
Low Income Profile Update & Making Ends Meet Initiative of Human Services Planning Board

Community and Health Services
Committee

May 11, 2011

Part 1

Low Income Profile

Background & Key Findings

Purpose of the Low Income Profile

- ❑ Developed through York Region Community Social Data Consortium
- ❑ Provides detailed information of social and economic characteristics of low income population and trends
- ❑ Supports service planning and public awareness (e.g. foundation for Making Ends Meet Initiative)
- ❑ Census provides the most comprehensive social and economic data available for low income population

What is Low Income?

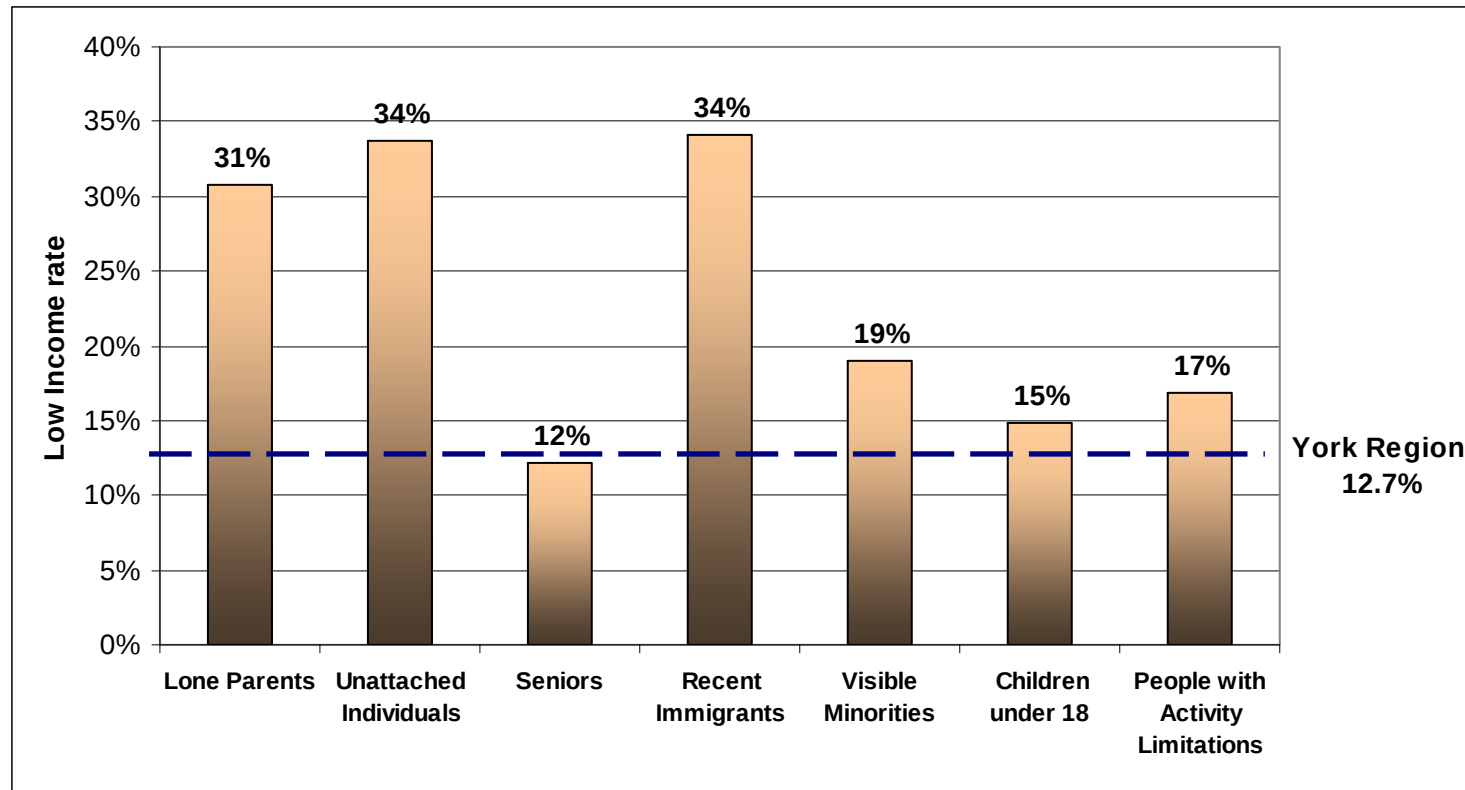
Low Income Before Tax Cut-Offs, 2005

Size of the family unit	Community Size				
	Rural Areas	Urban Areas			
		Less than 30,000	30,000 to 99,999	100,000 to 499,999	500,000 and over
1 person	\$14,303	\$16,273	\$17,784	\$17,895	\$20,778
2 persons	\$17,807	\$20,257	\$22,139	\$22,276	\$25,867
3 persons	\$21,891	\$24,904	\$27,217	\$27,386	\$31,801
4 persons	\$26,579	\$30,238	\$33,046	\$33,251	\$38,610
5 persons	\$30,145	\$34,295	\$37,480	\$37,711	\$43,791
6 persons	\$33,999	\$38,679	\$42,271	\$42,533	\$49,389
7 or more persons	\$37,853	\$43,063	\$47,063	\$47,354	\$54,987

Source: Statistics Canada. 2007. *Low Income Cut-offs for 2006 and Low Income Measures for 2005*.

In 2005, just over 112,000, or 12.7%, of York Region residents were living on low income

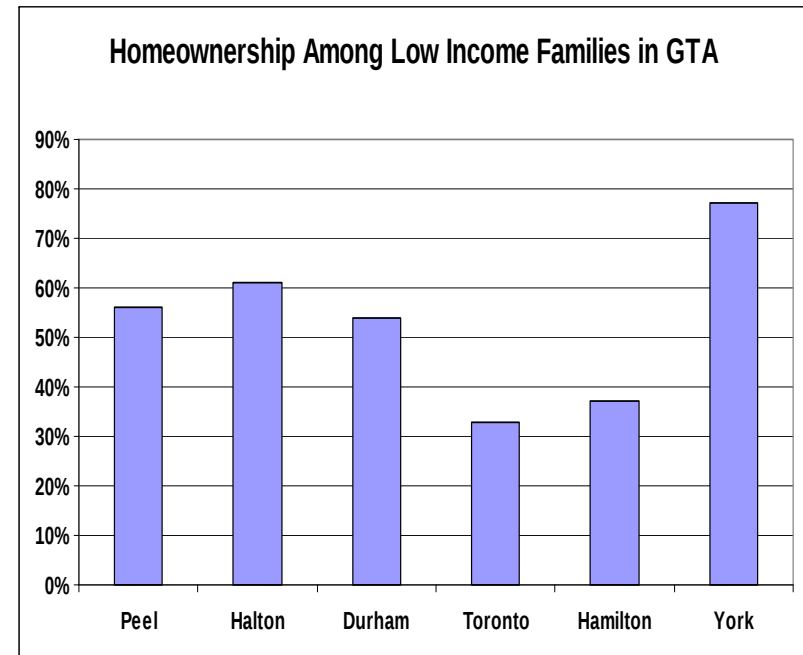
Rates of low income groups in York Region



