

## **Update on City Supported Community-Led Violence Prevention and Intervention**

**Date:** May 26, 2017

**To:** Community Development and Recreation Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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Community violence, particularly gun violence can have a devastating impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents, our neighbourhoods and those that serve them. Toronto experienced an increase in gun violence in 2016. Toronto Police reported a 41.3% increase in shootings occurrences, a 35% increase in victims of shootings and a 54% increase in homicides by firearm over 2015. As of May 23, 2017 Toronto Police has reported 137 shootings occurrences which is a 3.5% decrease over 2016 in the same time period.

The City has been actively partnering with and investing in community groups that work to prevent violence from happening and respond, recover and heal from it when violence does occur. This report provides an update on key violence prevention and intervention work supported by the City. Subsequently, this report provides an update on the status of the "Tri-level Initiatives to Increase Community Safety in Toronto" investments announced in June 2016

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director of Social Development Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director of Social Development Finance & Administration to work with Toronto Police Service and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to expand the Youth Pre-charge diversion program upon the receipt of the funds from other levels of government, announced on June 30, 2016.
2. City Council direct the Executive Director of Social Development Finance & Administration to work with Toronto Police Service and United Way Toronto and York Region to develop an expansion plan for FOCUS Toronto situation tables to additional

neighbourhoods upon the receipt of the funds from other levels of government, announced on June 30, 2016.

3. City Council direct the Executive Director of Social Development Finance & Administration to lead on behalf of the FOCUS Toronto partners and relevant city divisions, the expansion of the Youth Violence Prevention framework currently under development to include the development of Youth Violence Prevention plans for the City of Toronto upon the receipt of the funds from other levels of government, announced on June 30, 2016.

4. City Council authorize the Executive Director of Social Development Finance & Administration to execute an agreement on behalf of the City of Toronto with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services with respect to the Risk Tracking Database on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Executive Director and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications arising from this report

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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Update on Initiatives and Funding for Violence Prevention and Intervention - <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD19.17>

Enabling New Tri-level Initiatives to Increase Community Safety in Toronto - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti - <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.MM20.2#>

## **COMMENTS**

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There are a number programs and initiatives that the City has been leading and supporting through strong partnerships with resident leaders and the community sector. Additionally the City has been actively investing in community-led violence prevention and intervention work. This report provides an update on key violence prevention and intervention work supported by the City. These updates are outlined below in the following areas:

1. Toronto Youth Equity Strategy
2. Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit
3. Community Funding
4. Status of the Tri-level Initiatives to Increase Community Safety in Toronto

# 1. Toronto Youth Equity Strategy

The Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) seeks to support youth, aged 13-29, who are most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime (MVP youth) by taking steps to better coordinate youth service delivery in the City of Toronto and by identifying specific service enhancements directed to those youth. The Strategy identifies 28 key issues and corresponding 110 recommended actions. TYES was unanimously adopted by Toronto City Council in February 2014. Since then, 2 CDO's have been hired to work on the implementation of 5 key funded actions and actions within the strategy that didn't require substantial additional funds. As the strategy has moved from short to the medium term implementation period more actions have been funded. A number of youth serving community organizations have been engaged; partnerships with relevant provincial ministry's developed via bi-level table and youth engaged in direct programming. Below is an update on relevant actions from TYES

## Community Healing Project

During consultations for the development of TYES, educators, justice and youth workers reported noticing signs and anxiety and stress in youth. They were particularly concerned about the high levels of stress and anxiety they observed following incidents of violence involving youth in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA). As a result, mental health has been an important focus area for TYES which led to the implementation of The Community Healing project that focuses on youth participants in NIA's since 2014. The project is aligned with the work of the City of Toronto's Community Crisis Response Program and aims to involve the community in its own healing through the following mechanisms:

Principle	Actions	Outcome
<b>Engage the community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruit active and engaged community members to implement the program activities</li></ul>	Responded to community feedback around having culturally appropriate and lived experience perspective in mental health service delivery
<b>Train the Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Train volunteers on trauma informed practice and understanding mental health</li></ul>	Built capacity of community to support youth through trauma

