

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**REPORT NO. 5 OF THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY SERVICES,
HOUSING AND HEALTH SERVICES**

**For Consideration by
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
on December 14, 2006**

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT FUND STRATEGY REQUEST
FOR APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED 2007 PROJECTS**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council approve the community service projects (*see Attachment 1*) recommended for 2007 Purchase of Service (POS) contracts by the Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) Evaluation Committee.
2. The Region enter into POS contracts with successful applicants as recommended by the Evaluation Committee, after due diligence verifications are completed, subject to review by Legal Services.
3. The Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services be authorized to allocate any new or related CDIF funds that may become available during the course of 2007 within the framework of provincial guidelines, the Community Funding Strategy, and Vision 2026.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request approval for the purchase of service for community services projects recommended through the Region's CDIF POS process. These projects will result in a variety of priority community services to vulnerable residents across York Region.

Also, as in past years, this report seeks approval to receive and allocate new CDIF funding that may become available during the course of 2007 in accordance with provincial guidelines and the Regional Council approved CDIF Strategy. These funds tend to be either one-time 100% provincial dollars to be used in community service initiatives or current budget allocations set aside for CDIF. Normally, provincial funding of this nature must be returned to the Province, if it is not spent by the end of the year.

3. BACKGROUND

The Community Services and Housing Department has the provincial and regional mandate to manage a number of municipal and provincial funding initiatives that provide much needed community services for residents of York Region. These funds include the National Child Benefit, the Provincial Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program and the Municipal Purchase of Service Funds, and the criteria attached to these funds mirrors the mandate of the Community Service and Housing Department.

On April 18, 2002, Council approved the CDIF Strategy (Clause 1 of Report 4 of the Community Services and Housing Committee) that established a framework and process within which the Community Services and Housing Department plans, manages, and funds the purchase of community-based services, and within which accountability criteria and practices were established. Prior to the CDIF Strategy, each funding initiative was managed independently, with different processes and timelines.

The approved CDIF Strategy outlines eligibility criteria and provides the framework for a fair, equitable and transparent process to purchase, distribute and manage these funds across the community. The Community Initiatives portion of the Strategy is implemented through an annual POS process that invites project proposals to be submitted from the community to the Region.

Since the Strategy was introduced, it has become evident that purchasing priority community services from those agencies that are best equipped to deliver them is a cost-efficient and effective way of supporting the needs of York Region residents.

The implementation and effectiveness of the CDIF Strategy is reviewed each year to promote continuous improvement of this initiative and since the first proposal call in 2003 this process has been enhanced and made more appropriate for purchasing services from community social services agencies. This process is administered under the auspices

of the Region's Supplies and Services Branch and contains the elements of the municipal purchasing process but is made more user-friendly for small community service agencies by reducing the paperwork required for submitting proposals.

This is the fourth year of implementing what has proven to be a very successful community investment strategy.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 CDIF Implementation for 2007

Using the criteria and processes set out by Regional Council in 2002, the Region invited community agencies to submit project proposals to be funded in 2007. As in past years, this was done through a POS request process. The POS request documents were reviewed by the Legal Services Branch and released by the Supplies and Services Branch on September 14, 2006. The POS request closed on November 2, 2006.

4.1.1 Available Funding and Priority Funding Areas

When the POS documents were released, available funding for 2007 was estimated to be in the \$800,000 to \$1.0 million range, subject to provincial funding limitations and restrictions. Actual funding for community initiatives has been confirmed at a total of just over \$1.5 million.

The funding available under the Strategy comes to the Region from the province with pre-determined criteria and conditions attached. Regional allocations also have attendant funding criteria established by Regional Council.

Based on the criteria and conditions established by the funding sources, Regional Council's directives and criteria, and the Community Services and Housing Department's mandate and objectives, the following priority funding areas were identified for the 2007 community initiatives:

- Homelessness Programs
- Family and Children's Services
- Employment Supports

Within each of these three priority funding areas, community agencies were also given the option of proposing projects that established services in areas with low populations, or addressed capacity building for agencies in the community service sector.

