

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN 2022-2026 UPDATE

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND INITIATIVES

Initiative	Results (since launch)*
<p><u>Children, Youth and Family Situation Tables</u></p> <p>Brings together diverse, multi-sector service providers to resolve situations of acutely elevated risk and prevent negative outcomes from (re)occurring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 partner organizations • 1,195 individuals served through 546 situations brought to the Tables • Acutely elevated risk lowered in 78% of situations • York Regional Police report a 65% decrease in calls for service comparing six months before and after a situation was brought to a Situation Table
<p><u>Mobile Youth Services Hub</u></p> <p>Provides mobile services to vulnerable youth in identified high traffic areas. Aims to increase resource access, social inclusion and community safety through crisis intervention and prevention supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,773 youth served • 2,604 services provided • 899 participants assisted with food security • 585 participants assisted with transportation
<p><u>Service Navigator Pilot Program</u></p> <p>Provides youth and other residents with improved service access and navigation tools to increase awareness and access to available supports. Service Navigators have cultural connections, community connections and/or lived experience with priority risks. Service navigators can be embedded in locations such as schools and hospitals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 324 served • 4,384 individuals engaged • 234 assessments completed • 296 community referrals

*current as of October 2024

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUND INITIATIVES

Initiative	Results (since launch)*
<p><u>Youth Supporting Youth Pilot Program</u></p> <p>Uses a peer mentorship approach to support youth with strategies and coping mechanisms to increase protective factors and reduce underlying risk factors. Program offers peer support certification and workshops at local schools and in the community on topics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 peer mentors engaged • 81 youth healers recruited • 618 youth attended events/initiatives that address educational needs (e.g., mental health) • 1781 youth engaged to share information about events/initiatives
<p><u>Community Violence Prevention Funding</u></p> <p>Students, grassroots organizations, and agencies can apply for funding to undertake community driven proactive actions to reduce underlying risk factors that can lead to youth crime, harm and victimization.</p> <p>8 resident-led projects underway, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stamp Out Stigma</i> • <i>Youth Driven Watershed</i> • <i>Violence Prevention and Intervention</i> • <i>Community Anti-bully Education Program</i> • <i>Toastmaster for Violence Prevention</i> • <i>Echoes of Empowerment: Art Against Abuse</i> <p>5 agency-led initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation – <i>Bridging the Gaps - An Interconnected Approach to Community Safety and Well-Being</i> • Housing Help Centre – <i>Improving Safety Outcomes for Female Victims of Violence in South-Central Richmond Hill</i> • Canadian Centre for Men and Families – <i>Early Intervention Strategies for Youth</i> • Playforever – <i>Fostering Resilience through Sports, Mental Health, and Employment</i> • South Asian and Tamil Women's Collective – <i>Community Well-Being Conference</i> 	<p>Resident stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,060 served by resident stream • 15 projects completed • 7 projects under consideration <p>Agency stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,319 served

[Traumatic Incident Response Protocol](#)

Following a traumatic incident in the community, the program identifies and mobilizes local municipalities and community partners.

- 1 activation
 - 85 served
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COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES (CAT) – LOCAL ACTIONS

Northern Georgia

70
CAT
members

10
community
ambassadors
(resident leaders)

15,860
residents
engaged
2023-2024

15/35
CAT actions
completed in
2023

35/35
actions to be
completed or
in progress by
end of 2024

Mental Well-Being actions	Completed (action achieved)	Ongoing (achieved, requires ongoing attention)	In-progress (action started)
1. Conduct a resident mental well-being survey to inform community projects and service delivery	•	•	
2. Create and maintain a community resource asset map	•	•	
3. Share resources to increase access to information and connections to mental health supports	•	•	
4. Improve coordination and integration of services with established community networks	•	•	
5. Build partnerships across the focus area for referrals and supports	•	•	
6. Build resident-led ambassador groups to encourage resident participation in CAT actions	•	•	
7. Host social and cultural inclusion activities (e.g., community kitchens, free tax clinics, festivals)	•	•	
8. Create youth peer support in local high schools			•
9. Partner with school boards to explore opportunities to address mental well-being			•
10. Offer mental health first aid training in a variety of community settings			•
11. Create more in-person substance use and addiction workshops			•
12. Explore opportunities to increase access to the Parents Support Program			•
13. Explore opportunities to offer grief counselling training to community and grassroots organizations			•
14. Explore options to increase mental health workers in the community			•
15. Explore alternative funding and service models for mental health			•