Principle	Actions	Outcome
<b>First Draw Activities</b>	Plan workshops around interesting topics to draw youth in, photography, painting, writing and recording music as a way to engage youth participants	Addressed stigma surrounding mental health by making workshops approachable
<b>Share the Learning</b>	Each group plans giveback events to share learnings about trauma and mental health with the wider community.	Engaged the whole community in learning about mental health and wellness

### Community Healing Project | Project Highlights

- 30% of participants were under 15 years old and 55% were between the ages of 15-19
- Completed 2 external evaluations on mental health outcomes for program participants
- Developed an annotated bibliography of resources focused specifically on mental health for vulnerable communities, particularly socio-economically vulnerable populations.
- Developed a list of recommendations for the City and youth mental health service providers
- Produced a creative report being distributed in June 2017

### Community Healing Project | Project Statistics

	<b>Year 1 2015</b>	<b>Year 2 2016</b>	<b>Year 3 2017</b>
<b>Neighbourhoods Served</b>	2	3	6
<b># of youth served</b>	45	72	130 – projected

Outcome Measure	Pre-Community Healing	Post-Community Healing
I understand what self-care is and have some good strategies to be healthy	37%	95%
I feel that I understand mental health issues	29%	88%
I have a good understanding of how trauma affects people	48%	85%
I'm resilient and able to 'bounce back' from hard times	66%	81%

## Storybook Parents

Storybook Parents is a program being led by Toronto Public Library to build literacy skills and better outcomes for incarcerated parents and their children. Parents record stories on CD for their children.

### Storybook Parents | Program Plans & Highlights

- Demand for the program continues to increase in both the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) and Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC) and far exceeds the current capacity of the program staff.
- Pilot the use of additional media formats to provide recordings to families, such as a USB key.
- Pilot opportunities for program participants to record their own stories for their children
- Developed a relationship with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) to informally pilot the program to recently released participants and will serve approximately 25 participants this year as part of the pilot.
- Develop partnerships with the Native Child and Family Services and Children's Aid Society organizations to reach additional participants and their families:
- Serve female participants, which are underrepresented in the program at this time.

### Storybook Parents | Program Statistics

The following table provides a summary of the program statistics for 2016 and YTD 2017 (Jan – March). Statistics for youth participants are provided separately as the funding for the program is based on youth between the ages of 18 – 29 years of age. Participants make one recording per child and can make multiple recordings upon request

## Summary of Program Participation

<b>2016</b>				
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>All participants</b>	<b>Youth Participants</b>	<b>TSDC</b>	<b>TEDC</b>
Inmates recorded	92	38	71	21
Recently released participants recorded	2			
Number of recordings (learners can make multiple recordings)	185	79	142	39
Number of children reached	147	62	108	37
<b>2017</b>				
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>All participants</b>	<b>Youth Participants</b>	<b>TSDC</b>	<b>TEDC</b>
Inmates recorded	46	22	39	7
Number of recordings (learners can make multiple recordings)	82	39	66	16
Number of children reached	76	37	61	15

## Youth Spaces

Creating safe and accessible youth space continues to be an integral part of City service delivery and has been a fundamental goal of TYES. In response to issue of youth being banned, barred, trespassed and criminalized in city facilities, TYES has been working with City divisions and community partners to establish restorative justice practices as alternatives. This included building a steering committee; piloting training for service providers and training youth with lived experience to deliver training.

In 2016, TYES supported existing city spaces to provide better service to MVP youth, which included conflict resolution processes between young people and City staff and creating greater overall accessibility to safe space. Additionally, TYES and the Community Development Unit have been actively working with those who serve MVP youth to build their capacity to access and participate in City spaces. This work continues to be monitored for relevant policy solutions that would improve access for all stakeholder groups.

In 2017, TYES embedded in City Staff training a conflict resolution tool to aid City staff, youth and youth groups to resolve when participating in/sharing City of Toronto spaces. TYES will pilot this training in June 2017 with Shelters Support Housing Association staff.

Parks Forestry and Recreation has launched Enhanced Youth Spaces in 2014. A youth space advisory committee has been providing guidance to the implementation the

enhanced initiatives that provides safe accessible space for young people 5-6 days a week, 50 weeks a year with an average of 500-600 youth visits per month.

