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For Immediate Release

The Regional Municipality of York purchases \$390,000 in social services from new and emerging community-based agencies

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York has successfully purchased \$390,000 of services for residents of York Region in 2010. Funded by the York Region New Agency Development Fund, these projects will be delivered by new social service agencies across York Region.

“The New Agency Development Fund helps new and emerging community-based social service agencies strengthen much needed programs and services,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Bill Fisch. “Supporting new agencies helps us to fill service gaps and meet the needs of a growing and diverse population.”

Newly-formed, not-for-profit or charitable agencies that deliver community services to York Region residents and meet eligibility criteria may be considered for annual funding. The eligibility criteria include the following priority areas:

- Homelessness services – Projects that help people find homes, prevent homelessness or help those who are in emergency shelters move to permanent housing
- Family and children strengthening – Projects that help prevent and reduce child poverty, promote steady employment or provide families and children with access to family-centred supports
- Employment supports – Projects that address barriers to employment and increase access to jobs for low income families in York Region
- Public health programs that complement Regional public health initiatives such as sexual health, healthy lifestyles and health protection

“It is difficult for new agencies to compete against established agencies for funding,” said Town of Markham Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair of the Region’s Community and Health Services Committee. “New agencies need this support as a critical component in the long-term sustainability of their emerging programs and services.”

Examples of some of the 2010 recommended projects include:

- **John Howard Society of York Region** – Provides homeless and housing supports to individuals in the criminal justice system and their families residing in York Region
- **Healthy Start Healthy Future** – The Life with a Baby program provides peer support to new families and helps to reduce the impact of post partum mood disorders through workshops, community events and online supports
- **York Region Youth Outreach** – The Youth Initiative Markham program provides a variety of affordable recreational and sports programming to local youth

What makes this program unique is that in addition to financial support, successful agencies also receive professional development. This enables them to be more efficient and also competitive in the marketplace. New agencies are also offered sessions on governance, law, human resources and capacity building in non-profit organizations.

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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Attachment: 2010 projects funded through the New Agency Development Fund