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

York Region's low income residents are typical residents living in your community, but they need supports

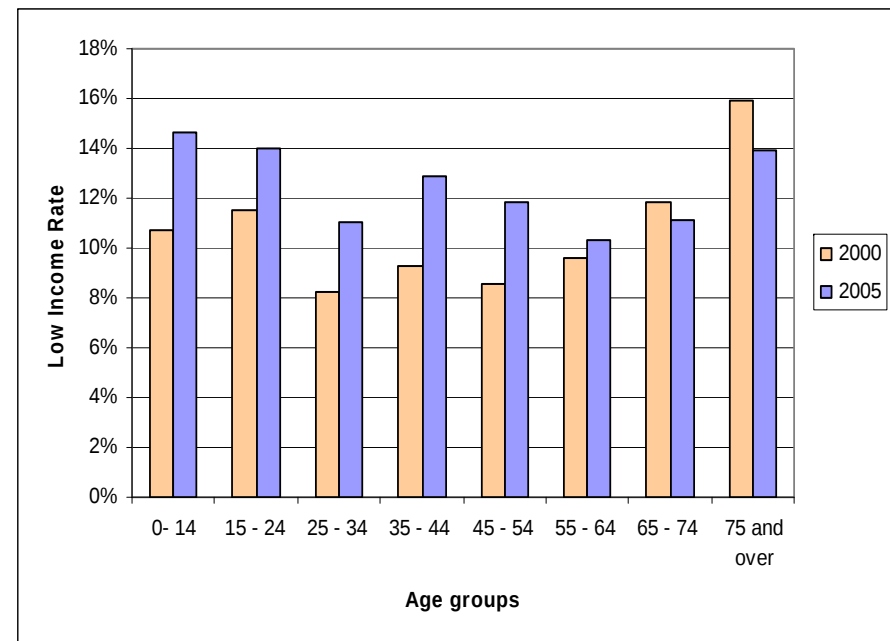
- ❑ 66% or 37,845 worked (ages 25 to 64)
- ❑ 56% or 32,455 (ages 25 to 64) had post-secondary education
- ❑ 47% of low income families, or 12,620, were two parent families with children under 18
- ❑ 77% or 20,140 of low income families were homeowners
- ❑ Reflect York Region's ethno-racial diversity



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Censuses, Custom Tabulations

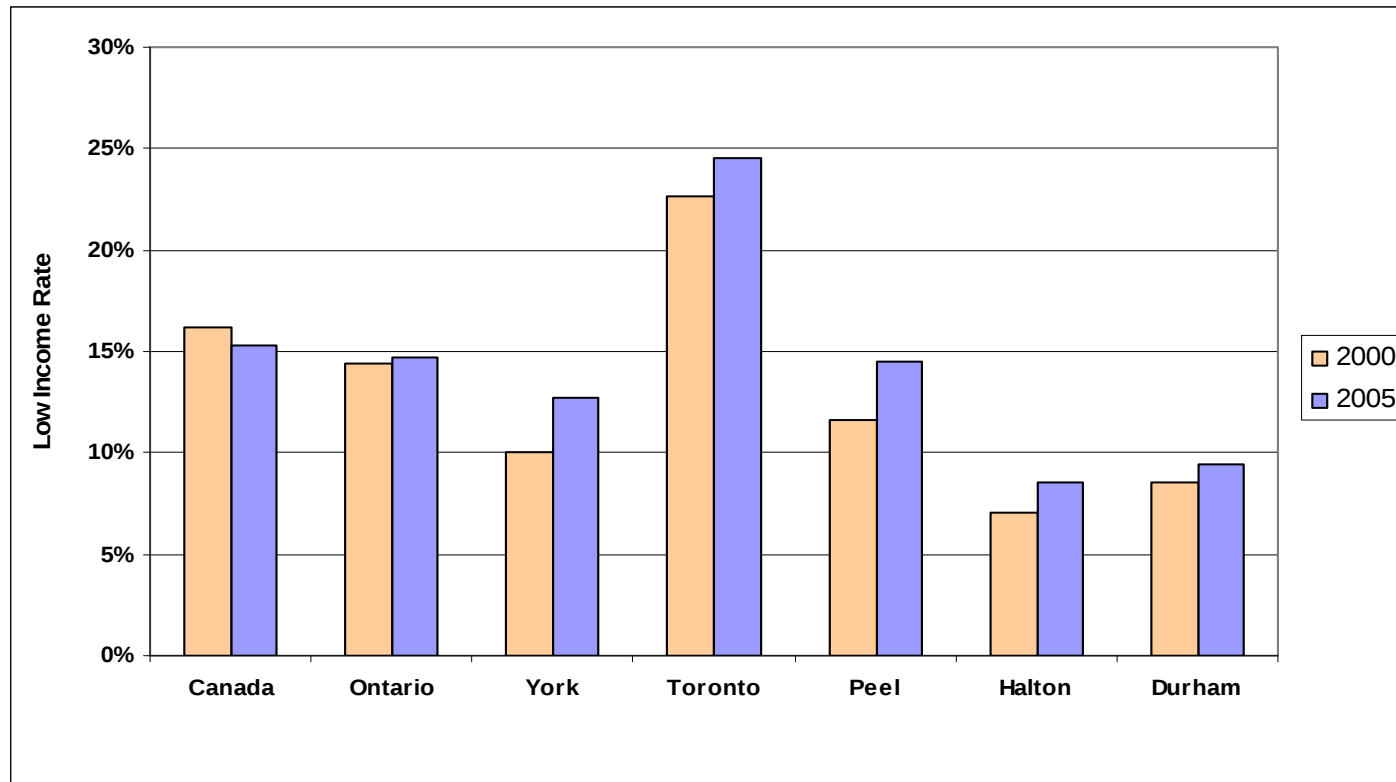
Low income profile identifies key trends

- ❑ A growing low income population – although many will transition out of low income over time (e.g. immigrants)
- ❑ A growing “working poor” population
- ❑ Low income rates increased for all family types and age groups – except for seniors
- ❑ Housing affordability a persistent issue for low income residents