With support from the City through the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Toronto Public Library offers after-school Youth Hub services in six Neighbourhood Improvement Area branches. Youth aged 13-19 have drop-in access to safe spaces, trained staff, mentors and volunteers, homework help, workshops, and other youth-driven activities that contribute to positive outcomes, including digital literacy and leadership skills. Available technology includes laptops, iPads, digital cameras, Virtual Reality headsets and more to enhance STEM and other learning opportunities. Most Youth Hubs are open 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, with a total average of 2080 visits per month. Two new hubs will open in 2017 for a total of eight hubs distributed across the city.

### **Youth Spaces | Outcomes**

- Steering committee formed consisting of staff from Social Development Finance and Administration, Parks Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Public Library
- Delivered train the trainer model to 11 youth with lived experience who built their capacity to deliver training to city staff
- Delivered training to 10 city spaces from Parks Forestry and Recreation and Toronto Public Library
- Supported sustainability planning for youth groups who access space in city facilities i.e. the spot, B.I.T.S.Y. space in Don Montgomery CC
- Currently rolling out training into City facilities including recreations centres, shelters
- Eleven enhanced Parks Forestry and Recreation youth spaces have launched since 2014 providing a venue for community programing and engagement opportunities.

### **Violence Prevention Town Hall**

On July 18th, 2016, the Toronto Youth Cabinet, in partnership with the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit and other relevant divisions held a town hall discussing the rise in gun violence across of the City of Toronto to identify possible solutions. The town hall provided an opportunity for the City to update on actions mobilized through the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy, Community Crisis Response Program and other relevant programs to address the increase. Additionally the town hall created a space for youth, youth workers and youth allies across the City the opportunity to share their concerns and recommendations. Suggestions made at the forum directly influenced service delivery and TYES actions.

Recommendation	Actions/Updates
<p>That the City invest in more holistic approaches to mental wellness particularly that of youth involved in the criminal justice system. This includes a specific recommendation to amend the Community Safety Investment (CSI) program criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TYES ongoing implementation of the Community Healing project</li> <li>• TYES has also developed a workshop series to complement the Pre-charge diversion program that cover wellness and mental health including a workshop on Identity and one on Stress Management.</li> <li>• Recommendations made to the Community Safety Investment Fund</li> <li>• Community Crisis Response Program partnered with the Ontario Justice Education Network, Toronto Police Service and other relevant legal services to provide the Navigating City Spaces workshop that educated young people on their rights within the Trespass to Property act and the Ontario Use of Force model.</li> </ul>
<p>That the City invest in community programs, grass root organizations, projects geared to equipping youth with key skills, qualifications and opportunities. Increase contribution to youth led groups funded through the Identify 'N Impact (INI) grants \$100,000.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The INI funding 2016 expanded from 5 groups in 2015 to fund 10 youth groups in 2016, to work on projects focused on</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Leadership development</li> <li>• 2017 INI focus areas are under development. The fund will have a youth violence prevention focus.</li> </ul>

## Improving Service to Youth with Experience in the Criminal Justice System

A criminal record, or even an encounter with the criminal justice system, can make it increasingly difficult to secure employment. For youth in general, and for certain populations such as racialized youth, who are over-represented in the criminal justice system, the challenges can be much greater.

A staff report was submitted to Economic Development Committee on May 8, 2017 and will be considered by Toronto City Council on May 24, 2017. The report highlighted a number of recent trends that are increasing the challenges facing individuals with criminal records who are seeking to re-enter the labour market, or upgrade their skills or participate in voluntary activities as a way to improve their employment prospects. The report subsequently identified steps the City is taking, or can take, to address the issues being faced by unemployed and underemployed residents who have experience with



the criminal justice system to support their efforts to increased their employability and obtain employment.

## Pre-Charge Diversion

Pre-Charge Diversion is a form of an Extra Judicial Measure (EJM) that is a community based alternative to addressing minor incidents of crime among youth aged 12-17. Pre-Charge Diversion programs are designed to reduce the amount of young people impacted by having a youth criminal justice record for minor crimes, as well as to provide meaningful interventions at critical times in the lives of young people. Supportive interventions and programming assist young people in accepting responsibility and addressing the impact of their actions on themselves, their family, the victim and the community.

