

Clause 15 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 21, 2015.

15

Community Investment Strategy
2014 Annual Activity Report

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated April 24, 2015 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides an update on the results of the \$6.1 million investment made in 2014 to 65 projects through the Community Investment Strategy.

3. Background

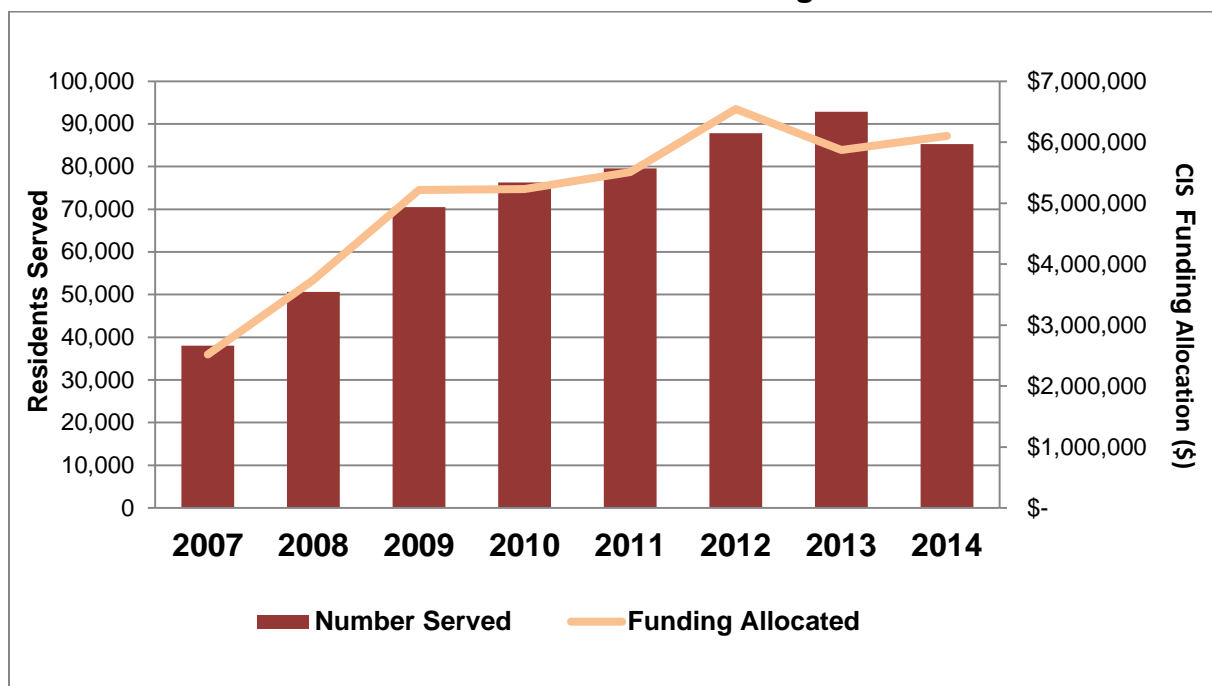
In 2014 the Community Investment Strategy continued to provide key services to low and moderate income York Region residents

Since 2003, York Region has provided funding to community agencies through a community investment strategy. Since then a wide range of services have helped stabilize the living situations of many residents.

Figure 1 shows the annual amounts allocated and the number of residents served.

The Strategy had a reduction in the number of residents served in 2014 due to two factors: annual service numbers may differ due to the types of projects funded, as some projects serve larger numbers including group sessions at school assemblies, while others serve small groups while maintaining a great impact; and, in response to the increasingly complex needs of residents some projects have changed the way in which services are provided. For example, some projects include individual case management over an extended period of time. These more intensive services address the root causes of an individual's issues and provide related supports. They are more costly and time consuming services and serve smaller numbers, but have longer term benefits.

Figure 1
Number of Residents Served and Funding Allocation 2007 – 2014



In 2013, to enable the Region to invest more broadly in the community, and to more closely align these investments with Regional strategies, a new Community Investment Strategy was approved by Council.

The new Strategy introduced three funding streams:

1. Community Based Services - invests in community-based programs and services that address service gaps and align with Regional community results. The result areas for the Strategy are:

- **Community Health:** Low and moderate income residents are healthy and able to make healthy choices.
 - **Economic Independence:** Low and moderate income residents have and keep jobs that match their skills and have financial stability.
 - **Housing Stability:** Low and moderate income residents can live in affordable, adequate and suitable housing.
 - **Social Inclusion:** Low and moderate income residents are connected and able to engage in their communities.
2. Organizational Development – invests in activities that strengthen an agency’s ability to plan, develop and deliver programs and services that are needed in the community.
 3. Innovation and Collaboration - invests in initiatives that present multi-faceted solutions for working together and/or delivering social services.