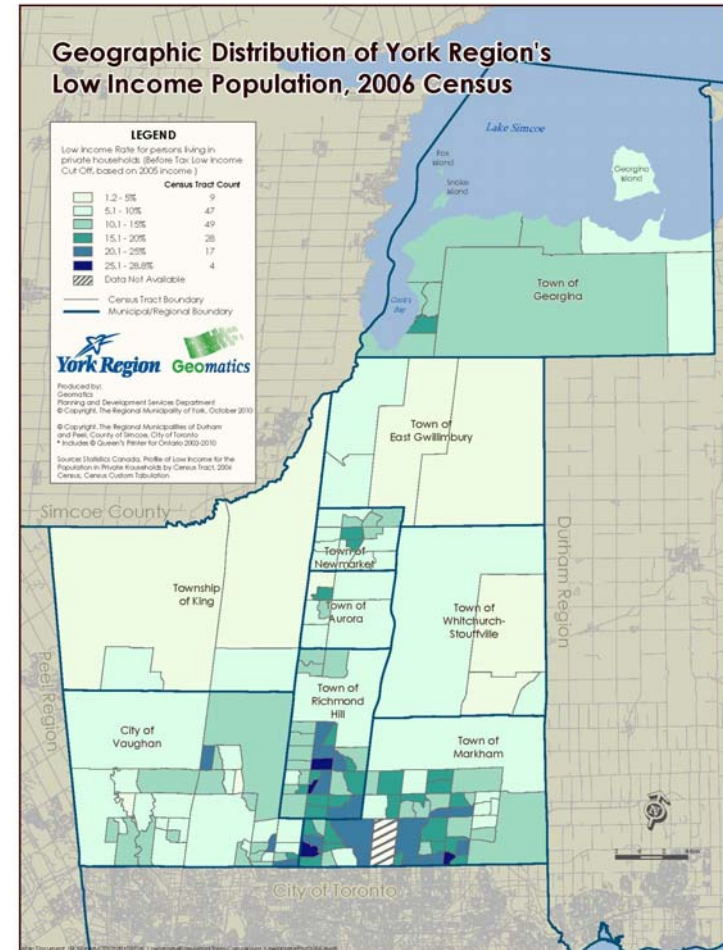
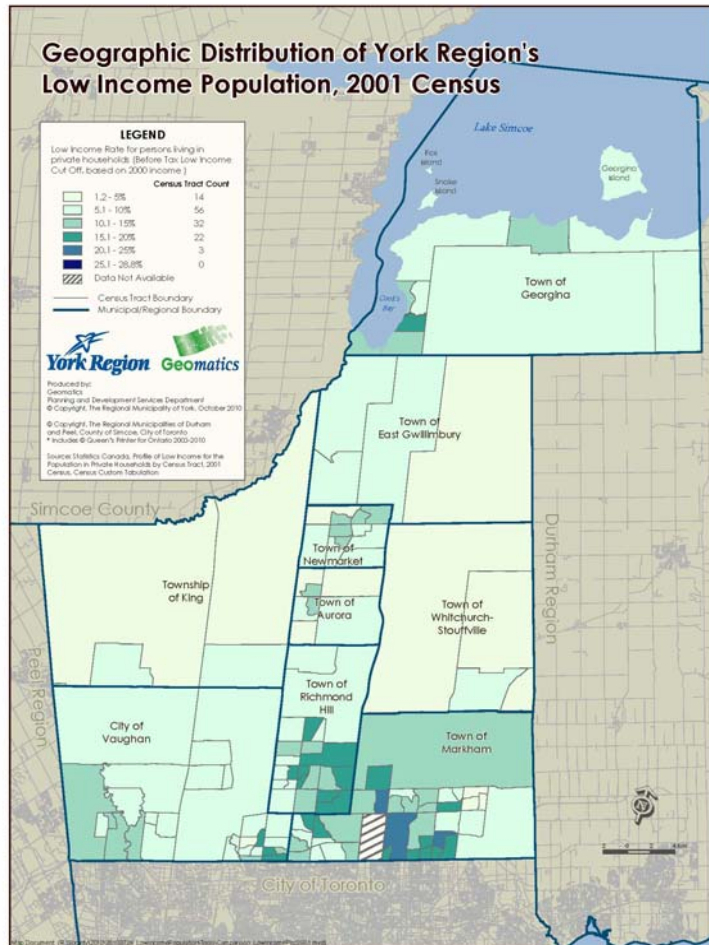
Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Censuses, Custom Tabulations

York Region not unique – suburbanization of low income occurring across GTA



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

Growing number of low income residents concentrated in southern municipalities



What has been the impact of the recent economic downturn?



Source: Community and Health Services and Planning and Development Services Departments

- Unemployment typically drives low income rates upward – however, the gap shows other factors are also important (e.g. demographics, type of employment, government policy)
- York Region has fared well through the economic downturn, but resident need for income related programs increased (e.g. OW, Employment Insurance, child care fee subsidies, social housing)

The Way Ahead

- ❑ Economic recovery should reduce pressures, but will depend on extent low income residents are able to benefit and sustain themselves in the labour market
- ❑ The Low Income Profile highlights a number of strategies to help low income residents contribute to the economy and community:
 - ❑ Invest in children and youth
 - ❑ Tap potential of low income workers (e.g. through workforce development strategies and supports to the “working poor”)
 - ❑ Fill gaps in the safety net for the most vulnerable
 - ❑ Invest in communities
 - ❑ Comprehensive plan to meet affordable housing needs
 - ❑ Strategy to help vulnerable older residents age at home
 - ❑ Support full inclusion of ethno-racial groups in service delivery and planning

C&HS Moving Forward

- ❑ C&HS already provides critical supports to low income residents through provincially mandated and 100% Regional programs
- ❑ C&HS Multi-Year Plan and Economic Analysis of Human Services “actions” the strategies highlighted in the Low Income Profile (e.g. upcoming housing plan, community funding enhancements)
- ❑ Increasing need for community collaboration to address low income needs:
 - ❑ Community Partnership Council and Made-in-York Region Immigration Settlement Strategy
 - ❑ **Human Services Planning Board *Making Ends Meet Initiative* – how to help residents move and stay out of low income**