4.1.2 The Purchase of Service (POS) Request Process

Community agencies were invited to submit their proposals for the delivery of priority community services in 2007.

A communications plan was developed and implemented to make as many community agencies as possible aware of the POS Request.

The community was informed of the POS through the following activities:

- Information was posted on the home page of the Region's website under the *What's New* section.
- An announcement was sent by email to community agencies currently operating in York Region.
- Three separate newspaper advertisements were placed in all York Region Newspaper Group publications.
- A Public Service Announcement was also issued to the media.

In addition to these activities, an information session was held, jointly hosted by the Community Services and Housing Department and the Supplies and Services Branch on Thursday October 5, 2006. The goal of the session was to answer questions from community agencies with regard to the POS process, CDIF eligibility criteria, the priority areas for funding, the application process, and submission requirements. The answers provided at the Information Session were shared with all POS applicants – whether they attended this session or not – to maintain an open process and a level playing field.

4.1.3 Proposal Evaluation and Selection

The eligible proposals are evaluated by Community Services and Housing Department Directors and external funders from other levels of government and the not-for-profit sector. Proposals are scored based on the criteria established by Regional Council including:

- Agency effectiveness.
- Agency financial management.
- Agency capacity.
- Project benefits in the priority areas.
- Project methodology and activities.
- Project costs and budget.
- Project/program sustainability.

Given the funding criteria, evaluators also seek to:

1. Identify projects that focus on the clients that the Department is mandated to serve in each of the priority areas (Homelessness Programs, Family and Children's Services and Employment Supports).
2. Avoid project and service duplication.
3. Provide services to residents throughout York Region.

The Supplies and Services Branch facilitates the evaluation and selection process.

In all, 32 proposals were considered by the Evaluation Committee for funding in 2007. These proposals met the CDIF criteria and priority funding areas outlined in the Purchase of Service document. The total amount requested through these proposals was just over \$2.7 million. The amount available to purchase community services was just over \$1.5 million.

Twenty-four projects are being recommended (outlined in *Attachment 1*) for a total value of \$1,521,671. This approval is subject to due diligence verifications with individual agencies. On approval from Regional Council, the Community Services and Housing Department will enter into negotiations with the successful agencies to develop contracts to outline how the programs and services that are being purchased will be delivered across the Region.

During the negotiation process Regional staff will verify each agency's representations contained in its proposals and also ensure that approved amounts and all agreed services and funding conditions reflect the decisions of the Evaluation Committee.

CDIF funding will be available to approved projects to allow their implementation between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. All agencies will be monitored and evaluated by Regional staff throughout the implementation of their POS agreements.

4.2 Community Funding Activity Report

As required by the CDIF Strategy, a report to Regional Council outlining the outcomes of the projects implemented between January and December 2007 will be submitted in early 2008.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under this 2007 CDIF POS Request the total of \$1,521,671 allocated to project funding, is managed within the current budget allocations set aside for each fund contained within the Strategy. The majority of this funding is provided by provincial sources for the Community Services and Housing Department to manage as part of its service system management function.

The CDIF Strategy establishes sound accountability practices to purchase services within the community through a transparent and equitable process. The implementation of the Strategy is managed within the current approved staffing levels for the Department. The benefits to the community of bringing these much needed service dollars into York Region in an effectively managed way are far reaching and long-term.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

In 2005, well over 30,000 York Region residents from all municipalities directly benefited from the services purchased and delivered under the Strategy.

As in past years, the community initiatives generated by the 2007 CDIF Strategy will provide the Region's most vulnerable residents with needed community social services to support families and children, prevent homelessness and provide important employment supports. These services will be directed to residents in all nine area municipalities, and are expected to bring measurable benefits to York Region as a whole. One of the successes of the CDIF strategy is the ability to purchase important services from different agencies so that they are available for residents across the Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The Council-approved CDIF Strategy allows the Region to plan, manage, and fund, the purchase of community-based services in York Region, in a way that ensures that both the process and the results are responsive, accountable, fair, and equitable. This is the fourth year of implementing what has proven to be a very successful community investment strategy.