A two-stage application process was introduced in the selection of 2014 projects for funding

Under the new Strategy one annual call for proposals is implemented each year. The call for proposals is a two-stage process. In the spring, eligible agencies are given the opportunity to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) - Stage One. Agencies are required to demonstrate how their projects fit with one of the result areas of the Strategy. In September, successful EOIs that move to Stage Two submit full applications that include a detailed work plan and budget.

A Selection Committee comprised of York Region staff reviews proposals and recommends projects for funding. Representatives of external funders including the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the United Way of York Region are also consulted.

4. Analysis and Options

In 2014, sixty-five projects received \$6.1 million, helping 85,304 residents

There is always a large response to the call for proposals, and the total funding requested from the Region always exceeds available funding.

For 2014 funding, the application process for the Expression of Interest was released April 4, 2013 and closed May 5, 2013.

A communication plan using a variety of activities including an e-mail blast, the Region’s web site, social media, and newspaper advertisements ensured a broad outreach to the community.

At closing, the Region received 113 Expression of Interests equating to \$12 million. Each Expression of Interest was assessed for fit with Regional funding priorities. Agencies with applications that were assessed to most closely match Regional priorities were moved to Stage Two of the process, where full project proposals are submitted. The second stage closed September 5, 2013, and 63 proposals were received totalling approximately \$5.7 million.

Table 1 shows the projects that received funding in 2014, the funding allocated, the number of projects funded in each stream and the residents served. A complete list of all projects that received funding in 2014 is included in Attachment 1 to this report.

Table 1
Community Investment Strategy Funding and Residents Served in 2014

Funding and Priority Area	Funding Allocation (\$)	Number of Projects	Residents Served in 2014
Community-Based Services Stream			
One-Year Projects			
Community Health	210,482	3	30,030
Economic Independence	903,489	9	582
Housing Stability	1,098,602	7	3,790
Social Inclusion	1,220,378	16	12,655
Community Needs (urgent client and agency small capital needs)	182,770	1	12,858
Total One-Year Projects	3,615,721	36	59,915
Renewable Projects*			
Employment Supports projects	380,776	4	584
Family Strengthening projects	294,394	3	1,082
Homelessness projects	1,230,985	8	16,747
Total Renewable Projects	1,906,155	15	18,413
Total Community-Based Services Stream	5,521,876	51	78,328
Organizational Development Stream			
One-Year Projects	263,570	10	6,083
Professional Development & Communication activities	50,000	3 training activities	
Total Organizational Development	313,570	10	6,083

Community Investment Strategy

Funding and Priority Area	Funding Allocation (\$)	Number of Projects	Residents Served in 2014
Stream			
Innovation and Collaboration Stream			
One-Year Projects	318,862	4	893
Total Innovation and Collaboration Stream	318,862	4	893
Total Investments	6,154,308	65	85,304

*Renewable Projects are projects approved for funding for up to three years. 2014 was the final year for funding these projects.

In 2014, approximately 4,400 individuals volunteered their time and expertise to assist in implementing Community Investment Strategy funded projects and contributed approximately 107,000 volunteer hours.

51 One-Year and Renewable projects were funded for community-based services totalling approximately \$5.5 million

Projects funded through the community-based stream provided services that helped fill identified service gaps in the community. Many projects provided preventative supports that helped residents avoid the need for more costly interventions later on.

For example, the Enterprising Careers project implemented by the Women's Centre of York Region provided 69 women with the opportunity to develop life skills, participate in pre-employment workshops, and explore career options. In addition, the project coached clients who searched for employment and volunteer opportunities. The agency also developed partnerships with other community agencies and businesses. Clients who participated reported that they were more confident, more knowledgeable about second careers, had gained better networking skills, and had increased their ability to participate in further employment and training supports.

Three projects contributed to improving the health of residents

Supports helped residents who were challenged with tobacco addictions, seniors who were experiencing social isolation, and youth from economically challenged neighbourhoods who were able to receive nutritious meals and snacks.

More than 30,000 residents participated in these projects.

Thirteen projects provided supports to help residents move towards economic independence

Over 1,100 residents received employment supports that included psycho-vocational assessments and the development of career action plans, pre-employment, life skills and employability training, computer training and upgrading, and job specific training. Through these projects many residents were placed on a path towards economic independence through becoming gainfully employed, being better positioned to compete in the job market or pursue educational opportunities.

Residents who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless received supports designed to move them towards stable housing

Supports for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness included:

- Services through emergency winter shelters
- A mobile outreach service
- Housing support services that helped the homeless and those at risk of homelessness find affordable housing
- Assistance for seniors at risk of losing housing due to mental health and hoarding issues
- Character building and housing supports services for homeless and at risk youth

More than 20,000 residents accessed these and other related services.

