

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services
April 16, 2020

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Social Service Response to COVID-19 Global Pandemic

1. Recommendations

1. Council authorize the Commissioner, Community and Health Services and the Regional Chairman to adjust, re-allocate, cancel or provide new Community Investment Fund funding for projects and initiatives in 2020 to maximize funding for priority social service initiatives that respond to COVID-19 needs.
2. Council authorize the Commissioner, Community and Health Services and the Regional Chairman to direct any new federal, provincial or other external funding York Region receives for social services towards eligible priority projects and initiatives that respond to COVID-19 needs.
3. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services report back on the progress of social service initiatives the Region undertakes and funds in support of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities, the United Way Greater Toronto and local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament.

2. Summary

This report responds to the request made at the [April 2, 2020](#) meeting of Council for information on the needs of vulnerable residents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, actions in response, and recommendations on Regional funding to enable the Region to respond to the pandemic and the social service needs. This report focuses on the social service needs of vulnerable residents. Health needs are addressed through regular updates by the Medical Officer of Health.

Key Points:

- The Region has taken decisive action as the COVID-19 emergency has evolved, by adapting delivery of essential regional programs and services while putting new structures and supports in place to contain spread of the virus, protect the health and safety of residents, and start to address emerging social service needs. The situation is dynamic, and actions will continue to be implemented and evolve.

- The Region is one player in the broader system supporting York Region residents, with a variety of mandates and programs for delivery of human services. The Region is adapting and enhancing core services to respond to the growing needs in York Region as a consequence of the COVID-19 global pandemic in areas such as homelessness, children's services, income supports and affordable housing.
- For social issues beyond the scope of Regional services, the Region has partnered with United Way Greater Toronto to work with community agencies to monitor trends and needs, and formulate responses to address impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups through community partnerships.
- Immediate Regional actions focus on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and maintaining economic stability for our most vulnerable residents. This work includes initiatives to help the shelter and housing with supports system adapt to meet emergency requirements, implement a temporary rent benefit program for those in community housing, and giving flexibility to funded social service agencies to help address immediate needs resulting from COVID-19. The expected incremental costs of the housing and homelessness response alone are expected to exceed the provincial funding allocated to date.
- The Region is reviewing existing programs and initiatives so they can be better positioned to respond to social service needs, including projects funded under the Community Investment Fund. In 2020 funding for projects and initiatives may be augmented or amended to better address COVID-19 community needs; new projects and initiatives for the funding may also be introduced to support the Region's response.
- Regional activities complement Federal and Provincial Government actions, including various supports for immediate and longer-term needs announced through [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) and [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#), respectively.

3. Background

York Region has taken action to protect the health and safety of York Region residents in the face of COVID-19 global pandemic

On January 23, 2020 York Region's Public Health Emergency Operations Centre was activated – more than a month before York Region's first case of COVID-19 was announced on February 29, 2020. The Health Emergency Operations Centre directs its efforts and resources toward the public health response. As the global and local context of COVID-19 became more acute and Public Health needed more resources, the Community and Health Services Emergency Operations Center opened on March 3, 2020. The Regional Emergency Operations Centre was fully activated on March 16, 2020.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, Public Health and Paramedic and Seniors Services have been at the forefront fighting to contain the spread of the virus. The activities and planning of these program areas are not included in the report as its focus is on social services. Information about the activities of these branches is available in the [April 2, 2020](#) presentation to Council on the Region's response to COVID-19, and through regular updates to Council and Committee by the Medical Officer of Health.

York Region has taken many actions to contain the spread of COVID-19 over the last six weeks

Social service programs have joined the fight to contain the spread of COVID-19, help the overburdened healthcare sector and help maintain the health and safety of residents. As outlined in the [April 2, 2020](#) presentation by the Chief Administrative Officer to Council, York Region's Response to COVID-19 has resulted in changes to how essential public facing programs are delivered, and in some instances, programs have been put on hold. For example:

- Providing social assistance, children's services and homelessness supports over the phone rather than in person
- Completing only urgent repairs in Housing York Inc. resident units
- Partnering with Public Health to provide guidance and supports to Emergency Housing providers to assist them in protecting staff and residents while maintaining supportive programming
- Enhancing resources for Access York to respond to increased calls/emails related to COVID-19

