

Short-Term Actions within the Community Sector that the Region’s Community and Health Services Programs are Supporting (as of April 9, 2020)

Community Priority Area	Short Term Actions (estimated timing to June 2020)
Community Development	<p>Short Term Goal: Pivot programs to support COVID-19 efforts for vulnerable people in the community, establish processes to monitor trends and issues, and respond to them</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review all projects funded for 2020 under the Region’s Community Investment Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 community agencies have been contracted to run 45 projects in 2020 to help address the needs of individuals experiencing low and moderate income in four priority areas. With the COVID-19 emergency, some projects may be over-subscribed, some could change to address needs, and others have ceased operations • Staff will review all projects to determine how unused/unspent dollars can be redirected to fill gaps and emerging priorities for vulnerable populations 2. Establish and Co-chair with the United Way Greater Toronto a community coordination table to identify emerging needs and facilitate/coordinate collective emergency response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Partners table established March 23, with 49 member organizations as of April 9, 2020. Membership currently includes organizations such as 360 Kids, Canadian Mental Health Association, Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS), York Region Centre for Community Safety and other human services organizations in York Region. The weekly meetings are held virtually • Working group on Homelessness began meeting April 14 and meets virtually twice a week. The group is an expansion of the Community Advisory Board established by the United Way Greater Toronto as a requirement of the federal Reaching Home program. Members include Blue Door Shelter, 360 Kids, Yellow Brick House, Sandgate, Canadian Mental Health Association, Mosaic and Inn from the Cold and others. This group will assist United Way with funding allocation decisions once the increased federal funding announced on April 4 is available • Working group on Food Security was established on April 2 and meets virtually weekly. Members include York Region Food Network, Food Bank of York Region, Second Harvest, CHATS, and other key organizations • Working group on seniors’ issues to be established. This working group will assist the United Way Greater Toronto with allocating funding it has been given to support seniors

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Social Isolation	<p>Short term goal: Help those who are isolated stay connected, especially those who are most vulnerable</p> <p>In addition to the challenges faced by housing, emergency housing, and housing with support providers who are trying to support and encourage residents to stay safe inside, the Community Scan found that addressing social isolation (loneliness) is one of the top needs in the community.</p> <p>3. Establish a resource toolkit for the frail, elderly and caregivers of seniors who are quarantined or in self-isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most vulnerable are faced with both physical and social isolation. These resources will help mitigate the enormous toll COVID-19 is taking on the mental health and well-being of seniors • To assist older adults and their caregivers in isolation exhibiting increased anxiety, depression and emotional stress, connections will be made with organizations such as CHATS, Alzheimer’s Society and the United Way collaboration tables • Explore Mental Health and addiction virtual support options for people who are experiencing homelessness and/or people who receive Ontario Works • Conduct weekly check-in calls with Adult Day Program caregivers and clients to help identify individuals in crisis and provide support
Service Navigation and Language Supports	<p>Short term goal: Help residents and community agencies to navigate services available, and improve multi-language access.</p> <p>4. Through our contractual relationship with 211 FindHelp and many service providers, support updating the service database and promote its use</p> <p>Note: Access York is using language line to provide information in multiple languages to callers</p>
Food	<p>Short term goal: Help people in need to access food</p> <p>Helping people to get access to food available from food banks or other sources was identified as one of the top needs in the Community Scan results. Also identified were challenges with staffing food banks.</p> <p>On April 3, 2020 the Federal Government announced \$100M for foodbanks in Canada. Various access points have been or are being established for food banks to apply for funding, such as through Second Harvest and Community Food Centres Canada.</p> <p>5. Increase food voucher program for those on Ontario Works using direct deposit</p>

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Mobility /Transportation	<p>Short term goal: Help make transit more affordable, safer and accessible for people who need it:</p> <p>Helping people to access safe and affordable transportation was identified as one of the top needs in the Community Scan results.</p> <p>6. Leverage York Region’s Transit Discount Program and Transit Assistance Program pilot to help people attend training or look for work or assist in getting to work</p>