Part 2

Making Ends Meet in York Region

An initiative of the:
Human Services Planning Board
of York Region

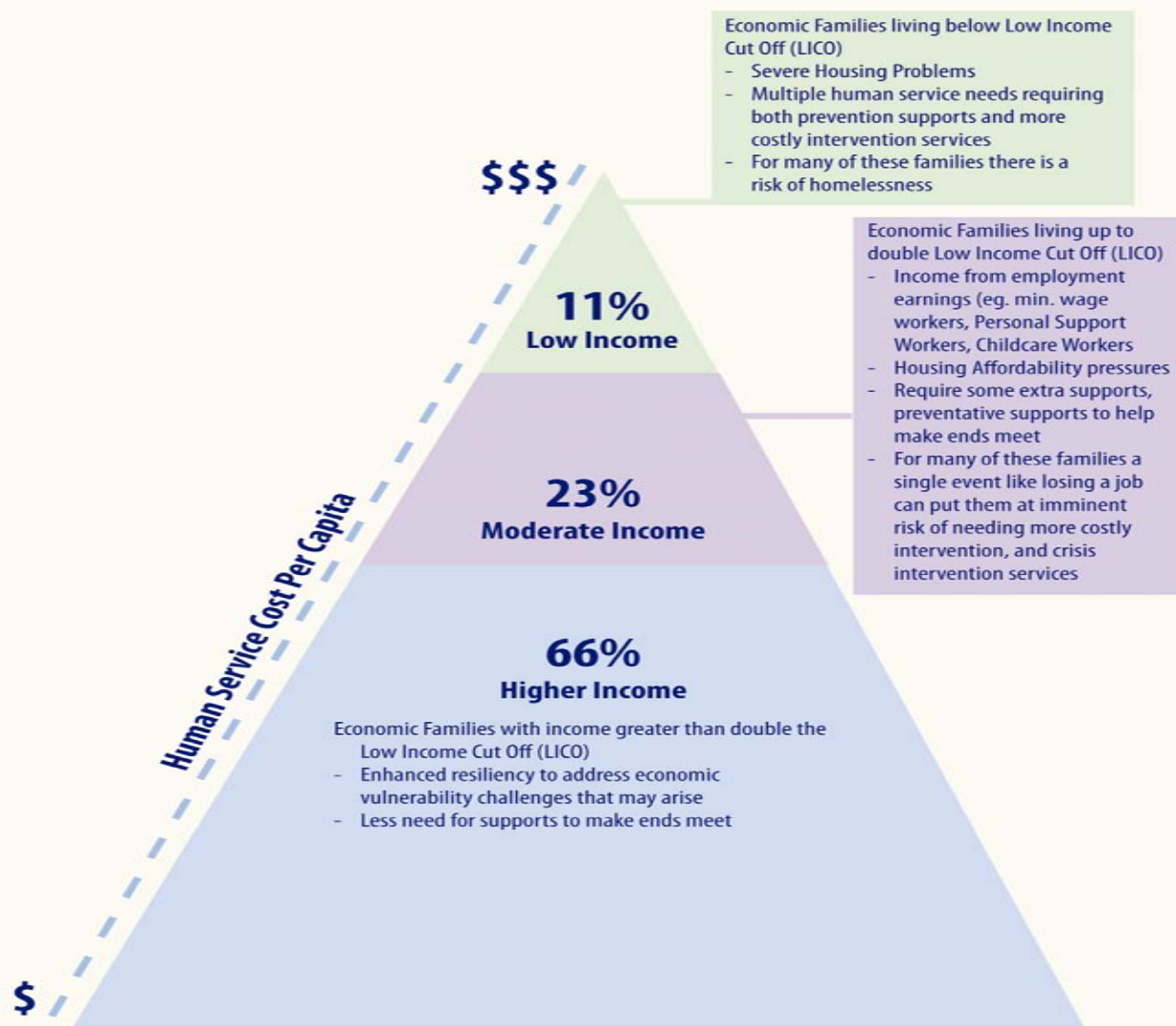
Human Services Planning Board of York Region

- ❑ Board Members appointed by Regional Council in April 2010
- ❑ A multi-sector collaborative of human service organizations/agencies/networks, community leaders and government advisor and resource members
- ❑ Mandate: To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of human services in York Region through capacity building within the York Region human services sector and through collaborative advocacy

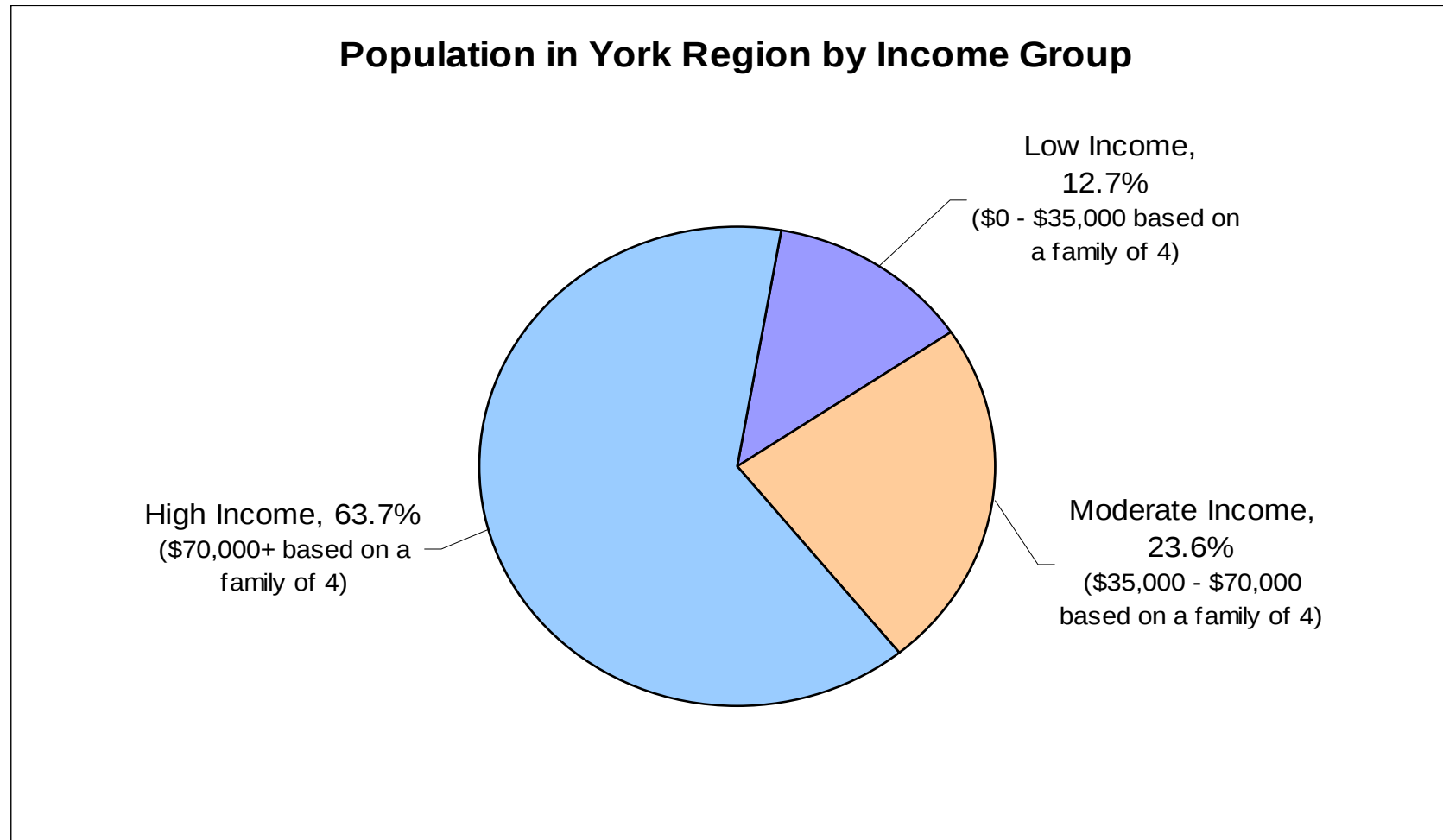
What is the Making Ends Meet initiative?