16. Develop a food program model and adapts to cultures, offering diverse foods	•	•	
17. Partner with local farmers to address local food security	•	•	
18. Find more accessible spaces for communities (e.g., community gardens)			•
19. Explore expanding accessible transportation in Georgina			•

Economic Stability actions	Completed	Ongoing	In progress
20. Work with local service providers to review and strengthen culturally relevant services, including delivery in multiple languages			•
21. Host employment readiness workshops with a focus on transitional supports, coaching, interview skills and resume writing	•	•	
22. Develop employment training and support program for people living with developmental/mental health issues			•
23. Conduct employers workshops with a focus on preparing the workplace for a diverse range of workers (e.g., youth, women, indigenous, newcomers, etc.) and job shadowing/coaching opportunities			•
24. Sponsor, support local job fairs	•	•	
25. Establish partnerships to promote local job creation including youth employment opportunities	•	•	
26. Create Pathways Program for Youth to explore higher education and pathways to employment	•	•	
27. Develop youth peer mentorship program			•
28. Explore developing youth business program with partners	•	•	
29. Host career training workshops targeted for women, youth and newcomers			•
30. Explore paid internship/apprenticeship program with schools and colleges			•
31. Explore developing a program to support single mothers to obtain education and employment			•
32. Conduct a feasibility study for the creation for a Working Centre for Northern Georgina	•	•	
33. Advocate for work incentives/bonus to start work			•
34. Advocate for a livable wage			•
35. Partner with stakeholders on transportation for employment reasons, incentives for hiring locally, training and apprenticeship programs for skilled workers, and subsidies for working mothers			•

United Way Greater Toronto Quick Action Grant projects

18

resident grants

7

agency grants

2,455

residents reached

Project	Priority risk
Keswick Community Fridge	Mental health and well-being
Food and Mood	
Perennial Pollinators	
Boots, Brushes and Breath	
Smoking Cessation and Naloxone Workshop	
Halloween in the Point	
Kits for a Cause	
Learning about Persian Culture	
Aging Strong: Brain and Body Tools for Aging Well	
Supporting Youth Diversity	
Sabre Day: Community Connections and Mental Health Self Care	
Birds of a Feather	
Giddy Goats	
Georgina Angel Moms	
Brushes and Blooms	
Georgina Community Equity Needs Analysis	
Sutton Youth Shelter Health Mind & Body and York Regional Police Basketball and BBQ	
Garden of Inclusion	
Clearwater Community Collaboration	
Recreate Our Space and First Responder Fun Fair	
Wings Virtual World Tour	
Wellness and Wealth Gathering	Economic stability
Creating Your Personal Brand	
Bringing Financial Knowledge to Georgina	
Enhancing Georgina’s Workforce	

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES – LOCAL ACTIONS

Central Newmarket

70
CAT
members

2
working
groups

10
community
ambassadors
(resident leaders)

6,600
residents
engaged
2023-2024

13/35
CAT actions
completed in
2023

33/33
actions to be
completed or in
progress by end
of 2024

Mental Well-Being actions	Completed	Ongoing	In progress
1. Create a community bulletin board program to provide frequent updates on community programs	•	•	
2. Create and maintain a community resource Asset map	•	•	
3. Develop a service fair roadshow to support access and awareness of services	•	•	
4. Develop a resident champion program to provide education and mentoring for service navigation	•	•	
5. Develop self-serve program to improve service navigation (e.g., hotline, directory for mental health and housing, which as the priority risks in this focus area)	•	•	
6. Create community connections and host mental health event in collaboration with partners	•	•	
7. Create child/youth-specific community programming with schools to support after-school engagement			•
8. Explore options to provide additional interpretation services (e.g., for parents to connect with teachers and increase culturally accessible information)			•
9. Engage youth in opportunities to volunteer and offer support to the community	•	•	
10. Create peer/community mentorship opportunities to share skills, and encourage learning	•	•	
11. Host workshops to support skills building and community learning (e.g., CPR, financial planning)	•	•	
12. Adapt available spaces for multi-use (e.g., using school yard for community ice rink, parking lot for events)	•	•	
13. Increase access to recreation programming and space			•
14. Increase access to green spaces to connect residents			•
15. Explore using the Street Outreach Van to offer new services (e.g., clinician support)			•
16. Increase affordable transit (e.g., funding additional routes to community resources such as food pantry, community centers, etc.)			•
17. Assess need and options to increase street lighting to promote safe pedestrian engagement			•