In December 2015, Toronto Police released a report at their Board meeting to confirm that they will be delivering pre-charge diversion (EJM) in 2016. The report also advised that they will be partnering with the Ministry of Children & Youth (MCYS) for the intake & referral process. At this time, the Memorandum of Understanding between MCYS & TPS is currently being reviewed by their legal teams and there should be formal pre-charge diversion delivered in the City of Toronto in 2017.

The City of Toronto provided critical feedback to TPS and MCYS to help inform the development of their pre-charge intake and referral process. In addition, The City of Toronto developed a partnership was developed with Each1 Teach1 (a credit program run out of Central Technical School delivered by two teachers) to develop a 8 part workshop curriculum. The workshops are geared towards addressing, personal development (conflict resolution and stress management) and employment readiness/goal setting. Each workshop was designed to address the risk & protective factors of offending behaviour youth may display. Workshops were piloted and feedback from all seven seasoned youth engagement facilitators delivering the workshops, as well as direct feedback from youth was incorporated to ensure the curriculum was engaging, relevant and effective.

The TYES Workshop Series, in 2016, as part of the pre-charge diversion pilot program delivered 37 workshops reaching 292 youth in the 14 Division and 32 division communities. Through our outreach, we had received interest/requests to deliver the workshops in other parts of the City.

Numbers of all participants involved in Pre-Charge Diversion pilot

# of EJM youth	# of other youth participants	# of project partners (Individuals)	Total
N/A	292	29	327

The project is recommended to expand to a City-wide model in partnership with Toronto Police Service and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

## **2. Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit**

In 2016, the Social Development Finance and Administration division reorganized existing resources to create the Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit to strategically respond to growing community safety and vulnerability needs within the City of Toronto. The Unit is essentially an amalgamation of 3 key programs:

- Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP)
- Specialized Program for Interdivisional Enhanced Responsiveness (SPIDER)
- Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS)

The creation of the Community Safety & Wellbeing Unit better positions the City of Toronto to mobilize inter-sectoral approaches to interventions, prevention, preparation and capacity building that will enhance the development of responsive and supportive systems for Torontonians. Additionally the implementation of the unit creates a focused structure for developing necessary policy level interventions that will advance community safety and wellbeing goals for the City of Toronto and its partners. This structure will be integral in developing the City of Toronto's response to the Provincial Strategy for a Safer Ontario which potentially could mandate Community Safety and Wellbeing plans to municipalities.

### **The Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP)**

The Community Crisis Response Program (CCRP) works across Toronto providing support and resources to communities impacted by violent and traumatic incidents. The CCRP is activated when a violent incident occurs in any neighbourhood in Toronto, i.e., shooting or stabbing. It is a coordinated program of municipal services, police, community organizations, faith communities and residents to assist a neighbourhood's response and recovery from traumatic incidents.

Operating under three key components: Crisis Intervention, Crisis Prevention and Crisis Preparation, the CCRP team supports communities to respond to safety concerns by developing localized strategies that include the development of a coordinated community crisis response protocol.

The CCRP is staffed by four (4) Community Development Officers and one (1) Supervisor and operates in a district model that mobilizes the program's mandate in Etobicoke/York, North York, Toronto/East York and Scarborough

### **Crisis intervention**

The CCRP monitors incidents on a daily basis and responds to communities that may be impacted when there are:

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- Shootings - shots are discharged from a firearm including gang related violence;
- Stabbing - an altercation where a person(s) is cut, slashed or stabbed;
- Swarming - an altercation or attack involving multiple people
- Assault - an attack resulting in serious injury or death
- Other - violent and or traumatic incidents that may traumatize a community

In 2016 the CCRP responded to 556 violent and traumatic critical incidents and from January - April 2017 the program responded to 177.

<b>Critical Incidents</b>	<b>Shooting</b>	<b>Stabbing</b>	<b>Swarming</b>	<b>Assault</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2016</b>	320	201	12	2	21	556
<b>2017 Jan – April</b>	103	62	4	4	4	177

CCRP works with City divisions and community partners to mobilize the following respond types:

#### **Immediate response**

- CCRP Staff are not first responders but are on the ground assessing the impact and mobilizing supports within 12 - 72 hours of the initial incident.