- ❑ A response to economic vulnerability in York Region
- ❑ Aligns with:
 - ❑ Community and Health Services Multi-Year Plan (2010-2015)
 - ❑ Local Immigration Partnership Initiative
 - ❑ Vision 2026 & Vision 2051
 - ❑ York Region Sustainability Strategy

Economic Vulnerability in York Region - 2006

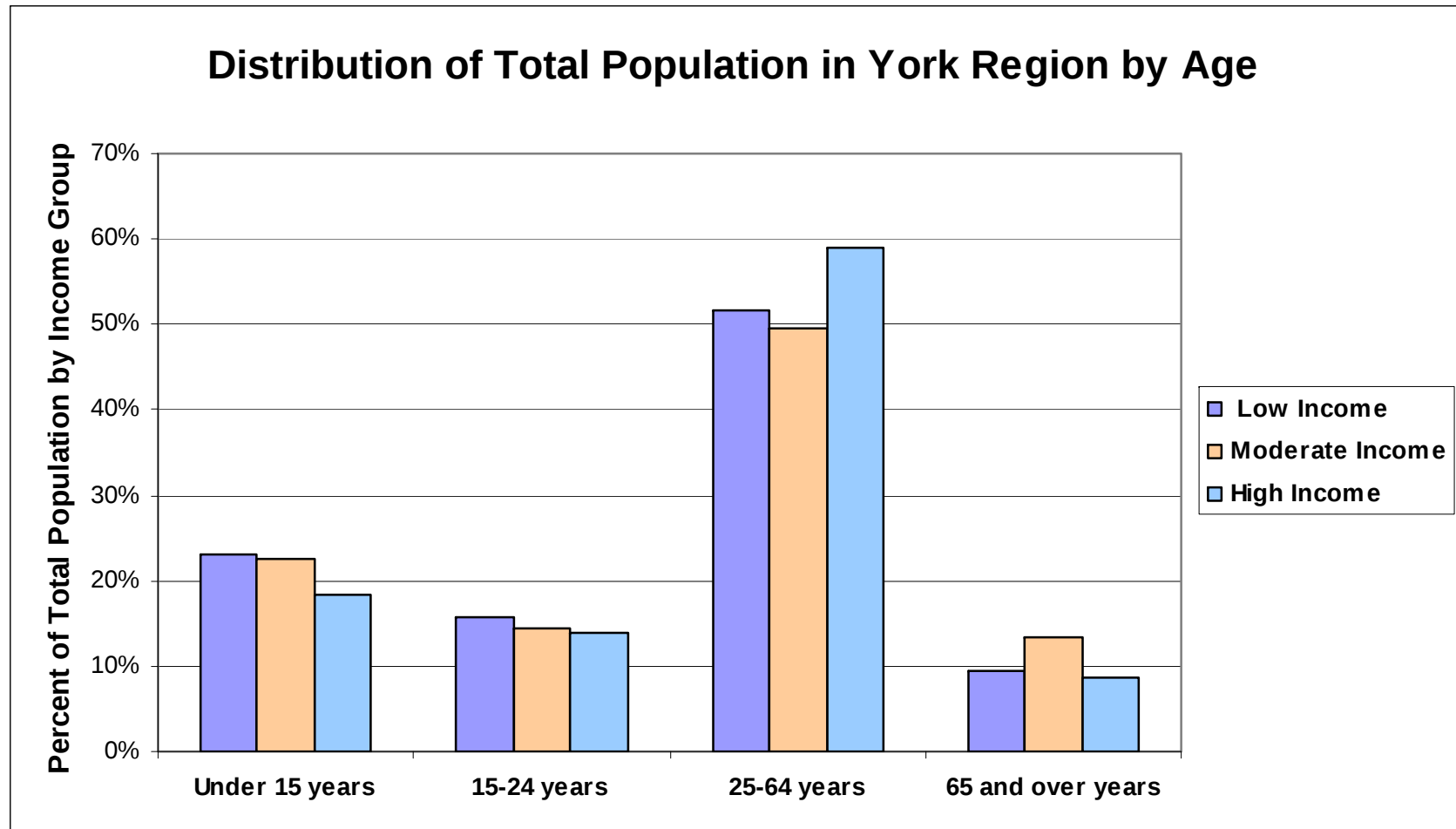


Low and moderate income population represent a significant portion of York Region's total population



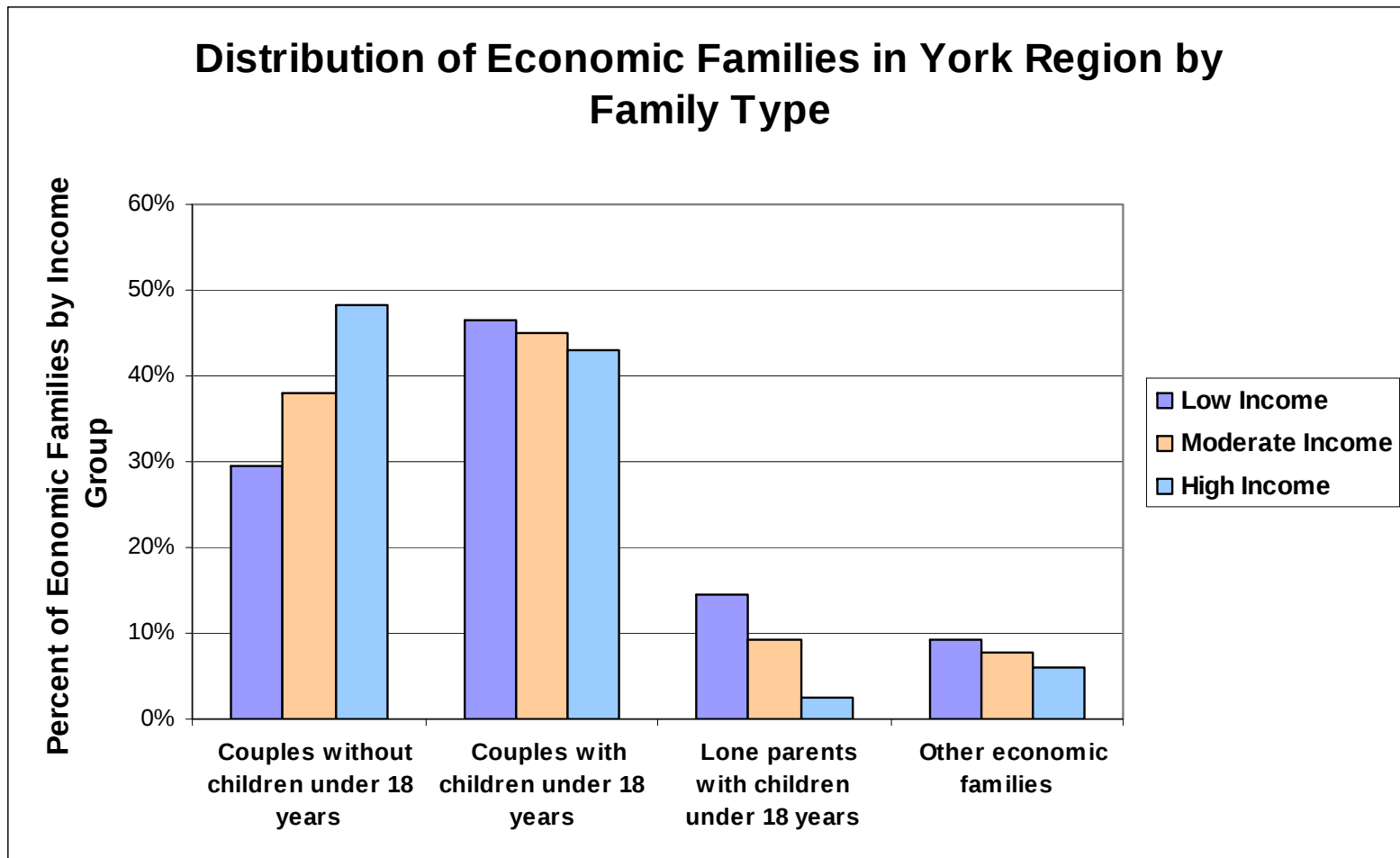
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