Sixteen social inclusion projects gave residents opportunities to become more connected and engaged in their communities

Projects under the social inclusion community result provided services to more than 12,000 residents of all ages, such as:

- Children's after school and mentoring programs
- Leadership discovery for young teenage females
- Counselling and family strengthening
- Academic upgrading for parents and young mothers

- Services that helped youth with learning disabilities develop coping mechanisms and strategies to advocate for themselves

The Region's human service system was enhanced through initiatives in the Organizational Development funding stream

With increased demand for human services and more complex needs, it is important that agencies that provide these services enhance their capacity. In 2014, nine agencies were directly supported through projects that totalled over \$263,000. Strategic planning, the review and enhancement of service standards, developing more effective methods of communicating and reaching residents in need were among the capacity building initiatives funded.

For example, Family Services York Region developed a Centralized Intake Model that was more responsive, providing clinical assessments of clients at intake that allowed the agency to identify high needs clients. Clients were provided with referrals to alternative options while waiting for counselling. Over 95% of clients reported benefits from the new process, appreciated the improved responsiveness of the agency and the fact that they were connected to other resources. The agency also reported reduced client wait times.

In addition, the Region hosted three professional development workshops for board members and agency staff. Topics included: developing social media strategies, developing greater cultural competency, and self-care strategies for front-line staff.

The Strategy encouraged agencies to collaborate to find new ways of jointly delivering services

Approximately \$319,000 was invested in four partnership development projects that allowed agencies to provide better and more integrated community services. Projects included training in nutrition, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and better coordinated services for victims of domestic violence. Approximately 900 residents were served.

For example the Georgina Trades Training Inc. and the Georgina Community Food Pantry worked in partnership to offer a variety of programs to 118 low and moderate income residents in Georgina. The community garden produced over 1,500 pounds of produce, shared amongst the participants and donated to the food pantry.

Value for money and the accountability of agencies is monitored in several ways

Regional staff monitored the performance of funded projects by:

- Reviewing regular agency service and financial reports
- Project site visits and on site discussions with agency staff
- Review visits to selected agencies to explore in detail both the performance and financial management of projects

Many agencies are improving service planning using client feedback; census and other community data; and information shared through community networks to assess community trends and anticipate future demands.

Link to key Council-approved plans

The Community Investment Strategy was updated to more directly align with key York Region strategies and initiatives. It contributes to the Region's *Vision 2051*, the *Corporate Strategic Plan* and the various Community and Health Services plans and strategies. This is achieved through expanding investments in programs that will increase services in the community, strengthen the capacity of the human services system in York Region, and promote the development of new service delivery models that meet the needs of a population that is increasing in both size and diversity.

5. Financial Implications

Funding for the Community Investment Strategy is managed within the Region's approved budget. In 2014, agencies received a total allocation of \$6,154,308, and served over 85,000 residents at a per capita cost of \$72.15.

6. Local Municipal Impact

In 2014, residents of all nine local municipalities benefitted from services provided by the projects funded through the Community Investment Strategy. The connections and partnerships in the community established by funded agencies ensure that residents across the Region can access much needed services.

7. Conclusion

Through the Community investment Strategy, low and moderate income residents have access to proactive, preventative and responsive human services supports delivered by community agencies. Over 85,000 residents received supports that helped them:

- move towards economic independence
- increase their chance of housing stability
- become more integrated in the community
- adopt more healthy lifestyles

Also, the organizational and service delivery capabilities of community agencies were enhanced, innovative projects and collaborations were encouraged, and many community members were given the opportunity to volunteer their time and service to the community.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, Director, Strategies and Partnerships, at ext.72090.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

April 24, 2015

Attachment (1)