Housing Stability actions	Completed	Ongoing	In progress
18. Provide education/awareness workshops (e.g., legal clinic, financial literacy, tenant rights, etc.)	•	•	
19. Explore partnership to support residents to understand their housing options	•	•	
20. Identify people at risk and make connections to them (e.g., referral system to support proactive outreach)			•
21. Increase availability of housing support service worker to help residents navigate and access services	•	•	
22. Create a centralized community hub for social services which addresses short and long-term needs			•
23. Explore roommate connector program to support safe and effective roommate matching			•
24. Explore shared living space programs (e.g., with seniors and youth) and options to adopt and support symbiotic relationships			•
25. Explore options to help landlords increase building maintenance quality			•
26. Explore options to support privacy in congregate living settings			•
27. Collaborate with partners to understand barriers to increasing housing supply and Advocate for change (e.g., housing coalition, new affordable housing, by-laws to regulate accessible housing processes)			•
28. Increase safety monitoring of neighborhood (e.g., implement community watch program to complement police services)			•
29. Explore opportunities to improve safety living and community spaces			•
30. Enhance support for vulnerable residents (e.g., childcare signup, meal delivery, tool lending program)			•
31. Partner with local farmers/grocery stores to create low-cost food access opportunities (e.g., farmers market at school parking lot)			•
32. Support vulnerable residents by exploring options to increase access to cell phones with prepaid minutes and food gift cards			•
33. Increase access to resources through additional mobility shuttles and service locations			•

United Way Greater Toronto Quick Action Grant projects

13

resident grants

4

agency grants

2,468

residents reached

Project	Priority risk
Neighbourhood BBQs	Mental health and well-being
In Joyness: Women's Wellness Group	
Sharing is Caring	
Strawberry Farm Community Meet & Mingle	
Nature Connections	
Persian Seniors Community wellness	
Healing Shears	
Paws & Bonds	
Info on Mental Health	
Best Buddies Celebration	
Community Mentor Match Up	
Driving Change through Tech/Coding	
Neighbourhood BBQ	
Boys and Girls Club Summer Camp: Fun, Fitness and Community Connection	
Newmarket Heights: Welcome, Worth, Safe Project	
Senior Outreach	Housing stability
108 Health Promotions	
Formal for Family Wellness	

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES – LOCAL ACTIONS

South-central Richmond Hill

70 CAT members	2 working groups	10 community ambassadors (resident leaders)	2,756 residents engaged 2023-2024	18/26 CAT actions completed in 2023	23/26 actions to be completed or in progress by end of 2024
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Mental Well-Being actions	Completed	Ongoing	In-Progress
1. Finalize and maintain a comprehensive asset map of services to share with residents and partners	•	•	
2. Examine and support how institutions and organizations are making their services culturally-relevant (e.g., race, language, ethnicity)	•	•	
3. Explore options for increasing culturally-accessible information (e.g., translation services)	•	•	
4. Create list of community spaces available for community use			•
5. Create a Community Bulletin Board Program to provide frequent updates regarding community programs and services	•	•	
6. Develop Mobile Service Program to better coordinate services with partners and build resident awareness of resources and services	•	•	
7. Develop Little Libraries and arts programs to connect with residents	•	•	
8. Implement youth and other community engagement events about mental health and substance use	•	•	
9. Use community gardens and green spaces to connect with residents	•	•	
10. Increase low-cost/free Recreation Programming for youth and adults	•	•	
11. Negotiate use of space to offer services (e.g., library, mall)	•	•	
12. Examine, co-create, and execute a culturally-relevant Campaign that can reframe mental health as health (e.g., public awareness/anti-stigma, education to support mental health literacy for all)			
13. Increase availability and visibility of Support Workers within the community	•	•	
14. Expand Food Donation and Delivery programs to support food stability	•	•	