A range of strategies are needed through the life cycle



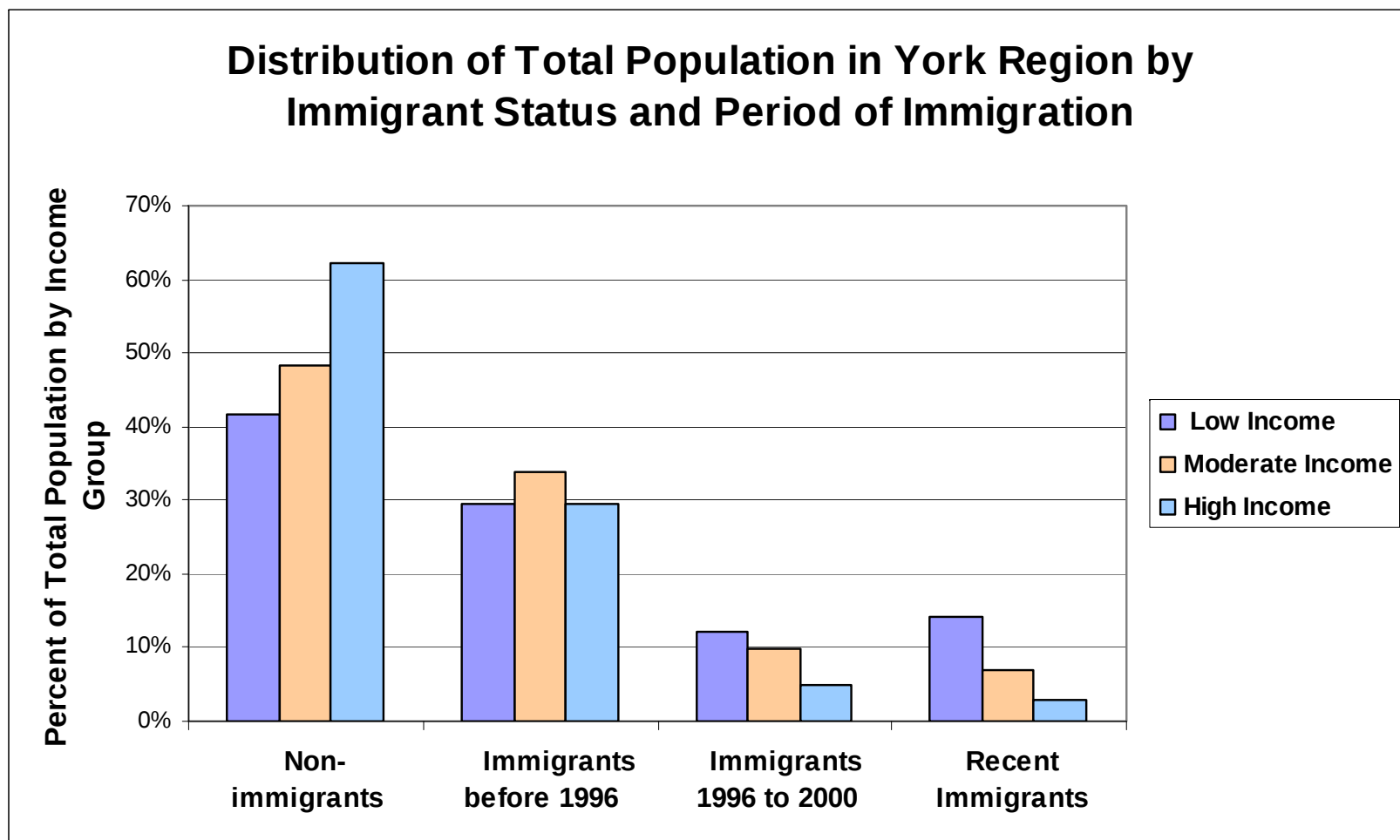
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

Investing in children, youth and families is a preventative approach to reducing economic vulnerability



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

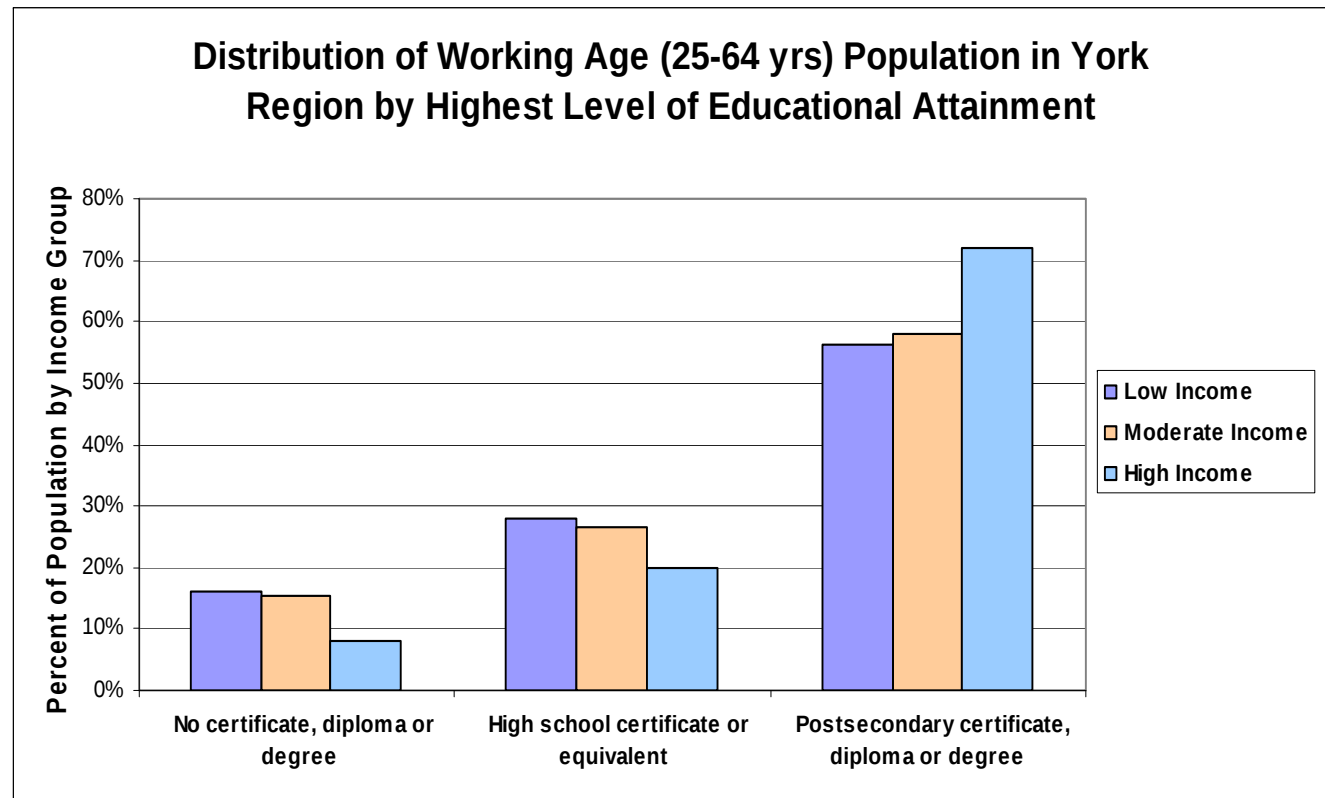
Strategies are needed to support immigrant economic integration