The Federal and Provincial Governments have enacted new legislation, emergency orders and increased funding

While the Region has acted to protect the health and safety of its residents and to keep essential programs and services running, the Federal government has focused efforts on protecting the immediate and longer-term needs of Canadians through its comprehensive [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#) and associated funding. The *COVID-19 Economic Response Plan* includes:

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit of \$2,000 a month for up to four months to eligible workers who have lost their income due to COVID-19 and are not eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits. This amount is roughly equivalent to what a full-time wage earner would receive
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy of 75% of an employee's wages, up to \$847 per week, to support employers with gross revenue drops of at least 15% in March and 30% in April and May. The program is in effect from March 15 to June 6, 2020
- \$100 million to national, regional, and local organizations across Canada to purchase, transport and distribute food and other basic necessities and to hire temporary help to fill volunteer shortages
- One-time special payment by early May through the Goods and Services Tax credit for low- and modest-income families. The average additional benefit will be close to \$400 for single individuals and close to \$600 for couples

- An extra \$300 per child through the Canada Child Benefit for 2019 to 2020
- \$9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to seniors
- \$157.5 million to the Federal homelessness program, “Reaching Home”. For York Region, this funding is administered by United Way Greater Toronto. Allocations have not yet been announced

[Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#) (March 2020 Economic and Fiscal Update) was released to mitigate the immediate impacts of physical distancing and closure of non-essential workplaces, schools and daycares and includes:

- One-time payment of \$200 per child up to 12 years of age and \$250 for those 0 to 21 years of age with special needs, to help families pay for extra costs associated with school and child care center closures
- \$5 million to support coordination of subsidized deliveries of meals, medicines and other essentials by working with local business, charities and health services
- \$100 million through Employment Ontario for skills training programs for workers affected by COVID-19
- The Social Services Relief Fund – a \$200 million fund created to protect health and safety of Ontario's most vulnerable people. It is comprised of:
 - \$52 million to expand access to the emergency assistance program administered by Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program to provide financial support and help with basic needs, such as food and rent
 - \$148 million to the 47 consolidated municipal service managers and district social service administration boards in Ontario for March 15, 2020 to March 31, 2021 to help address local needs. York Region was allocated \$4.98 million to be managed through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiatives program
- \$9 million in direct support for energy costs by expanding eligibility for the Low-income Energy Assistance program
- Proposal to double the Guaranteed Annual Income System payment for low-income seniors for six months starting in April 2020. If implemented, this would increase the maximum payment to \$166 per month for individuals and \$322 per month for couples.

The federal and provincial governments have committed to a wide range of new and expanded financial supports. The Region is tracking these programs, and promoting their use.

Community Investment Fund supports community-based projects targeting gaps in social services

In [October 2019](#), Council endorsed funding of \$5.6 million for 45 projects to be delivered by 38 agencies in 2020. Funded agencies include The Food Bank of York Region, York Region Food Network, Krasman Centre, the Canadian Mental Health Association, Inn from the Cold, March of Dimes and 360 Kids. Through the Community Investment Fund, the Region supports non-profit agencies to deliver projects and initiatives that improve the well-being of vulnerable residents, particularly those living with low to moderate income. The program leverages the strengths of community agencies familiar with local needs and with the expertise to support specific populations. Projects include collection and delivery of food donations, counselling for youth experiencing trauma, mental health and substance abuse, and technical and soft skills employment training for marginalized groups.

The Region is leveraging the Community Investment Fund as part of its COVID-19 response. In the immediate term, agencies were given flexibility to use committed funding for emergency needs. Staff is now reviewing all projects to determine which should be augmented, which could pivot to help address the COVID-19 global pandemic, and which should end because they can no longer reasonably be implemented.

4. Analysis

Ripple effects of pandemic responses are impacting vulnerable populations

Needs and issues facing vulnerable populations in York Region are becoming more pronounced, as a result of mobility restrictions, job loss and isolation as more restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of the virus are put in place. As community food programs, drop-ins, libraries, community centers and school meal programs have closed, the most vulnerable are relying more than ever on the Region's critical supports and services to get by.