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
One Year Projects				
Community Based Services Stream				
Projects Supporting Community Health				
1	York Region Food for Learning -York Region Food for Learning	This project provided nutritionally balanced breakfasts and snacks to almost 30,000 children and youth attending York Region schools in economically challenged areas. As in previous years the project was implemented through an extensive and well coordinated network of community volunteers that contributed over 25,000 hours of service.	122,778	York Region
2	York Region Food Network - Community Food Hub	A range of programs including the Good Food Box, Breakfast Drop-in, Common Stock Lunches, Reclamation Program, workshops and volunteer opportunities were provided through this project. The programs were designed to provide access to healthy local food, opportunities to develop food preparation skills, increase knowledge and provide engagement opportunities through volunteering and public education. Approximately 200 individuals participated in these programs.	56,488	York Region
3	York Support Services Network -Community-Based Tobacco Management Intervention for People with Serious Mental Illness	A unique project that supported the Tobacco Addiction Recovery Program. Four 12-week tobacco cessation programs were offered to low income residents with serious mental health issues. Sessions were facilitated by staff from member agencies of the Community of Practice, and included weekly psycho-education and the provision of nicotine replacement therapy. Clients reported the following benefits: 1) improved financial situation, 2) perceived health benefits and 3) increased ability to use coping strategies other than tobacco.	31,216	York Region
Projects Supporting Economic Independence				
4	Costi Immigration Services - Life Success Strategies	The agency delivered the Life Success Strategies Program to 105 low income individuals and Ontario Works recipients. The program focused on blending life skills topics with job search and job retention techniques. The program was delivered through a variety of workshops, assessments, group engagement activities, one-on-one appointments, guest speakers, and practical exercises. Participants benefited from improved communication skills and job search techniques, an increased self-understanding through career exploration, and the development of a Personal Action Plan to guide their next career steps.	101,046	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
5	Elsbeth Heyworth Centre for Women - I Wurk – Vaughan	The project provided 40 employment training and networking workshops to 69 youth, adults and seniors in Vaughan to prepare them for the labour market. Many clients attended multiple sessions for a total of 206 visits. This project helped 39 low and moderate income residents of York Region find full or part-time employment, resulting in an increase in income, an improved standard of living and increased self-esteem.	48,720	City of Vaughan
6	Inn from the Cold Inc. - Comprehensive Employment Program	A 12 week program was offered to 30 low-income residents who did not have recent work experience and have mental health and/or addiction issues. The program was offered in two components: 1) classroom training in soft skills, computer and financial literacy, art and behavioural therapies, and 2) hands-on training: where clients learn kitchen, and woodworking skills. The agency offered three sessions in 2014.	82,060	York Region
7	Job Skills - Smart Start Program	Approximately 90 unemployed or underemployed low to moderate income York Region residents participated in this program, of which 64 received industry specific skills training in the Hospitality or Customer Service sectors. Thirty-six participants found employment.	181,650	York Region
8	JVS Toronto - Pre-Employment Steps to Self Sufficiency (PRESS)	The agency completed 10 psychological/social/vocational assessments for low income multi-barriered clients who are having difficulty obtaining and maintaining employment. Each participant received a comprehensive psychological/vocational/social assessment that included an action plan which provided guidance for future career development. Seven of the 10 participants were Ontario Works clients.	63,129	York Region
9	March Of Dimes Canada - The Retail & Customer Service Training Program	The project provided 120 participants with job specific customer service skills, financial literacy training, job placement and retention support to prepare them for employment in the retail and customer service industry. Through the project 49 participants found employment.	164,970	York Region
10	STEPS To Recovery - Steps Training, Employment and Preparation Services	A pre-employment and employment program was provided to 30 residents recovering from drug and/or alcohol addictions. The program included life strategy lessons for personal and career development, career and vocational assessments, and assistance with job placement. Thirteen participants were supported to employment and 10 to employment related activities.	84,579	York Region
11	Women's Centre of York Region - Enterprising Careers	The program provided life skills and pre-employment workshops for approximately 70 low and moderate income women, that explored career options and helped clients work towards gaining employment and volunteer positions. The program was delivered through 11 week in-class sessions, on-line training modules, self-directed learning, networking sessions and one-on-one counselling.	85,335	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
12	Youth Unlimited (Toronto YFC) - The Shop Employment Initiative	The project provided 61 unskilled at risk youth and young adults aged 14 – 24 with mentorship, life training and job training in auto mechanics, small engine repair and carpentry management. Some participants also had the opportunity for a paid job experience at The Shop. Fifteen youth were employed.	92,000	York Region
Projects Supporting Housing Stability				
13	360 Kids Support Services - Housing Support Worker	The project provided youth who are identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness with housing support services which included needs assessments, case management and development of an individual housing action plan, referrals to other housing and community supports, and assistance in the search for housing. Approximately 150 youth received assistance and 36 youth secured housing, of which 26 remained housed for up to six months.	77,251	York Region
14	Blue Door Shelters - Intensive Case Management assisting people with complex needs	The project served 186 low income shelter clients with multiple barriers and complex needs, providing assessments, developing individualized appropriate services, identifying the most suitable housing required. The agency also developed an individualized network of wrap around social supports to enhance housing stability and retention.	110,000	York Region
15	CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) - Tenancy Risk Reduction Services for Seniors	A tenancy risk reduction service to 26 seniors at risk of losing their health and housing due to mental health and related hoarding issues that created poor living conditions. This project had the multiple benefits of increasing clients' ability to maintain their tenancy, reduce the risk of homelessness and put in place an array of support services to address each client's physical and mental challenges.	104,200	York Region
16	Inn from the Cold Inc. - Shelter Program	The project provided emergency shelter and support services during the winter months to homeless men and women. The agency expanded service by an additional month resulting in 112 additional shelter guests. In addition, 300 new volunteers were recruited and trained in 2014.	184,400	York Region
17	Loft Community Services - Loft Crosslinks Street Outreach and Services Network	This project provided a mobile outreach service across York Region seven days per week, using a multi-disciplinary team. Over 1300 individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless received basic needs and harm reduction supports.	285,600	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
18	Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold - Out of the Cold Program	The Out of the Cold program provided an emergency shelter, meals and support services to homeless and those at risk of homelessness during the winter months. The shelter services, were delivered by a team of volunteers drawn from local residents. In-kind donations were also received. Over 500 individuals experienced relief from homelessness during the harsh winter nights.	270,851	York Region
19	Scarborough Housing Help Centre - Access to Stable Housing for Low and Middle Income Earners in Southern York Region	Focusing on newcomers, the project provided the following services: 1) information workshops on topics such as rental agreements, rights and responsibilities and tenant relations for approximately 1,300 residents and landlords; 2) case-management to help 355 residents gain housing; and 3) information and referrals to suitable housing for over 400 residents.	66,300	City of Vaughan/ City of Markham
Projects Supporting Social Inclusion				
20	360 Kids Support Services - Home Base - Vaughan	This project was implemented as a partnership between 360 Kids Support Services, the City of Vaughan and the Vaughan Community Health Centre. The project provided basic needs and a range of support services, such as life skills counselling and recreational activities geared to meeting the needs of low and moderate income youth and build positive character traits. Over 450 youth were served.	89,331	City of Vaughan
21	Big Brothers Big Sisters of York Region - Valuing Diversity-York Region Inclusive Mentoring Project	The project enabled the agency to expand three of its key mentoring programs and recruited additional volunteer mentors who were matched with 482 low and moderate income children in York Region at risk of not reaching their full potential. The project provided conflict resolution training, self-care support groups for youth, peer mentorship, after-school programs and family support programs. Children reported improved social skills and an increased appreciation for developing healthy lifestyles.	72,565	York Region
22	Catholic Community Services of York Region - Specialized Family Support Program	This project delivered 126 accessible, family-centered counselling and group programs through a single point of access to more than 1,400 residents. Programs were offered in multiple locations and languages and included topics on parent education and financial literacy. The project provided opportunities for individuals and families to gain personal and family wellness and build social networks. Participants reported strengthened social networks, increased parenting skills and improved family relations.	127,505	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
23	Character Community Foundation of York Region - Slap Shot Hockey Program for Newcomer Children	The project, offered in both Catholic and Public schools, has used hockey as a means of developing positive character attributes and leadership skills in children from low and moderate income families, including newcomer youth. In 2014, the program expanded to two more schools to serve an additional 50 children. Over 300 children participated in the project. Participants report increased physical activity, socialization and self confidence.	78,500	York Region (Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Markham)
24	Dr Roz's Healing Place - The Vital Intervention Breakthrough & Empowerment Youth Program (V.I.B.E.)	A mentorship, life skills and leadership program for youth assisting them in making healthy choices. The VIBE program included six interactive programs offered in cycles to youth in Markham high schools with an identified need. The program served 468 youth. As a result, youth felt more positive about attending school, developed better coping skills and were helped to make healthy life choices.	55,000	City of Markham
25	Family Services of York Region -Outreach Counselling & Support Services for Newcomers	This project delivered culturally sensitive counselling, support, outreach and group services for South Asian, Farsi and Spanish speaking newcomers. The program included a volunteer training component encouraging newcomers to contribute to their local community. Services were offered in Spanish, Farsi, Tamil, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English. Through counselling and outreach the agency served over 350 residents. Participants reported family life improvement and being able to better cope with stress.	85,561	York Region
26	Future Possibilities for Kids - Connecting Kids and Communities	Over 550 children from low and moderate income communities benefitted from a program that provided one-to-one and group support, encouraged children to develop and implement community action projects, develop an appreciation of community social issues, and a knowledge of community supports available to them and their families.	112,000	York Region
27	Girls Incorporated of York Region - Girls Inc. Discovery Leadership	This project allowed 200 girls aged 12-16 to engage with older adults (55+) in a series of weekly interactive activities around the topics of leadership, community, power and culture. These positive multigenerational interactions provided value and reinforced the ability for youth and seniors to be contributing partners in the community.	28,440	Town of Newmarket
28	Human Endeavour Incorporated - Multi Community Building Project	This project empowered over 3,200 South Asian residents to engage in the broader community. Programs for children and youth in partnership with schools taught coping skills, improved intergenerational and multi community integration through healthy activities. Leadership development was encouraged by volunteer and workforce participation and by creating opportunities for economic empowerment through skills training and information sessions. The program is delivered in Vaughan and Markham. All participants reported feeling more connected to their community and a sense of belonging.	85,146	City of Markham and City of Vaughan