#### **Coordinated community response**

- CCRP staff confirm information about the incident with Toronto Police Service and then activate neighbourhood based community crisis response protocols that notify safety networks including resident groups and local service providers about the incident.
- The protocol allows for the City of Toronto and its partners to identify the impact and mobilize the appropriate supports.
- Often local safety networks come together to plan a community's response that includes immediate action and ongoing safety development approaches. Multiple divisions of the City of Toronto support local safety network led responses.

#### **Psychosocial Supports**

- CCRP works with appropriate providers to mobilize appropriate mental health supports and coordinate supports for individuals and groups traumatized by violence.

#### **Victim/Family Supports**

- CCRP connects victims and their families to specialized victim support agencies such as Victim Services Toronto and the Victim Witness Assistance Program who can provide specialized counselling and funeral supports.
- When victims are not eligible for traditional victim supports, CCRP with the support of local providers, works with victims and their families directly to ensure that support is available and accessible.

## **Witness Supports**

- Referrals made to agencies to deal with the specialized supports and sensitivity that witnesses require.

## **Evaluative Response**

- When incidents do not have an impact on the community and there is no immediate action required from City services, CCRP will monitor the situation and identify any emerging trends.

## **Community Development**

- CCRP leverages partnerships, resources and skillsets to advance larger community response aimed at short term and long term strategies

In 2016 with the support of community partners, CCRP mobilized over 1,300 response types to support communities experiencing violent and traumatic incidents.

- The program's highest referrals are to Community Health Centre's and Victim Services Toronto who provide complimentary services directly with victims of violence.
- CCRP also works closely with service providers who serve youth most vulnerable to crime and violence including the City and provincially funded Youth Outreach Workers.
- CCRP works closely with Toronto Police Service at a divisional level and corporate level to support responses and the program plays an important role in connecting officers to community-led initiatives.
- CCRP works closely with Toronto Community Housing to ensure that the City and the TCH response plan is integrated and complementary. TCHC staff at the local level play a vital role in the response and the Community Safety Advisor works with CCRP to ensure that responses are coordinated.

## **Crisis Preparation**

Although CCRP responds to critical incidents, CCRP's focus on prevention includes the development of community safety networks that create and coordinate local response plans and on- going safety development. Local response plans are integral to the work of CCRP and enable the program to quickly and efficiently mobilize to respond to community need. Local safety networks consist of inter-sectoral partners including resident leaders/groups, political representation, City Divisions and community based organizations that mobilize resources and expertise to support a community response to crisis and or ongoing safety development/prevention activities.

- Community Crisis Response protocols are currently being developed in all of the NIAs to support the work of the Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy 2020 Local planning tables.
- There are over 400 residents, City Divisional staff and community service providers involved in CCRP safety committees.

## Crisis Prevention

The CCRP works with local community stakeholders and City divisions to identify opportunities for violence prevention by evaluating responses, monitoring trends and ongoing community development approaches.

Residents are in the best position to inform the service system on what prevention strategies can be implemented and the CCRP, with input from residents, has identified several workshops such as Gang Awareness and The City's Response to a Crisis that are being delivered across the City.

CCRP has worked with local networks to develop and implement initiatives and events that engage residents, build capacity and build community. Events such as the Brighter Nights partnership with Toronto Hydro which enhances Community Safety by improving the local lighting and the If I Ruled TO conference that connects young people and decision makers to identify solutions on a number of issues prove to be valuable prevention initiatives.

### In 2016 CCRP supported

Date	Workshops	Initiatives/ Events	Total Events	Residents Engaged	Service Providers Engaged	Total Engagemen t
2016	88	77	165	6,555	1,144	7,699
2017 January - April	29	34	63	2,149	406	2,555

## FOCUS Toronto

Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS) is an innovative Community Safety and Well-Being Initiative co-led by the Toronto Police Service, United Way Toronto and the City of Toronto. FOCUS aims to reduce crime, victimization and improve community resiliency and wellbeing. The model has been identified as a best practice in the "The Way Forward" Transformational Taskforce report, the Mayor's Taskforce on Toronto Community Housing and builds off of lessons learned through the work of the CCRP. The expansion of FOCUS is action 21b of the Toronto Youth Equity Strategy.