All Greater Toronto Area regional governments are generally consistent in how they are responding to community needs. Staff is participating on many association and provincial tables to share information and actions.

The most common need is financial help

A scan of community agencies, local municipalities, and advisory boards (Human Services Planning Board, Accessibility Advisory Committee, Community Partnership Council) was conducted two weeks ago. Forty agencies and stakeholders responded. They were asked what the most important community needs are and the top challenges their organizations are facing in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations served. This scan will be updated regularly and will help inform the work of the Community Coordination Table, described later in this report.

Data from Access York is being monitored to help understand evolving needs. In March, the highest numbers of calls were related to COVID-19 (3,700 calls), and financial assistance

(2,041 applying for Ontario Works, 1,830 calls from existing Ontario Works clients about payments and benefits, and 254 calls for help with utility costs). There were also 630 calls about requesting subsidized housing.

Attachment 1 summarizes findings from the community scan, check-ins with community partners, local municipalities, Access York, and 211 FindHelp.

York Region is delivering enhanced supports under provincially mandated programs while leveraging Regionally-funded initiatives and networks

The Region is responsible for the following social services, each of which is described below along with information on emerging issues. Detailed information on the Region's current and planned short term social service response is provided in Attachment 2. Short-term critical goals for social service actions are to:

- Prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially in vulnerable populations
- Maintain the health and safety of vulnerable populations, especially with respect to housing and shelter
- Reduce the burden on the health care system

Initiatives that support these goals will mitigate health impacts and support responses focused on resolving the health crisis. As short-term goals (see Attachment 2) are addressed, medium term goals will be established such as enhancing efforts to prevent housing losses, identifying initiatives required to help with recovery efforts, and supporting programs needed to address societal issues as communities emerge from the pandemic. Medium term actions will include monitoring of new and evolved programs and supports implemented by senior levels of government, to maximize their use in York Region for eligible households and organizations.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In its role as Service Manager, the Region is encouraging community housing providers to also work with tenants and has established a short-term benefit for eligible low-income market rent households in community housing

The Region's role in housing is as Service Manager for the system and a housing provider (*Housing Services Act, 2011*). The Region is responsible for funding and oversight of community housing providers and operates its own municipal community housing provider – Housing York Inc.

The April 1st rent collection for Housing York Inc. is only slightly below normal, however staff anticipate rent revenues will decrease the longer the pandemic goes on. To mitigate potential impacts, Housing York Inc. delivered information on temporary income supports to tenants, and is working with affected tenants, adjusting rents for subsidized households and establishing payment plans for market rent households.

Province has suspended enforcement of residential evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice

Landlords may continue to serve eviction notices for non-payment of rent, however, the Landlord and Tenant Board has suspended all hearings related to eviction applications, unless the matter relates to an urgent issue like an illegal act or serious impairment of safety. The Province encourages landlords to work with tenants to establish arrangements to keep tenants in their homes, including deferring rent or other payment arrangements. The Community Legal Clinic York Region (Community Investment funded agency) is educating York Regional Police about illegal evictions at this time, so officers have information needed when called in these circumstances.

When the moratorium on enforcing evictions is lifted, or after months of income challenges and tenants are facing months of arrears, the number of evictions could increase. Staff have requested information from the Landlord and Tenant Board on the number of potential evictions in the system.

Applications for assistance through the Region's Homelessness Prevention Program and Housing Stability Program have not yet increased but are expected to escalate

These programs provide supports to eligible clients, such as funding for first and last month's rent, rental and utility arrears, urgent medical needs, and landlord and tenant mediation. While there is sufficient funding for the time-being, staff anticipate additional demands on the program as the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic evolve and escalate.

SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS

The Region has opened a 15 room Self-Isolation Shelter for people experiencing homelessness who have been tested positive or awaiting results for COVID-19 and extended Community Investment funded seasonal shelters

The Region is the Service Manager for services for people who are homeless (*Housing Services Act, 2011*). The need to adhere to physical distancing and self-isolation requirements in the emergency housing shelters is a major pressure.