15. Identify local shower facilities for people experiencing homelessness	•	•	
16. Explore need for and possible locations of Safe Injection Sites and Needle Exchange			•
17. Increase safety monitoring of neighborhood (e.g., implementing trauma-informed Community Watch Program to complement police services)	•	•	
18. Examine options for increased Street Lighting at night			•
19. Increase LGBTQ2+ signage throughout community			

Housing Stability actions	Completed	Ongoing	In-Progress
20. Provide education/awareness workshops, and develop and deliver communication campaigns to improve awareness of housing supports (e.g., legal clinic, financial literacy, tenant rights)	•	•	
21. Identify people at risk and make connections to them (e.g., referral system to support outreach)	•	•	
22. Explore developing Roommate Connector Program to support safe and effective roommate matching			
23. Increase availability of Housing Support Workers to help residents navigate and access services	•	•	
24. Enhance supports for vulnerable residents (e.g., sign-up for childcare, meal delivery shifts, community Tool Lending Program)	•	•	
25. Collaborate with partners to understand barriers to increasing housing supply and advocate for change (e.g., housing coalition, new affordable housing options, by-laws to regulate accessible housing)	•	•	
26. Explore options to work with partners to improve housing quality (e.g., Landlord Education and Maintenance Incentives)	•	•	

United Way Greater Toronto Quick Action Grant projects

14

resident grants

5

agency grants

2,684

residents reached

Project	Priority risk
Pizza in the Park	Mental health and well-being
Community Walking and Jogging	
Seniors Instrument Concert	
Self Exploration workshop for Chinese females	
Family Fun & BBQ	
South Asian cultural events 2023	
Parents Mental Health support and social event	
Teen Community Leaders	
Srs Lunch and Social	
La Dolce Vita Wellness Evenings	
York Star Children Choir Singing Training & Performance Show	
Gapper Park Olympics	
Community Picnic – Day of Connection and Unity	
Empowering Women (YRCCS)	
Changing the Game (Help a Girl Out)	
We Jam (Hooshvar Foundation)	
York Region Inclusive Support Initiative	
Learn & Improve Seniors' Mental Well-being	
Blessings Bags	Housing stability

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES – LOCAL ACTIONS

South-central Markham

100 CAT members
2 working groups
10 community ambassadors (resident leaders)
7,999 residents engaged 2023-2024
20/26 CAT actions completed in 2023
25/28 actions to be completed or in progress by end of 2024

Mental Well-Being actions	Completed	Ongoing	In-Progress
1. Conduct asset mapping to create an inventory of services and identify those that are culturally specific	•	•	
2. Implement a communication strategy to raise awareness of services and service navigation tools, such as FindHelp Information Services (211) and York Region’s Access York	•	•	
3. Engage residents of all cultures to better understand and address barriers to service access	•	•	
4. Explore the use of community space for programs and networking	•	•	
5. Help residents find services by creating a system navigator role	•	•	
6. Find a centralized place where the System Navigator can connect residents to services	•	•	
7. Develop or enhance existing student and parent ambassador programs to support service navigation and build connections			
8. Enhance service coordination between community partners to support warm transfers			
9. Host focus groups with service providers to develop new models of virtual/in-person service delivery	•		
10. Work with service providers to improve triage, reduce waitlists and provide rapid follow-up supports			•
11. Reduce stigma around mental well-being through public education and awareness	•		
12. Host events to bring people together and improve the community’s sense of belonging	•	•	
13. Identify and understand relationships across cultures (resident to resident) and develop a culturally diverse stories project about mental wellness	•		
14. Strengthen partnerships with faith-based and cultural organizations to better engage the community	•	•	

15. Build resident civic engagement skills	•	•	
16. Create, support opportunities for community agencies and residents to participate in government decision-making	•	•	