The model brings together the most appropriate community agencies at a weekly situation table model to provide a targeted, wrap around approach to the most vulnerable individuals, families and places that are experiencing heightened levels of risk in a specific geographic location.

By leveraging the skills and resources of diverse community partners, the initiative is able to respond to situations of Acutely Elevated Risk (AER) using multiple approaches

providing the community with the best possible interventions to respond to safety risks. The first element of response happens between 0 – 48 hours following a meeting.

**Sites include:**

- FOCUS Rexdale (23 Division TPS) – Operational since January 2013
- FOCUS North Scarborough (42 Division TPS) – Launched April 2016
- FOCUS Downtown East (51 Division TPS) – Launch October 2016
- FOCUS Downtown West (14 Division TPS) – Launch October 2016

**FOCUS Toronto Partnership**

- The Toronto Police Service has leveraged existing resources to support the model at a local division and has dedicated a team of officers from the Divisional Policing Support Unit (DPSU) to help chair the situation tables. Toronto Police has also dedicated DPSU leadership to support project management of the expansion, ongoing coordination and strategy development of the model.
- The United Way of Toronto and York Region has funded a Coordination Manager to enhance coordination of this inter-sectoral approach. The coordination manager provides dedicated project management and strategy development for the implementation of the expansion of the model.
- The City of Toronto Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit has utilized staffing positions to chair the situation tables and has dedicated leadership to lead the project management of the expansion of the model and support the ongoing coordination and strategy development of FOCUS Toronto. The City of Toronto has also mobilized a Youth Violence Prevention Community Development Officer to develop a Youth Violence Prevention framework within FOCUS neighbourhoods and a Policy and Research position to analyze the situations of risk and the responses to identify trends and opportunities for strategic mobilization.
- All three organizations have mobilized leadership to create a steering committee that has guided the development of FOCUS Toronto.
- There are 4 Toronto Police Divisions represented at FOCUS Toronto and the boundary of each situation table is aligned with each of the divisional boundaries.
- There are 86 unique community service providers with over 120 providers involved at the situation tables that mobilize efficient and timely interventions to reduce the risk faced by Torontonians in the areas served by FOCUS Toronto.

**FOCUS Toronto Responses**

Since its inception FOCUS Toronto has responded to 808 situations of acutely elevated risk.

Date	FOCUS Rexdale	FOCUS North Scarborough	FOCUS Downtown East	FOCUS Downtown West	Total
2013	99				99

<b>Date</b>	<b>FOCUS Rexdale</b>	<b>FOCUS North Scarborough</b>	<b>FOCUS Downtown East</b>	<b>FOCUS Downtown West</b>	<b>Total</b>
2014	103				103
2015	131				131
2016	156	75 (April –Dec)	33 (Oct – Dec)	24 (Oct – Dec)	288
2017 as of May 17	39	37	70	41	187

### **Originating Agencies and Responding Agencies**

- The top originating agencies at FOCUS Toronto situation tables are Toronto Police Service and Toronto Community Housing.
- Given the 24/7 nature of their service delivery, Toronto Police Services identifies the majority of situations, however, once referred to a FOCUS situation table the need for their involvement in a situation is drastically reduced given that the often complex needs require a diverse set of service providers equipped with the most appropriate skillsets.
- Responding sectors include Health (33%), Community and Social Services (18%), City of Toronto (14%), Police (12%), Housing (10%), Children and Youth Services (8%), Education (3%) and Justice (2%).

### **Risk Factors**

The top 10 risk factors responded to at FOCUS Toronto situation tables include:

- Mental Health
- Housing
- Anti-social Negative Behaviour
- Addiction
- Suicide/Self Harm
- Poverty
- Crime Victimization
- Physical Health
- Emotional Violence
- Threat to Public Health and Safety

## Population Served

FOCUS Toronto serves a broad range of Torontonians

Situation Type	Percentage
Individual	86%
Family	10%
Environmental	4%

Gender	Percentage
Female	51%
Male	45%
Transgender	1%
Non-Identifying	3%

Age Range	Percentage
0 - 5	3%
6 – 11	4%
12 – 17	17%
18 – 24	15%
25 – 29	5%
30 – 39	14%
40 – 59	24%
60+	14%
Unknown	3%

## Outcomes

- Throughout 2016, FOCUS Toronto expanded from Rexdale (Toronto Police 23 Division) to 3 additional neighbourhoods which has increased the number of situations and influenced the service system's approach to risk.