The shelters provide safe temporary accommodations for residents who are homeless. The next step is to open a Transitional Isolation Shelter to provide those who are homeless a space to self-isolate for 14 days, help manage the eventual closure of the two seasonal shelters, and address space issues in emergency housing. The Region has provided resources and guidance to service providers to help them operate safely, however, lack of personal protective equipment and space are major concerns.

Emergency Housing Providers are seeing an approximately 25% decrease in staffing

Due to staff feeling ill, self-isolating, or refusing work there is a decrease in staffing. In addition, there is pressure on staff due to extra shifts and having to find ways to encourage clients to stay inside.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Emergency Child Care Centres in York Region will be located near all three regional hospitals; two of these centres were ready to open the week of April 6 and a third the week of April 13, 2020

York Region's 540 licensed child care centres and 70 EarlyON programs were required to close on March 17, 2020 under a declaration of emergency by the Province. This quickly became an issue for many health care and other front-line parents. The Ministry of Education responded by permitting service managers to opt to establish Emergency Child Care Centres to provide no fee child care for eligible health care and other frontline workers. As of April 9, 80 applications for child care have been submitted. Some of York Region's Early Interventionists have been redeployed to support these emergency centres; helping children adjust to their new routine and surroundings, especially children with special needs.

Several services continue to be provided via telephone, including Child Care Fee Subsidies (licenced home care continues to operate), Early Intervention Services, Infant and Child Development Services and Inclusion Support Services

All face-to-face meetings with Children's Services clients have been discontinued however the needs of children and families have not stopped. Almost 80% of families are taking part in virtual programming to support their children with special needs. Video visits will soon be available for families with children who are medically frail or have other special needs.

The ongoing stability of child care centers is a concern because these centers will be needed again when the crisis stabilizes and parents return to work

Operators still have fixed costs to pay, even when their doors are not open. On April 10, 2020, the province issued an emergency order that prevents closed child care operators across the province from charging parents fees when care is not being provided (staff do not know how many child care centers were charging parents fees in York Region as the Region does not have oversight of this part of the market). The province has said it will work with the child care sector and federal, municipal and First Nations partners on a plan to ensure the sustainability of the sector. Staff participate on a provincial technical working group, and more information on how operators will be supported is expected soon.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND INCOME SUPPORTS

The Region administers Social Assistance program (Ontario Works) on behalf of the Province. The Province has expanded access to temporary emergency assistance under

Ontario Works for those in financial crisis who have no access to other supports, including those who are waiting for support from the federal government to become available.

Staff are being redeployed to support an 84% year over year increase in applications for social assistance (871 applications).

YORK REGION COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Projects and associated funding may need to be quickly adjusted to respond to current realities

COVID-19 has impacted current initiatives under the Community Investment Fund. Similar to the experience of other organizations, the pandemic has resulted in substantial changes to the way community agencies deliver programs. In-person programs, either in a one-on-one or group setting, have been suspended and, where possible, adjusted for virtual delivery. School-based programming, such as providing breakfast and snacks at select schools, has stopped with closure of the schools.

There are programs funded by the Community Investment Fund that are escalating and scaling up to respond to community needs. To sustain shelter capacity during the pandemic and help prevent the spread of the virus, seasonal shelters funded under Community Investment were extended. Extension of the seasonal shelters has bought time for other solutions to be implemented, such as the isolation shelter and planned transitional shelter.

Food access agencies have also started to work with the Region through its coordination table with United Way to understand issues, identify gaps and collaborate on solutions.

It is expected that some projects will be scaled up, reduced, or cancelled. These changes to programming are resulting in changes to funding required to support initiatives.

Funding made available from reductions or cancellations of projects will be redirected to existing projects that need to be expanded or to new initiatives required to address gaps

Additional projects and initiatives may be required as part of the Region's response. Normally project and funding approvals under the Community Investment Fund are brought to Council for approval. To be able to quickly respond to evolving community needs, it is recommended that Council authorise the Commissioner, Community and Health Services and the Regional Chairman to approve changes to projects and funding in 2020 (including any new projects required to help with the community response).

Attachment 3 provides a summary of short-term actions within the community sector that York Region is supporting.