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
29	Jericho Youth Services - Bethany After School Program and Jackson's Point After School Program and P.A. Day Camps	The two projects delivered after school programs for approximately 140 children, 6-12 years olds that provided a supportive and structured environment including homework help, support to improve literacy, healthy snacks and physical activities. The program also provided six free PA Day Camps in two locations. The camps included healthy snacks, recreational and craft activities. Children reported feeling accepted by their peers and an increase in physical fitness.	74,070	Town of Georgina
30	Jewish Family and Child of Greater Toronto - The Family Resource Centre	The Family Resource Centre worked to strengthen families, reduce social isolation, promote healthy growth and development of children by supporting, empowering and educating parents and caregivers. Participants accessed a range of positive family centered supports. Participants reported feeling welcome, being more positive about school work and more connected to the community. Over 3,400 persons benefitted.	92,400	Town of Richmond Hill, Thornhill
31	Learning Centre for Georgina - Georgina Outreach Office and Learning Hub	The project provided academic upgrading that increased literacy, numeracy and financial literacy, counselling and on-site child minding were offered to approximately 100 young parents in the Georgina community. This project was a partnership with the Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers. The agency reported increased self confidence and financial literacy of participants who were better positioned for further education, or employment.	113,600	Town of Georgina
32	Learning Disabilities Association of York Region - Soar/Bridging Transitions	This project assisted 172 children and youth ages 14 to 25 from low to moderate income households with exceptionalities, such as Learning Disabilities (LD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and related mental health issues. The program helped clients identify learning styles, enhance skills to deal with the impact of LD, and develop self-advocacy skills. It also provided pre-employment supports, social skills and financial literacy.	36,819	York Region
33	Middlefield Seniors Wellness Club - Improving the Quality of Life for Middlefield seniors- An Emphasis on Increasing skills and knowledge	The project gave over 200 socially isolated low income seniors residing in the Middlefield area of Markham the opportunity to come together around computer training, wellness and craft programs. Participants reported that the program increased their skills and knowledge, reduced the level of inactivity and encouraged interaction with other members of the community.	36,400	City of Markham

