Options to Create a Data Inventory of Human Services in York Region

Option 1: The Region builds, collects and manages data for the inventory

Option 2: Findhelp collects and manages data for the inventory (Recommended Option)

Pros

Region has direct understanding of human services in York Region and controls the information coming in

Region will build on informal relationships with data collectors (i.e. YorkInfo.ca, Central Healthline, Civic York)

Region will use existing technology to house the data inventory

Software and licencing costs would be incorporated within the current infrastructure at the Region

Pros

Leverage Findhelp's existing infrastructure, funding, staffing, data maintenance processes based on established standards, and data partnerships to improve resident referrals and service planning.

Accessing comprehensive data currently in Findhelp's data inventory beyond York Region boundaries, including Durham Region, Peel Region and City of Toronto

Residents can access a less fragmented referral system based on the reduction of record duplication.

Findhelp is an established data source and is an integral part of the information and referral industry in Ontario.

Immediate access to a comprehensive dataset of human services in York Region – this improves service planning and referrals for residents contacting Access York

Service providers in York Region will have to submit information about their services to one organization. This creates an opportunity for proactive and efficient data maintenance by service providers

Leverage Findhelp's experience with other municipal governments such as the City of Toronto, Peel, Durham, and Windsor.

Cons

The Region will become yet another information provider, further complicating the fragmented system. More duplication of records will be created with multiple parties providing information about human services in York Region.

Cons

No guarantee that organizations who collect and maintain data would want to partner with Findhelp

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Need to establish new data collection processes and data partnerships

Different processes and standards for storing, updating and managing information will still exist

Could not be implemented with existing staff resources

Resource Implications

Approximately \$250,000 annually for two full-time staff to build and manage data inventory, and to manage data sharing agreements

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Five-year agreement with Findhelp would cost \$444,050 (Year 1: \$101,050 and Years 2 to 5: \$88,750 annually) to build and manage the data inventory and data sharing agreements