York Region and the United Way Greater Toronto are co-chairing a Community Coordination Table to address evolving needs

The Region has a role as a facilitator and capacity builder in the human services sector. In this role, the Region is co-leading a COVID-19 Community Coordination initiative with United Way Greater Toronto to coordinate actions on emerging needs of vulnerable people that are not directly within Region's mandate. Initial actions include:

- Making emergency funding available to community agencies via United Way to target emerging issues identified in the community scan
- Establishing working groups to coordinate efforts on the ground and share resources to increase access to food, support people who are homeless, and enable access to seniors supports
- Increasing capacity of organizations to access/leverage funding available through other levels of government and foundations by providing information on available funding opportunities, a virtual grant-writing workshop and volunteers to develop funding proposals

This Community Coordination Table will continue to provide a forum for community agencies and local municipalities to identify issues as they emerge and explore opportunities to address them in a coordinated manner. The Community Coordination Table, and the supporting working groups, will be useful in providing advice on initiatives and programs for funding. For example, currently the United Way Greater Toronto has received approximately \$900,000 for seniors supports in the regions it serves, and will be allocated Federal funding from the Reaching Home program to help address homelessness (the allocation amount has not yet been determined). Decisions by the Region on potential reallocation of Community Investment Funding will similarly be informed by the Community Coordination Table and its working groups.

5. Financial

Additional funding will be required to fully support and sustain the Region's social service response

While it is possible that some initiatives could be accommodated within the Community and Health Services department's approved 2020 Operating Budget and Outlook, additional funding will be required to fully support and sustain Regional initiatives in response to the needs of communities and vulnerable populations. See Table 1 for related programs in the Community and Health Services 2020 approved budget.

Table 1
2020 Approved Budget

Operating Budget (\$ in Millions)	2020 Approved (Gross)	2020 Approved (Net)
Housing Services	110.0	67.3
Social Assistance	100.1	10.4
Homelessness Community Programs	27.4	11.1
Children Services	181.5	22.4

The Region anticipates receiving federal and provincial funding to help offset COVID-19 - related expenditures. Information on federal and provincial funding for the Region's emergency response is very limited at this time.

One-time provincial funding of \$4,981,700 has been allocated by the Province through the Community Homelessness Initiative under the Social Services Relief Fund

On April 1, 2020, York Region was notified it would receive an allocation of \$4,981,700 from the Social Services Relief Fund. This one-time funding flows through the existing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and is to cover March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Funding will be provided on a phased basis, with 50% to be available in April 2020, 25% in early July, and subsequent quarters paid based on projected and actual expenditures. After the first 50%, the balance of the allocation may be subject to reallocation or adjustment by the Ministry.

Staff recommend using the Social Services Relief Fund allocation to create emergency shelter space and towards incremental costs of homelessness support programs

York Region as service manager has flexibility to determine how to best use the Social Services Relief funding to respond to the needs of vulnerable people during this COVID-19 crisis. The Ministry permits a wide range of potential uses, however the funding allocation is not sufficient to cover costs beyond the most critical of emergency needs.

The Region has already begun to incur costs for mandated and new social services as part of its COVID-19 response, including costs associated with extending operations of two seasonal shelters, and implementing a self-isolation site for symptomatic or COVID-19-positive homeless individuals. Staff is also currently developing plans for a transitional homeless shelter, as described earlier in this report. Descriptions of these projects are also

provided in Attachment 2. Housing programs also help curb the spread of COVID-19 by providing places for self-isolation and recovery.

In addition to these emergency response projects which focus on helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19, demands on the Region's Homelessness prevention and stabilization programs, including Housing with Support Programs (whose needs mirror long-term care needs), are also expected to escalate, and additional funding will be required.

The estimated costs of these initiatives alone will use up almost the entire Social Services Relief fund allocation, as shown in Table 2. A best case scenario is assumed whereby the worst of the COVID-19 impacts will be over by the end of July. No assumptions are made at this time for possible costs related to a second wave of COVID-19 this fall.