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
34	Project Hostel - Yellow Brick House-Empowerment and Economic Prosperity for South Asian Immigrant Women	This project was geared towards young immigrant women from the South Asian community experiencing various difficulties and who had limited financial literacy skills. Workshops, seminars and mentoring were provided. The 756 clients served was more than double the amount originally estimated by the agency. Participants reported increased community participation and felt more connected to other women in the community.	80,400	York Region
35	Youth Assisting Youth - The Peer Project (YAY)-One-to-One (1:1) and Group Mentoring	The project offered free one-to-one mentoring and group mentoring services to more than 300 children and youth between the ages of 6 and 15. The project matched children and youth with trained mentors and provided programs that built confidence, awareness and skills to make smart choices and excel in school and in the community. Participants reported elevated self confidence and learning new skills.	52,641	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
Community Needs Initiatives				
36	Multiple Agencies Community Needs Project (33 agencies funded)	The Community Needs initiative provided one-time funding to 33 community agencies, for small capital purchases and urgent client needs of up to \$10,000. Minor capital enhancements included appliance purchases/replacements. Urgent client needs included: winter clothing (coats, boots and mittens), and basic care items. Agencies reported that funding allowed them to assist almost 13,000 residents.	182,770	York Region
Total One Year Community Based Services Projects			3,615,721	
Organizational Development Stream				
37	Abuse Program of York Region (YRAP) - Developing Clinical Capacity for Sensorimotor Work in Trauma Therapy	The project supported the development of the agency's analysis and treatment capability by funding clinical training in Somatic Experience for YRAP's four clinicians and two supervisors. This service was not previously offered in York Region. Through the training 68 clients, both children and adults benefit through the reduction of post traumatic stress disorder symptoms.	13,560	York Region
38	Aids Committee of York Region - Engaging Service Users: Building Positive Asset Outcomes and Strengthening Organizational Practice	The agency used an approach that focused on character assets, social challenges and intervention techniques to explore the effects of program intervention on the lives of clients and to enhance services and organizational policies. Approximately 50 service users and 50 volunteers participated in the project. Through a revised intake process, asset mapping capability and an updated evaluation framework, the agency is now better positioned to identify clients needs and provide more effective service.	30,000	York Region
39	Alzheimer Society of York Region - Achieving Accreditation: The Quality Journey	The project allowed the agency to complete the first stage of an accreditation process, as it was recognized that accreditation would become an important assessment criterion applied by other funders. Through the process, the agency's policies and care practices were reviewed and updated to ensure that it was on track to meet accreditation standards. The result has been improved service to the agency's approximately 9,000 residents.	30,000	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
40	Canadian Mental Health Association - Cultural Competency Strategy	The agency developed the first phase of a three-year Cultural Competency Strategy in order to increase access and quality of services to diverse populations in York Region. The agency engaged the services of a specialist, its own staff, board members, volunteers and community stakeholders in the process. The agency reports being better equipped to provide tailored services in ways that are more cognizant of the social, cultural and linguistic needs of its approximately 1,750 clients.	12,000	York Region
41	Family Services of York Region - Developing a Centralized Intake Model	This pilot project helped the agency address long waitlists for services by developing a new centralized user friendly intake model that is responsive to the changing needs of York Region clients. The project served over 750 clients during the pilot. Clients reported that there have been improved response times and are positive about the new process.	16,060	York Region
42	Habitat for Humanity York Region - Theme Build Manager	The agency successfully fundraised over \$1 million dollars to build houses for low income families. In February 2014, York Region's Habitat for Humanity amalgamated with sister organizations in Toronto and Brampton. This merger will allow Habitat for Humanity York Region to build up to 25 affordable homes per year during the next five-year span. In 2014, a home was built in Sutton, Georgina. Volunteers were recruited, trained and assisted in the construction.	45,000	York Region
43	LifeCorps International - LifeCorps Food Share	The project increased the organizational capacity of LifeCorps Food Share by developing a strategic financing plan, strengthening the board with additional board members and developing the capacity to recruit, train and manage volunteers by funding a full-time program manager position. The agency increased its food intake by approximately 30%, to approximately \$1,110,000 value of food which was distributed to 40 agencies in the region.	58,200	York Region
44	Women's Centre of York Region-Strategic Branding	The project enabled the agency to develop and implement a brand re-development strategy including a review of the vision, mission and values of the agency. A communication plan with supporting materials that would help the agency better communicate with its target clients and reach them more effectively was developed.	15,000	York Region
45	Women's Shelter of York Region (Sandgate)- Strategic Planning	The agency provides shelter and services to women and children who are victims of violence. The project developed a strategic plan and built agency capacity in order to determine how to best position the agency in a changing sector. The strategic plan identified four strategic directions for the agency over the next three years that would help the agency meet the increasingly complex needs of its clients.	26,500	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
46	York Region Food Network-Planning for the Future	The agency implemented new policies/procedures and completed a strategic plan building on the activities initiated in 2013. The goal of the strategic plan was to ensure the values of the Food Charter were translated into programs and increased access to local, affordable and nutritious food.	17,250	York Region
		Total One Year Organizational Development Projects	263,570	