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

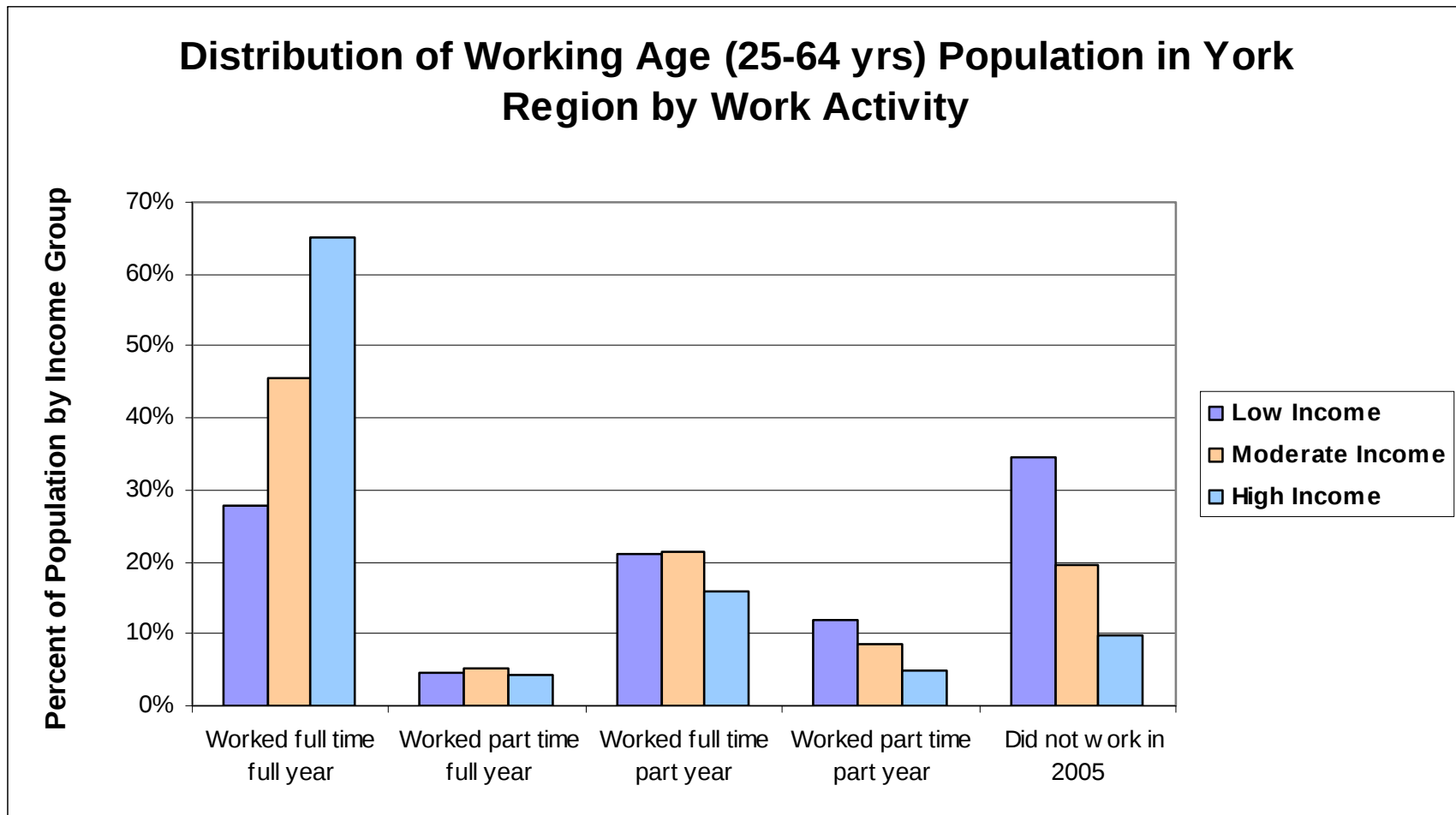
Majority of low and moderate income residents have post-secondary education

- 57.3% or 92,650 of low and moderate income working age residents have post secondary education