Experience to date has shown that using this funding to strategically purchase greatly needed community services from those who are best equipped to deliver them, and monitoring the use of these dollars, continues to be a very cost-efficient and effective way of supporting the needs of residents.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)

Respectfully submitted,

**December 14, 2006
Newmarket, Ontario**

**J. Simmons
Commissioner of Community
Services, Housing and
Health Services**

(Report No. 5 of the Commissioner of Community Services, Housing and Health Services was adopted, without amendment, by Regional Council at its meeting held on December 14, 2006.)

Recommended 2007 CDIF Purchase of Service Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Area in which Services are to be Purchased	Recommended Funding (\$)	Service Location
1	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York <i>Empower the Kids, Empower the Community</i>	A project to help reduce the depth of child poverty by providing an estimated 90 children from low income families access to experiences and opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to them because of financial barriers. The programs build resilience in children at risk because of their family circumstances, and help them to cope with what life throws at them. Early intervention through mentoring relationships increases a child's potential for success.	48,250	Keswick
2	Canadian Mental Health Association York Region <i>Community Development Project</i>	A project that assists residents at three York Region social housing communities to become more organized and work together to overcome a variety of significant problems and move towards a more cohesive community - important prerequisites for the development of strong families and the reduction of child poverty. The project will increase youth involvement, strengthen the resident planning committee and pursue fundraising to sustain the project.	50,000	York Region
3	Canadian Mental Health Association York Region <i>Identification Clinic</i>	The objective of this project is to provide identification clinics where staff work with individuals who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless and those with no or low income to obtain necessary personal identification to access services, find employment and to facilitate referrals for urgent needs.	100,000	York Region
4	Catholic Community Services of York Region <i>Focus on Fathers Multicultural Parenting Programs II</i>	The project will provide multicultural parenting courses in several languages across York Region. In addition, the project will increase the number of languages in which resources are available.	55,868	York Region
5	Future Possibilities Canada <i>Ready, Set, Goal! & Kid Council</i>	The objective of this project is to provide life skills and leadership development programs to children and youth ages 8-15 from diverse, underserved communities (performance plus schools) in York Region. The project targets 70 youth participants and 100 mentors, each of whom will pursue activities that provide benefits to their local communities.	31,235	Markham, Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Aurora, Vaughan, Newmarket, Unionville
6	INN From the Cold Inc. <i>INN from the Cold</i>	Conducting outreach and direct services to the homeless, including helping people to get off the streets.	25,080	York Region's northern section

Regional Council Attachment 1

No.	Agency and Project Name	Area in which Services are to be Purchased	Recommended Funding (\$)	Service Location
7	Jewish Family and Child Service <i>Youth Volunteer for Youth</i>	The objective of the Youth Volunteer for Youth project is to establish an educational and recreational program (based on a scouting model) 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 project will benefit 120 children plus counsellors, students and tutors.	15,000	York Region
8	Jewish Family and Child Service <i>School Social Worker</i>	The project will expand and develop partnering arrangements for culturally appropriate diversity services to low income newcomer and high needs families. The project will provide clinical early intervention services that meet the needs of students at risk and their families. The project will provide an additional 14 hours of service per week in three schools to an estimated 1,000 clients.	33,740	York Region stated on proposal (All schools located in Vaughan)
9	Jewish Family and Child Services <i>The Family Resource Centre Enhancement Project</i>	To increase outreach and drop-in programs to respond to the growing number of young families in the Bathurst corridor. The project will address needs of new immigrants, single parents and low income families and those with special needs. The program will address an estimated 20% increase in the drop-in program and additional clients in other program areas.	56,630	York Region
10	Job Skills <i>Job Track PLUS</i>	A project to provide unemployed low-income residents with a Return to Work Action Plan to identify and overcome their barriers to employment and be better equipped to find employment. Throughout the structured group program, a strong emphasis will be placed on job search computer skills and individual job counselling. Participants will develop strengthened job searching skills and maximize practical techniques to carry out an independent job search and find employment.	100,000	Keswick, Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan
11	Literacy Council York-Simcoe <i>Learn for Work, Learn for Life</i>	The objective of this program is to assist an estimated 300 individuals to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment through the development of essential literacy, life and employment skills.	80,870	Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket
12	Loft Community Services - Crosslinks Housing and Support Services <i>York Region Street Outreach Van Program</i>	The York Region Street Outreach Van program provides basic, potential life saving services to individuals in York Region who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, street involved and/or have mental illness. From a mobile van, and utilizing a harm reduction model, street outreach mental health workers and public health staff provide food, clothing, sleeping bags, assistance finding and accessing shelter, needle exchange, sexual health counselling and	120,000	York Region