- Of the 808 situations responded to by the FOCUS Toronto, 92% of situations were connected to services.
- Of the 92% that were connected to services in 85% of the situations the overall risks were lowered and 12% remain at acutely elevated risk usually due to system level barriers or service refusal.

## FOCUS Toronto Data Tracking

FOCUS Toronto has partnered with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) to utilize the creation of the Risk Tracking Database (RTD). The Ministry is offering the Risk-Driven Tracking Database free of charge to communities across Ontario that are engaged in these types of models. The RTD is one tool that communities can use to collect de-identified risk-based information about local priority risks and evolving trends to help inform the community safety and well-being planning process.

The RTD has and its functionality enhances FOCUS Toronto's ability to do the essential analysis of the situations responded to by the model. Once granted authority, Social Development Finance & Administration will execute an agreement on behalf of the FOCUS Toronto partners to use the RTD for all of the FOCUS Toronto situation tables.

## FOCUS Toronto | Violence Prevention

As part of the expansion, FOCUS Toronto has begun to develop a Youth Violence Prevention Framework aligned with the model. The City of Toronto has hired a Youth Violence Prevention Community Development Officer that works within the FOCUS Toronto framework and directly with the CCRP.

The FOCUS Toronto Youth Violence Prevention framework is in its infancy and is divided into 4 pillars: Identify, Prevent, Intervene and Build articulated below.

Youth Violence Prevention Framework	Outcome	Actions
Identify	Identification of community trends that may escalate and contribute to youth violence	Support community partners and networks to strategically respond to emerging youth challenges in FOCUS areas Identify opportunities to build the capacity of youth serving networks to develop youth violence prevention plans within FOCUS Toronto areas

Youth Violence Prevention Framework	Outcome	Actions
Prevent	Prevent youth violence by mobilizing targeted engagement initiatives and events aimed at preventing violence and increasing youth interventions through FOCUS Toronto situation tables	<p>Build the capacity of Youth serving organizations and grassroots groups to utilize FOCUS Toronto situation tables</p> <p>Support groups and communities experiencing heightened levels of youth violence by mobilizing a coordinated response through the FOCUS Table</p> <p>Partner with youth serving agencies and grassroots groups to engage MVP Youth including criminally involved and gang involved young people</p>
Intervene	Proactively use intervention as a mechanism to respond to MVP needs that can escalate to violence. Supporting sustainable strategies to respond when youth violence incidents occur	<p>Build appropriate partnerships to intervene in escalating situations to prevent violence.</p> <p>Through the Community Crisis Intervention Fund, work with groups to create community led responses to violent incidents and support the resulting projects</p> <p>Support the Community Crisis Response Program to facilitate community healing with MVP Youth.</p>
Build	Build supportive systems that enable systemic responses to advance supports for MVP Youth	<p>Support the work of TYES youth mental health strategies</p> <p>Support the expansion of pre-charge diversion across the City of Toronto</p> <p>Create linkages between Pre-Charge diversion and FOCUS Toronto</p>

Currently the position has engaged in a number of initiatives and has increased the youth referrals to the FOCUS Toronto situation tables.

## FOCUS Toronto System Level Response

FOCUS Toronto also analyzes and evaluates the information being collected at the situation tables and key program areas to identify trends, gaps, operational/system level barriers and best practices in human service delivery systems for vulnerable populations. Recommendations identified by FOCUS Toronto will influence partnership development, local planning, generate new priorities, opportunities for targeted investment and outcomes that will enhance Community Safety and Wellbeing in the City of Toronto.

### 3. Community Funding

Grants are partnerships or investments that help the City achieve its social, economic and cultural goals for its residents. The City's goals are better achieved by supporting the work of organizations that are closer to the communities they serve.