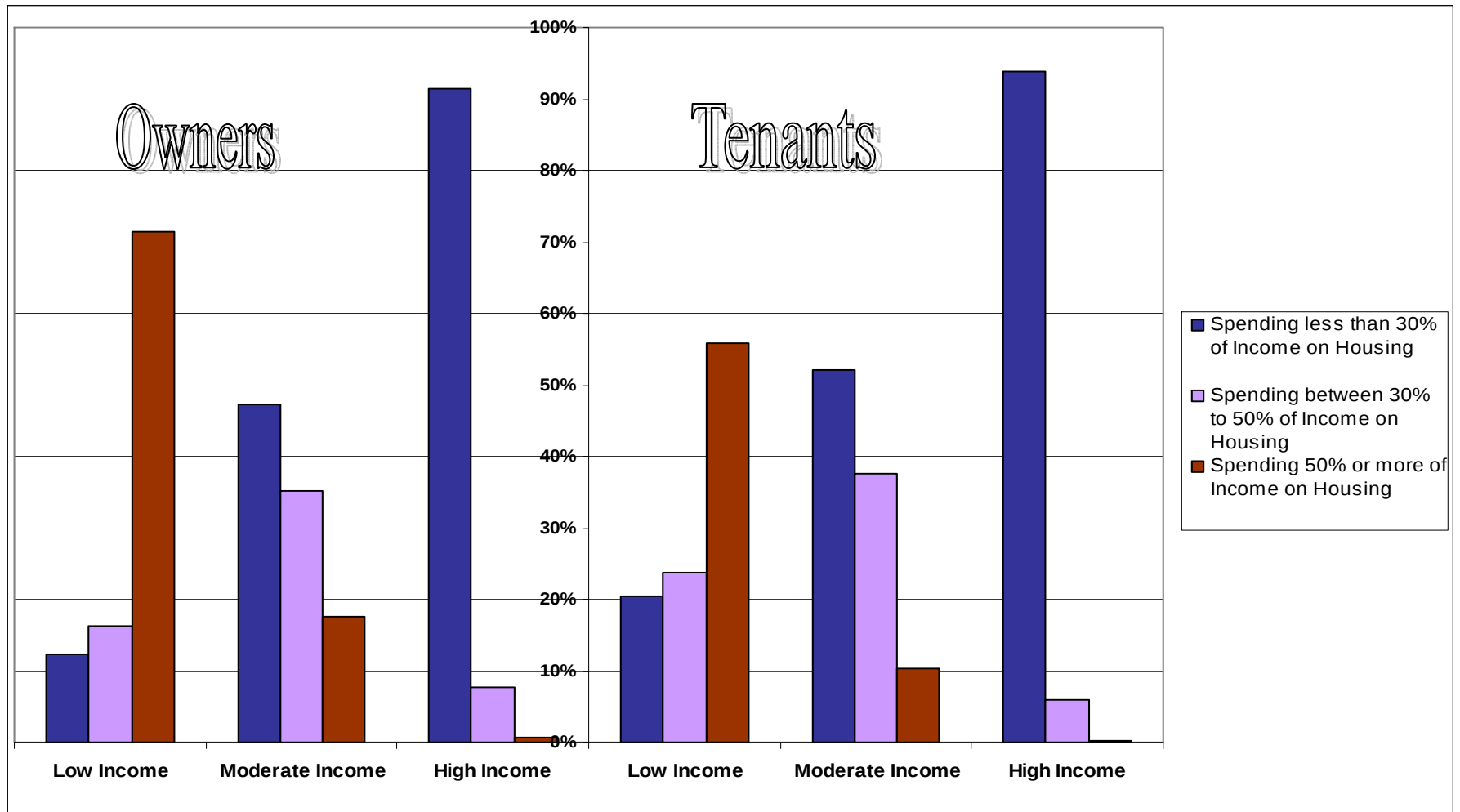
Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

Low and moderate income residents are working but need support to maximize labour potential

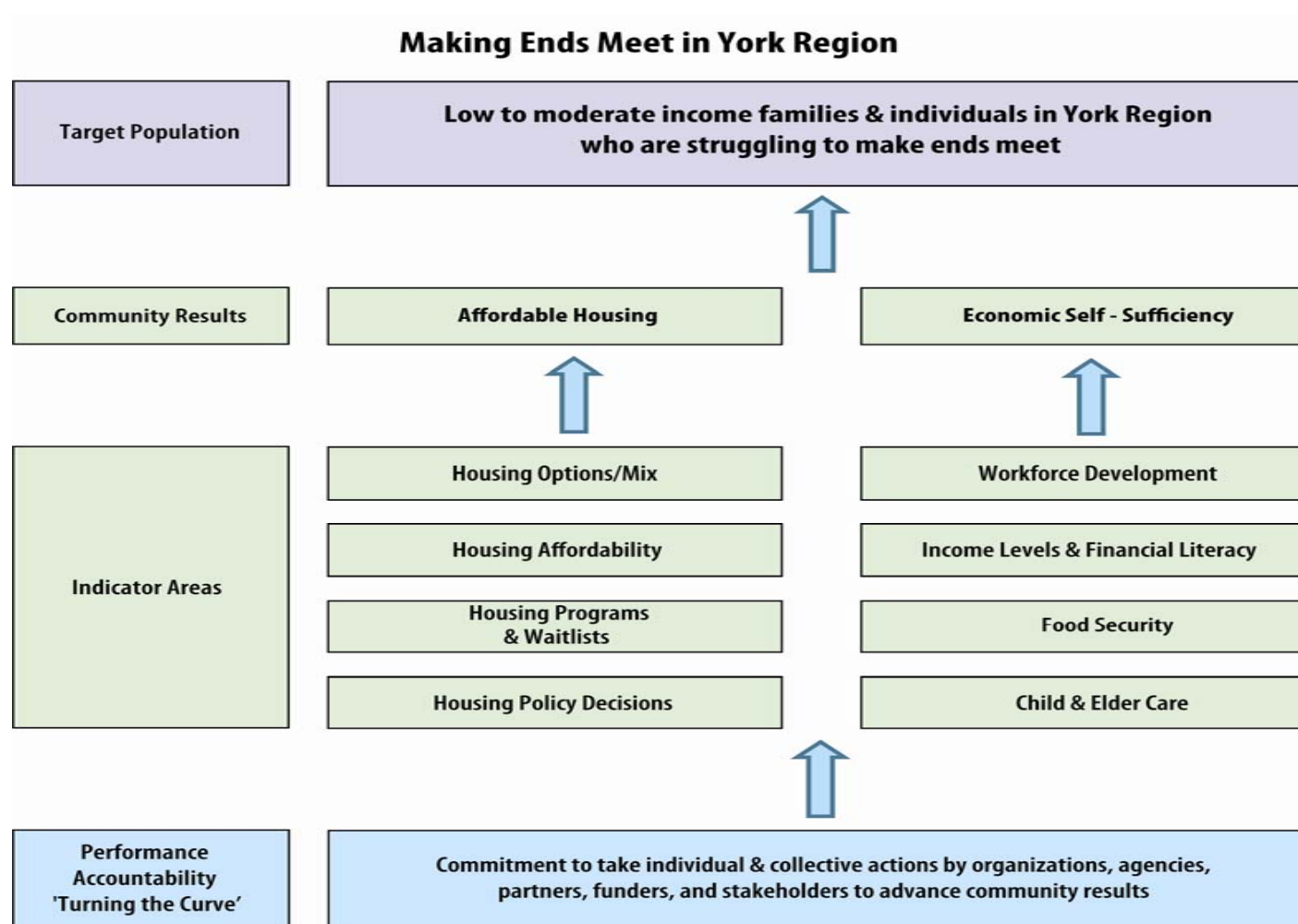


Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census, Custom Tabulations

Risk of homelessness greater for low income population



The Making Ends Meet Model for Change



Community Results

Affordable Housing

“A good mixture of safe and affordable housing options and programs throughout York Region for low to moderate income families and individuals to make ends meet.”

Economic Self-Sufficiency

“A strong combination of employment and human service supports for low to moderate income families and individuals to make ends meet.”

Indicator Areas

Affordable Housing

1. Housing Options/Mix
2. Housing Affordability
3. Housing Programs
& Waitlists
4. Housing Policy
Decisions

Economic Self-Sufficiency

1. Workforce Development
2. Income Levels &
Financial Literacy
3. Food Security
4. Child and Elder Care

The Making Ends Meet in York Region 2011 Work Plan

<i>Making Ends Meet in York Region Communication Tool Kit</i>	May 2011
<i>Public Release of Making Ends Meet in York Region</i>	May 2011
Endorsement by Member Organizations	May-October 2011
Broader Stakeholder Engagement	October-November 2011
Build Community Action Plan	December 2011-January 2012
Mobilize Action	January 2012-onward

Creating friendly communities - where all residents can thrive

