



July 2010

Lawrence Heights

Employment Initiatives



Building on our commitment to a prosperous city



○○○ Improving Access to Employment Opportunities

Create mechanisms and partnerships that connect unemployed and underemployed residents to employment opportunities.

○○○ Tuesday Employment Cafe

Tuesday Employment Cafe is located at 37 Varna Drive and is sponsored by the LHION Employment & Training Workgroup. Members of this workgroup share resources and co-ordinate employment information and referral services to residents. These services include information on employment events, services and resources, job search supports, and referrals.

Partners: TESS, TCHC, MTCU, Community Partners, Non-profit Organizations

○○○ Investing in Neighbourhoods

Investing in Neighbourhoods provides employment opportunities by funding non-profit organizations to create positions for Torontonians receiving Ontario Works or ODSP. Residents develop contacts with employers and obtain current employment skills and references leading to sustainable job opportunities. Non-profit organizations also increase their capacity to deliver services to city residents.

Partners: TESS, Non-profit Organizations

○○○ Job and Community Fairs

These events provide thousands of residents with access to employment opportunities involving over a hundred employers and community partners. Some of these events result from partnerships with associations and sector councils and are tailored to meet their specific labour market needs.

Partners: HR, SDFA, TESS, PF&R, TCHC, TFS, TPL, MTCU, YEP, Community Partners, Non-profit Organizations, Private Sector Employers

○○○ Neighbourhood Action Partnership Employability Investment Fund

This program provides funding in the 13 priority neighbourhoods to support skills development and employment focused initiatives. The local funding for Lawrence Heights has been used so far to provide industry-recognized basic training certification that increases the employability of participants and builds resident capacity.

Partners: TESS, SDFA, TPL, MCSS, Community Partners

○○○ Partnership to Advance Youth Employment (PAYE)

A joint initiative between private sector employers and the City, PAYE increases access to good jobs for youth from Toronto's priority communities through community-focussed recruitment initiatives. City staff provide ground-level support for these initiatives and match qualified youth to employment opportunities. Youth receive individual support, guidance and interviews with top-rated employers.

Partners: TESS, SDFA, TPL, YEP, Private Sector Employers

○○○ Investing in Youth

Investing in Youth (IY) is a new case management approach to service youth (18 - 29), unemployed/underemployed with a history of conflict with the law. IY works with community partners to provide comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated services for these vulnerable youth.

Partners: TESS, Community Partners, Non-profit Organizations

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○○○ Value-based Procurement

To support local hiring objectives the City has been piloting approaches to adding specific employment requirements to the tendering process and the vendor's terms of agreement. Examples include Regent Park, For Youth Initiative (FYI) under the Youth Build Toronto, and TPL Security Guard contract.

Partners: SDFA, TCHC, TPL, TESS, Youth Challenge Fund

○○○ Hammerheads

The Central Ontario Building Trades (COBT) developed this program which provides construction trades training and apprenticeship opportunities for youth from priority neighbourhoods to enter the building trades.

Partners: SDFA, TESS, COBT, Youth Challenge Fund

○○○ Self-Employment

Employment services staff help individuals assess their readiness for self-employment and provide support as they develop relevant business skills. Community partners develop self-employment training programs, such as those funded by TESS, and provide business incubation spaces. Enterprise Toronto assists thousands of self-employed individuals every year as they develop viable business plans and launch new businesses in the community.

Partners: EDC, TESS, Community Partners

Creating Opportunities

○○○ Building Cities, Revitalizing Communities

To capitalize on skill building and employment opportunities that result through large scale projects and to make these opportunities accessible to underemployed and unemployed residents.

○○○ Lawrence Heights

Drawing on the Regent Park experience, a social development plan for Lawrence Heights will include the creation of an integrated employment service framework as a key component. One of the key goals of this framework will be to identify and capitalize on employment and training opportunities for residents that are created as the community is revitalized.

Partners: TCHC, SDFA, TESS, TPL, Community Partners

○○○ 37 Varna Drive

In addition to the physical changes, successful revitalization includes reaching out to and supporting residents in Lawrence Heights. Using a place-based neighbourhood service approach, this shared space serves as a mini-community / employment hub. The hub will provide a focal point for employment and community services within the neighbourhood.

Partners: TCHC, TESS, Community Partners, Non-profit Organizations

○○○ Business Services

Creating and supporting business development in Toronto which result in the creation of new jobs.

○○○ Micro-finance Initiative to Youth Microloan Pilot Project

This pilot project will provide youth entrepreneur in the city's west end priority neighbourhoods, including Lawrence Heights, with life skills coaching, business development training, one-on-one business mentoring and access to a microloan to support the development of their business or social enterprise idea.

Partners: EDC, SDFA, TCHC, TESS, Community Partners

○○○ Partnerships and Collaboration

Recognizing the need for all orders of government to work together to support inclusion and prosperity for the city and its residents.

○○○ Lawrence Heights Inter-Organizational Network (LHION) Employment & Training Workgroup

Established to enhance and increase local employment planning, service coordination, provision and access to local services, and strengthen partnerships in the Lawrence Heights neighbourhood among service providers. The workgroup has gone on to sponsor various events such as the Tuesday Employment Cafe and a service awareness fair.

Partners: TESS, TPL, Community Partners, Non-Profit Organizations

○○○ LHION Adult Literacy Workgroup

Established to focus on service gaps, planning and coordination of Adult literacy services within the Lawrence Heights community that can enhance residents' literacy, employability and address barriers that they may experience in moving towards sustainable employment.

Partners: TESS, TPL, Community Partners, Non-Profit Organizations

○○○ Local Immigration Partnerships

These partnerships provide a collaborative framework for, and facilitate the development and implementation of, sustainable local and regional solutions for successful integration of immigrants to Ontario.

Partners: CMO, SDFA, TESS, MCI, CIC, TPL, Community Partners

○○○ Integrated Local Labour Market Planning

This is a joint planning initiative with MTCU and several City Divisions. The process is aimed at understanding, identifying and linking the employment needs of residents (job seekers) to the needs of employers and employment opportunities (existing and emerging). This includes identifying the systems and supports that are necessary to sustain the linkage and deliver the relevant services.

Partners: TESS, SDFA, EDC, MTCU

Working Together