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
Innovation and Collaboration Stream				
47	Centre for Information and Community Services of Ontario (CICS) - Building a Healthy and Connected Community	The project promoted a positive lifestyle and social inclusion to 275 residents in the Asian community by bringing newcomers and established residents together for workshops, community gardening, healthy cooking and education classes and training, communal dining, civic engagement activities, and volunteering.	80,000	City of Markham
48	Georgina Trades Training Inc. - Nourishing Possibilities	This project, delivered in collaboration with Georgina Food Pantry provided food skills training including sustainable food practices, nutrition, food preservation techniques and food safety to over 100 low and moderate income residents in Georgina. A community garden was established and promoted access to local food sources.	70,900	York Region
49	Human Endeavour Incorporated - SEED- Supporting Employment and Economic Development	This project increased the capacity of Human Endeavour's Social Enterprise Promotion and Innovation Centre (EPIC) enabling the agency to deliver training, placement and income to their clients as well as clients from other agencies. In a partnership with the Georgina Trades and Training Inc., two new social enterprises were initiated in Georgina. In 2014, 68 individuals were engaged in social enterprises which generated revenue of more than \$86,000.	72,962	York Region
50	York Region Centre for Community Safety - Service Delivery and Evaluation	Through this collaboration project, approximately 250 victims of violence and their children received holistic and coordinated services. The project helped to reduce barriers and increased social supports.	95,000	York Region
Total One Year Innovation and Collaboration Projects			318,862	
Renewable Projects - 3 year projects funded from 2012 - 2014				
51	360 Kids Support Services - Home Base	The Home Base youth drop in centre in Richmond Hill provided basic needs and a range of support services, such as counselling, life skills sessions and recreational activities geared to stabilize the living conditions of homeless and at-risk York Region youth and build positive character traits. In 2014 over 875 youth were served by the project.	351,000	York Region
52	Blue Door Shelters - Community Housing Support Worker project	Provided housing search support to over 1,100 homeless individuals at Blue Door emergency shelters, and helped over 600 clients seek, obtain and maintain permanent housing in York Region. Over 250 clients maintained housing for up to six months.	189,325	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
53	Citizens for Affordable Housing - Identification Clinic	The project helped over 1,000 low and moderate income clients to obtain one or more key pieces of identification (such as birth certificates, birth registrations, SIN cards) that would allow them access to banking services and other supports. This service was offered at various locations across the region through a total of 354 clinics that served 1,020 residents. The agency also offered a safe bank service that kept identification for homeless and constantly mobile residents.	199,248	York Region
54	Citizens for Affordable Housing - Housing Help Centre	Over 12,000 low and moderate income residents used the Centre's services in their housing search by accessing an online housing directory of available, affordable rental units; through telephone and one to one in-office assistance and receiving referrals to other community services and programs. The Centre maintained a York Region Housing registry by securing vacancy listings from landlords.	133,636	York Region
55	Family Services York Region - Families and Schools Together	This project engaged over 500 residents from low and moderate income families (including recent immigrants) to participate in regular structured and research-based activities aimed at strengthening families, empowering parents and building supportive communities. The project promoted family connections, improved interaction between families and the schools and improved perceptions of law enforcement personnel. Families reported having more positive connections and social supports as a result of the program.	87,509	York Region
56	Georgina Trades Training Inc. - Get SET for your Future	This program increased the employability of 29 unemployed individuals by delivering a multi-faceted program of literacy/numeracy upgrading, financial literacy, problem solving skills, job related certifications, computer skills and service skills. Nine individuals found employment.	64,330	Georgina
57	JVS Toronto - YouthReach II	This project, delivered at various locations, assessed 138 youth ages 15-30 who have a history of conflict with the law. YouthReach II provided one-on-one employment counselling and job development services so that youth can either obtain employment or move to an employment related activity to increase their employability. Over 80 youth completed the program and 32 gained employment.	159,728	York Region
58	Krasman Centre - Application Support Worker	This project provided supports to 98 residents, assisting them through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) application process. In 2014 more than 30 Disability Determination Packages were submitted and 19 applicants were granted eligibility to receive ODSP supports.	77,000	York Region

