

# Downtown East Action Plan

## Implementation Progress and Next Steps

Economic and Community Development Committee

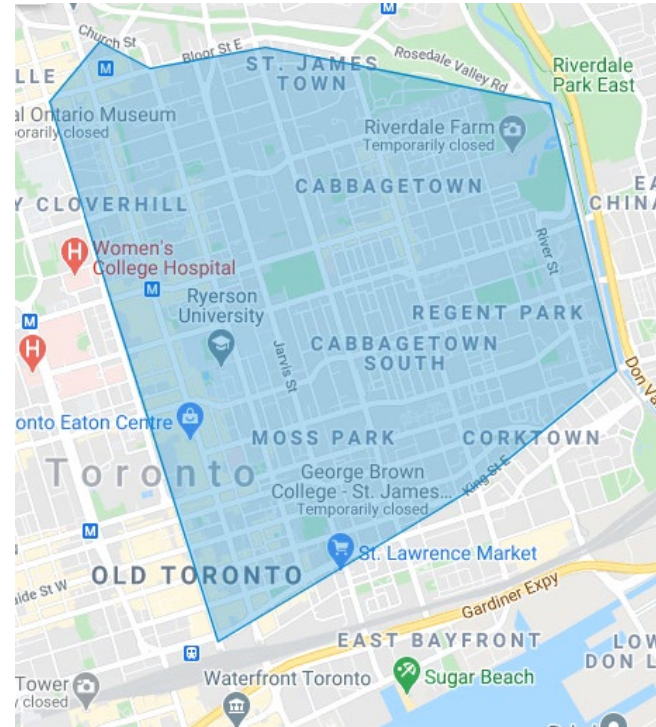
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# Action Plan Overview

- The initial Downtown East Action Plan was developed in June 2018.
- Area has higher than City average levels of overdose, homelessness, mental health crisis, and community violence
- Developed to coordinate City services and address complex long term issues in the area.



# Four Central Outcomes

**Safe and  
Inclusive  
Communities**



**Cross Sectoral  
Trust and  
Collaboration**



**Stability for People  
Experiencing  
Marginalization\***



**Model for City  
Response to  
Complex Issues**



\* For the purposes of this plan, marginalization means lack of access to housing, mental health supports, or safe drug supply

# Covid-19 Impact on the Downtown East

- COVID-19 exacerbated existing health risks and vulnerabilities as well as socio-economic challenges
- Emergency orders limited access to services and spaces
- Action was needed to support people in the area, particularly vulnerable community members
- A range of financial supports, interventions and responses were launched

# Supports during Covid-19

The City and United Way developed the **Community Coordination Plan**

- DTE Cluster of 43 agencies
- Identify and escalate issues
- Collaborate and activate solutions



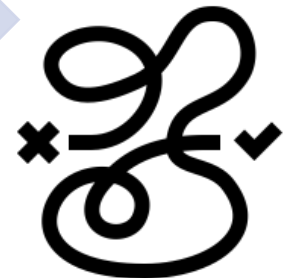
**Food Security Investments**

- Food Security Funding (\$0.710M)
- Food Distribution



Leverage **City Infrastructure**

- Covid-19 Testing and immunization
- Hygiene Facilities and material distribution



# Implementation Actions

Four New Intervention  
Initiatives  
(\$1.1M)

Community Engagement  
Team led by the  
Downtown Yonge BIA  
(\$150K)

Downtown East Action  
Plan Grants  
(\$1.0M)

Community-based  
Research  
(Housing Unit Takeover)

Yonge Dundas  
Leadership Table and  
Operations Table

# Implementation Actions

Downtown East  
Justice Centre Pilot

Cross-sectoral  
Outreach  
Coordination

Accelerator  
90-Day Action Plan

Downtown East  
Housing Strategy

Neighbourhood  
Revitalization Plan  
for the Dundas  
Sherbourne area

# New Investments through the Action Plan

## Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST):

March 2021 - March 2022

- 1,170 harm reduction kits
- 102 referrals

Low barrier, outreach based intensive case management services for individuals with multiple barriers to supports

## Here to Help (H2H):

April 2021 – March 2022

- 1,805 crisis visits (in person)
- 302 crisis calls (to crisis line)

Multidisciplinary team (e.g. community support workers, nursing, harm reduction workers) providing de-escalation and crisis intervention



# New Investments through the Action Plan

## Harm Reduction Community

### Care Project:

Feb 2021 - Feb 2022

- 5280 hours of low barrier employment
- 400 cleanups totalling 4,342 hours
- Pickup of 19,891 harm reduction supplies

A peer employment program providing pickup and safe disposal of drug use supplies

## Equitable Action for Change:

Feb – April 2022

- Over 1000 referrals and interactions
- 90% individuals identifying as homeless
- 95% living with substance use/addiction and/or mental health needs

A Black-led and serving agency providing low barrier harm reduction, crisis support, referral services, and outreach, particularly for individuals who identify as Indigenous, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+

# Complex Challenge in the Area

- Need for appropriate responses to individuals with complex mental health needs
- Need for a range of affordable housing options including transitional and supportive housing.
- The post-traumatic impact of community violence.
- The drug toxicity crisis and challenged access to drug treatment.
- The cumulative impact of COVID-19 on the mental and physical health of frontline staff.



# Next Steps

- Continued Intergovernmental Dialogue
- Focused Engagement and Enhanced Communications
- Continuing Funded Intervention Initiatives and City Service Level Enhancements
- Supporting Mental Health and Equity Capacity Building
- Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation



# Questions?