Regional Council Attachment 1

No.	Agency and Project Name	Area in which Services are to be Purchased	Recommended Funding (\$)	Service Location
		supplies, mental health and general health assessments, short term support, and referral to other community agencies.		
13	Pathways <i>Home Base Youth Drop In Centre</i>	This project's objective is to assist an estimated 1,000 youth in making the transition from the street to permanent housing by providing counselling, employment, life skills, housing search, social/recreational activities, food, clothing, housing search and support.	225,000	York Region
14	Pathways <i>Housing Support Services</i>	This project will help young people aged 13-24 years transition from the street to long-term housing, in group homes and or residences.	51,855	York Region
15	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers <i>Housing Support Program</i>	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	54,000	York Region
16	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers <i>Young Mothers Transition Support Program</i>	1. Provide services that link young mothers to early years programs in their community and to work with early years programs to develop strategies to best support young mothers access to their programs. 2. Give young mothers access to group counselling and self help training, to help support them through the early transition to parenting.	54,000	York Region
17	Salvation Army, Sutton Youth Shelter <i>Employment Supports</i>	Provide employment supports for the youth staying at the Sutton Youth Shelter. The services will include Employment Skills and job specific skill training.	30,000	Georgina
18	Salvation Army, Sutton Youth Shelter <i>Housing Support</i>	To provide housing support services that address the housing needs of youth who reside at the Sutton Youth Shelter. The project will assist with life skills, budgeting, landlord/tenant relations and completing rental applications.	60,000	Georgina
19	Transitional & Supportive Housing Services York Region (TSHSYR) <i>Community Housing Support Worker</i>	The project will help an homeless individuals and families living in the homeless shelters and attending the programs operated by TSHSYR to find and get housing in the community, to connect to community resources for support and to develop skills to help them to retain their housing. The project also serves those at risk of becoming homeless.	135,000	York Region
20	Women's Centre of York Region <i>Poverty Relief Services</i>	The objective of this project is to enhance and expand the continuum of supports presently addressing homelessness, the risk of homelessness, and child poverty through accessible programming and enhanced coordination of community services.	34,693	York Region

Regional Council Attachment 1

No.	Agency and Project Name	Area in which Services are to be Purchased	Recommended Funding (\$)	Service Location
21	York Professional Care & Education <i>After School Drop In</i>	To provide informal supervised safe "club-like" environments in an after school program to a minimum of 100 children, aged 4-12 years living in low income housing, at an informal drop-in program that utilizes Future Aces and Character Matters strategies to develop confidence and reinforce courteous and respectful behaviour.	50,000	York Region
22	York Region Alliance to End Homelessness (YRAEH) <i>Education and Capacity Building for community engagement</i>	Assist the Alliance to conduct research, expand its existing education tools, create an YRAEH web site, develop new partnerships, facilitate educational events and support community engagement through the development of networks.	43,450	York Region
23	York Region Food For Learning/ Family Day Care <i>Food for Learning</i>	This project will provide nutritionally balanced breakfasts and snacks to the children of York Region in an inclusive, non-stigmatizing environment, thereby enhancing health and classroom learning. In 2007 the Food for Learning program as a whole is expected to feed approximately 14,433 children daily who will receive 457,985 breakfasts and 779,180 snacks through the course of 1 year.	45,000	York Region
24	York Region Food Network <i>Extending the Table: Providing accessible information on York Region Food Network Programs to Ethno cultural communities</i>	A project to reduce barriers and accessibility to food security programs for residents by providing program information in the first language of clients and residents who are at risk	22,000	York Region
	Total Recommended Projects - 24	Total Funding Recommended	\$1,521,671	