Summary of 2014 Community Investment Projects

No.	Agency and Project Name	Project Descriptions and Achievements	Funding Allocated in 2014 \$	Service Area
59	Krasman Centre - Prevention/Drop-in Worker	The project provided practical supports, including information and referral to necessary services to approximately 900 homeless or at-risk individuals with mental health challenges, who accessed the Krasman Drop In Centre. The agency also engaged services from other related providers which addressed other needs of its clients that would contribute to their housing stability.	37,933	York Region
60	Literacy Council York-Simcoe - Skills Enhancement for Employment	Provided essential, employability, computer and job search skills to over 300 low income individuals, 260 of which received professional development certificates that indicated skills improvement in order to increase their confidence and ability to compete in the job market. Ninety-eight percent of clients expressed enhanced readiness to enter, and successfully compete in the workforce, and 29 found employment.	79,718	York Region
61	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Young Mothers Outreach Program	More than 300 young mothers received supports from this project through both individual counselling and group programs on parenting, child development and peer support. Mothers reported improved relationships with family members, being better able to support their child's development, and enhanced ability to deal with crises.	140,390	York Region
62	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers - Housing Support	This project helped 269 young mothers understand the rental housing market, their rights, and to apply for, secure and maintain affordable housing. Individuals reported an increase in knowledge of affordable housing and in accessing emergency items needed. Approximately 50 clients gained and maintained housing.	66,495	York Region
63	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter - Employment and Educational Support Project	This project provided pre-employment supports and an in-house educational program to over 100 youth at the Shelter, or at-risk of homelessness youth in the community. The services were geared to improve employability and life skills of clients and to support and inspire the youth to continue their education. Thirty-eight youth found employment.	104,934	York Region
64	Salvation Army Sutton Youth Shelter - Housing and Community Supports	This project offered counselling support, life skills workshops, assistance to find housing and advocacy, to over 80 youth ages 16 to 26 to help them obtain and maintain adequate, affordable housing. Sixty-seven youth found housing and remained housed for three months.	72,626	York Region
65	Women's Centre of York Region - Bridging the Gap	The project provided a variety of services, such as financial literacy workshops, health and wellbeing workshops, and emergency basic needs supports to help over 600 low income women bridge the gap between financial vulnerability and sustainability.	142,283	York Region
Total Renewable Projects			1,906,155	