesign the website and implement a formal membership strategy.	57,635
33	York Region Food Network - Co-ordinated Food Access	Coordinate food access for homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness by coordinating the efforts of agencies and groups that provide food services and procure additional food resources through solicitation and distribution of food and funds. This will be achieved through procuring food through existing and new channels, coordinating a stronger community response and working with partners to provide new food programs.	75,250
34	Youth Assisting Youth - York Region Group	Ensure prompt entry into a comprehensive, group-mentored recreation program for at-risk and newcomer children on Youth Assisting Youth's	50,700

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
	Mentoring Project	(YAY) waiting list for a one-to-one mentor. A focus on engaging these youth in positive activities at school and in the community will turn them away from gangs, drugs and violence and help them to stay out of the youth justice system.	
	<b>Total - 34 One Year Projects</b>		<b>\$2,241,164</b>
<b>Renewable Projects</b>			
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York - Mentoring across Ages and Cultures	Engage teens and seniors of all cultures as mentors across York Region focussing on unique community and cultural needs of low income and newcomer families.	\$52,101
2	Blue Door Shelters - Community Housing Support Worker	The objective of this project is to assist individuals, families and youth living in emergency homeless shelters and attending programs operated by this agency in their search to obtain and maintain housing in York Region.	174,000
3	Catholic Community Services of York Region - Multi-cultural Family Support Project	To provide affordable, culturally appropriate, brief, issue specific, multi modal family and parenting supports, with existing community networks, to help low income and new immigrant families meet their children's needs while maintaining work and school attendance.	109,850
4	Citizens for Affordable Housing/Housing Help Centre - Housing Help Centre	Assist individuals/families to find housing by providing them with a list of available units, making referrals to services and programs, and to provide information/education on housing topics. Landlords have an opportunity to list their units free of charge and to become educated and informed on the Tenant Protection Act.	108,081
5	Citizens for Affordable Housing/Housing Help Centre - ID Clinic	Provide Identification Clinics across York Region where staff works with individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and those with low or no income to get necessary identification to access services (e.g., housing, employment, financial resources) and make referrals for urgent needs.	206,701
6	Loft Crosslinks Housing & Support Service - York Region Street Outreach Program	The York Region Street Outreach Program will provide basic, potentially life saving mobile services to approximately 2,400 individuals in York Region that are homeless/at risk of becoming homeless, street involved and/or have mental illness. This project will also increase service to seven days/week and add consistent trips along the east-west corridor.	280,000
7	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Housing Support	The objective of this project is to provide young parents in York Region with the information and skills necessary to secure and maintain affordable housing and to problem solve practical solutions to these obstacles.	65,000
8	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Young	The objective of the project is two-fold: 1. To link young families to Young Parent programs offered by Rose of Sharon in early years locations in their community; 2. To give young mothers access to individual and group counselling, and self help training, to help support	134,396

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Description	Funding (\$)
	Families Outreach	them through the early transition to parenting. The project focuses on new immigrant mothers in York Region and young mothers in rural communities.	
9	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter - Employment and Educational Support Project	The objectives are to meet the essential employment and educational needs of homeless and at-risk youth ages 16 - 24 in our community. This program will include job-specific training and pre-employment support services as well as an in-house tutoring educational program. This will encourage independence, stability and contribution within the community. An estimated 600 to 700 cases are estimated for 2009.	83,500
10	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter - Housing & Community Supports	The objectives of this project are to offer life-skill programs and support to youth who have become homeless. By acquiring skills in obtaining and maintaining affordable, secure housing, the youth will begin to develop economic independence, self-confidence, and respect, and will become participating community members.	66,000
11	York Region Food For Learning/Family Day Care Centre - Food for Learning	This project will provide nutritionally balanced breakfasts and snacks to the students of York Region in an inclusive, non-stigmatizing environment, thereby enhancing their classroom learning as well as their social, mental and physical health.	120,371
	<b>Total - 11 Renewable Projects</b>		<b>\$1,400,000</b>

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