Table 2
Estimated Cost of Immediate Emergency Response Needs for People
Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness

Emergency Response Project	Estimated Costs as of April 10, 2020	Comments
Extend two seasonal shelters	\$368,430	Estimated costs a 1 month extension, along with a provision for a further 1 month extension if required (depending upon when the Transitional Shelter is operational)
Establish Isolation Shelter at Leeder Place starting April 3, 2020	\$1,184,827	Estimated costs assume 4 months of operation (April – July), and include costs of housing and support services for the families relocated to make Leeder Place available for use as an isolation shelter
Establish 50 unit Transitional Shelter – not yet implemented	\$1,241,380	Estimated costs assume 3 months (May -July) of operation. Costs include accommodations, food, operational staffing and wrap around support services
Expansion of Self Isolation	\$350,000	Includes 4 months (April -

Emergency Response Project	Estimated Costs as of April 10, 2020	Comments
Services		July) of supports
Housing with Supports	\$100,000	Includes 2 months of financial supports for operators of housing with supports (April-May) to help address COVID-19 related costs
Housing Stability Program	\$287,200	Cost estimate for anticipated increased demand for this program for 4 months (April-July)
Homelessness Prevention Program	\$358,400	Cost estimate for anticipated increased demand for this program for 4 months (April-July)
OW Food Vouchers	\$100,000	Cost estimate for anticipated increased demand for 4 months (April-July)
Total	\$3,990,237	

Staff recommend the additional Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Fund allocation (Social Services Relief funding) be applied against eligible incremental costs associated with the Region's social service response, including costs to add emergency capacity to the shelter system (extension of seasonal shelters, new isolation shelter, new transitional shelter) and sustain homelessness prevention and housing stabilization and support programs as outlined above. These incremental costs total approximately \$4.0 million until July 2020, based on early staff estimates. While the currently estimated costs could be less than the Social Services Relief Fund allocation, they only represent a part of the overall costs.

Staff is reviewing projects approved under the Community Investment Fund to assess if some funds could be reallocated to emergency response activities and projects

If there is any remaining Social Services Relief funding, it will be used for other emergency needs, including potentially through the Community Investment Fund to support emergency responses by community agencies. Funding for community agencies will also be available through reallocation of 2020 Community Investment funds. In addition, there may be further

Federal and/or Provincial funding. It is recommended that the Commissioner, Community and Health Services and the Regional Chairman be authorized to allocate remaining Social Services Relief funds, reallocate Community Investment Funds, and allocate any new Federal or Provincial funds. Staff will look to the Region's coordination table with United Way for advice on activities that could be funded.

Community and Health Services staff will continue to monitor needs and will bring forward any additional required funding as part of the upcoming budget process.

6. Local Impact

All actions taken by the Region in response to COVID-19 are for the benefit of residents across all local municipalities. The Region continues to respond to evolving needs in its core service areas, including homelessness, children's services, income supports and affordable housing. Local municipalities were invited to participate in the community scan to ensure their concerns were taken into consideration in developing short-term actions and will be included in future scans (see Attachment 3). Engagement with local municipalities will continue as COVID-19 response evolves in our community.

7. Conclusion

At each stage of this emergency, the Region has taken steps to keep residents safe, to provide up-to-date information and to contain the spread of COVID-19 by modifying and temporarily suspending some programs to adhere to physical distancing. As the COVID-19 emergency and containment efforts persist, the Region is seeing negative social impacts on our most vulnerable populations; whose needs (see Attachment 1) require ongoing supports to adequately address.

Going forward, the Region will continue to prioritize resources where they are needed most; leverage existing resources, partnerships and community assets; coordinate with stakeholders; and, work to minimize longer-term impacts of the emergency. As the short-term actions outlined in Attachment 2 and 3 are implemented and needs addressed, staff will report back to Council with a status report and to propose medium-term actions, such as enhancing efforts to prevent housing losses and downstream recovery planning.

The federal and provincial governments have implemented funding to support individuals and sectors (such as for seniors and food banks), and staff anticipate these programs will evolve and new ones launched. Through Access York, York Region will continue to provide information to individuals about these opportunities and direction on how to access them. Through the Community Coordination Table and its working group, and regular communications to community agencies, York Region will continue to share information about funding opportunities.

For more information on this report, please contact Joseph Silva, Director, Strategies and Partnerships at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74182. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Katherine Chislett**
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**
Chief Administrative Officer

April 15, 2020
Attachments (3)
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