Housing Stability actions	Completed	Ongoing	In-Progress
17. Create a platform to improve community outreach using social media	•	•	
18. Share information on resources and services at existing hubs, faith-based centres and libraries	•	•	
19. Educate tenants on their rights and build awareness of eviction prevention programs	•	•	
20. Host education and awareness building sessions on housing issues, (e.g., documenting lived experiences along the housing continuum)	•	•	
21. Examine service pathways to better understand and address barriers	•		
22. Initiate a community watch program for vulnerable populations to complement police services			
23. Create opportunities for tenant-led initiatives and resident capacity building	•	•	
24. Conduct research to better understand issues surrounding second suite apartments	•		
25. Explore the use of spare bedrooms for temporarily housing community members	•	•	
26. Explore the long-term effect of illegal rentals on infrastructure, revenue generation, etc.	•	•	
27. Examine how to integrate Community Action Table work with other organizations that have similar mandates (e.g., Affordable Housing Coalition)	•	•	
28. Advocate to implement the Rights to Housing Framework and bylaws to support housing affordability	•	•	

United Way Greater Toronto Quick Action Grant projects

13
resident grants

3
agency grants

2,435
residents reached

Project	Priority risk
Music & Autism	Mental health and well-being
Young & wise	
Bond & Care	
Reflecting Mental Wellness	
Dementia Awareness	
Healing Art	
Pride and Power	
Wilclay Cultural Community Connections	
Connecting to Community	
Healthy Families	
Wellness & Us	
Crocheting for Wellness	
Family Movie Time	
Food & Belonging	
Breakthrough for Youth with Mental Health (MACCA)	
Young Adults Night	

COMMUNITY ACTION TABLES – IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

York Region provides an implementation grant to each Community Action Table to support work to mitigate priority risks.

- **Georgina Learning Café** serves individuals under the age of 30 who face barriers to traditional employment opportunities with career exploration, economic opportunities, mentorship, skills development, and training. The project aims to serve 300 individuals.
- **Newmarket Heights Nourishing Homes** aims to serve 1,000 residents and advances housing stability actions through a pay-what-you-can fresh food market that provides housing and legal information to vulnerable residents experiencing food insecurity.
- **South-central Richmond Hill Community Cares Project** advances key actions by providing 100 households in the focus area with York Region Food Network Good Food Boxes and packaged community resources. Households receive workshops on housing stability, tenant and landlord rights, and access to a housing specialist. The project also provides support for vulnerable residents through a community tool lending program in partnership with Richmond Hill Public Library's "Library of Things" program.
- **Markham's Benches 2 Bridges Project** creates intergenerational spaces to reduce loneliness by fostering diverse interactions. This is achieved by collaborating with cultural organizations, hosting 45 residents through workshops, and installing 3 benches with conversation prompts and QR codes for community resources. The project also raises awareness of local services through outreach and workshops.

TESTIMONIALS

“I had no career plans before now, but I like working here.” – Georgina Learning Café participant

“The greatest benefit of becoming an Ambassador has been the opportunity to make a tangible impact on mental health awareness and support within the community. Through various initiatives, such as creating engaging social media content, organizing events, and collaborating with other organizations, I have been able to foster a supportive environment and promote open discussions about mental health. This role has not only allowed me to develop valuable leadership and communication skills but also to connect with and empower others, contributing to a greater sense of community and well-being.” – Newmarket youth

“Coming together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments of the students is a wonderful way to make school-community relationships which builds trust. Parents were able to see their kids interacting with their peers and the wide support system.” – Newmarket project lead

“It is an absolute joy to be a community ambassador! Being a part of the wonderful local community family events and resource tables creates a lot of great memories, experiences, and opportunities to grow and learn together. Always looking forward to every chance to share the mission and work of the team!” – Richmond Hill resident leader

“I’m a newcomer and meeting people from different cultures every week has been wonderful. I even brought a friend to join the project!” – Markham CAT participant

“Beautiful to see the young and old together, learning, and having fun in the same room, laughing together. A huge ‘thank you’ for this excellent community program! Got so much more than I signed up for!” – Markham quick action grant event participant

“I am so grateful for all the help the [mobile] pop-up team has provided to me and my family. With my mom on long term disability and my brother injured from work, all the financial responsibilities fell on me. The pop-up team gave us hope again. They brought us resources like bus tickets, groceries, gift cards bi-weekly for months until they were able to get us in contact with the Children, Youth and Families Situation Tables and then directly into John Howard (Society of York Region’s) case management program for more long term supports.” – Resident served by Mobile Youth Hub