#### Community Safety Investment

The Community Safety Investment (CSI) program provides time-limited funding for activities that build community capacity for violence prevention and increases safety for most vulnerable groups in Toronto. CSI criteria encourages applicants from organization that work actively to build on the strengths of neighbourhoods and communities. The two primary goals of this funding program are to:

- Increase access to information, skills and supports that prevent violence and increase safety; and
- Increase the capacity to address systemic causes of violence.

Communities have different assets and different structural resources to address safety and violence-prevention issues such as gang violence, violent incidents in a community, physical abuse (against spouse, child, elder or other vulnerable person), human trafficking and so on.

In recognition of the complexity of violence issues, CSI funded projects are expected to address violence with a multi-faceted approach-- at an individual level, community level, and systemic level. Effective projects address one or more of these four categories:

- Outreach and Awareness
- Training and education
- Building Capacity and Addressing Systemic Issues
- Crisis Response

CSI 2016 funded 17 projects in the total amount of 678,000.00.

CSI Funded Organization	CSI Funded Project	Funded Amount
Alexandra Park Community Centre	Mental Health Wrap Around Project	\$40,000.00
Boost Child & Youth Advocacy Centre	A Way Out: Helping Young Victims of Sex Trafficking	\$43,500.00
Covenant House Toronto	Prevention and Early Intervention	\$48,000.00
FCJ Refugee Centre	Lifting the Shadows: Growing a Community Based Response for Survivors of Human Trafficking	\$46,000.00

<b>CSI Funded Organization</b>	<b>CSI Funded Project</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
John Howard Society of Toronto	Community Response Program (CRP)	\$40,000.00
Legacy ~ Dreams 2 Reality	Behind the Lyrics	\$34,000.00
Nikki Knows	Project LUCID - System Navigation Toolkit & Training	\$35,000.00
Ontario Justice Education Network / Réseau Ontarien D'Éducation Juridique	Legal Layers	\$47,000.00
Operation Springboard	Truth Project: Teaching, Reaching and Understanding Trafficked Humans	\$36,000.00
Promoting Education and Community Health (PEACH)	Wraparound	\$45,000.00
South Asian Women's Centre	Honour, Violence and the Safety of South Asian Women	\$40,000.00
TAIBU Community Health Centre	Malvern Inter-generational Community Safety Project	\$48,500.00
The Neighbourhood Group Community Services	Community Safety Ambassadors	\$44,000.00
Toronto Rape Crisis Centre/Multicultural Women Against Rape	Support Education Action - Latina (SEAL)	\$43,000.00
Unison / York Community Services	Wards 11 and 12 Response and Recovery Project	\$40,000.00
Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services	Safety 4 All Toronto Residents (STAR)	\$40,000.00
Street Health Community Nursing Foundation	Sex Worker Safety Outreach and Education Project	\$15,288.00

## Identify 'N Impact

The Identity 'N Impact (INI) Investment funding program provides one-year grants of up to \$10,000 to youth-led groups to lead and deliver projects that promote youth empowerment and broader community safety with other youth participants aged 13-29 years.

INI funding priorities includes projects that:

- Engage youth from and/or based in one of the City's 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas;
- Work with racialized youth leaders, particularly African-Canadian youth;
- Are led-by and work with MVP youth (youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence & crime); and/or
- Work to advance Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES) priorities, including educational attainment, community-based training, and mentorship.
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A total of eighty-eight (88) eligible submissions were received by the deadline date of August 22, 2016, a 44 % increase (compared to 57 in 2015).

<b>INI Grant Recipient</b>	<b>Funded Amount</b>
21 to 15	\$10,000.00
Champions	\$9,924.00
Harari Youth Committee of Toronto (HYCT)	\$8,040.00
Les Dancesoeurs	\$10,000.00
N.Y.C. (Neptune Youth Community)	\$10,000.00
PAERE	\$9,850.00
SEYA (South Etobicoke Youth Assembly)	\$10,000.00
Visions of Science Network for Learning	\$10,000.00
Young decision Makers Youth Group c/o The Students Commission of Canada	\$10,000.00
Young diplomats Ehipoian Youth development Group	\$10,000.00

The 2017 INI Fund is currently being developed and will have a focus on youth violence prevention.

## 4. Update on Tri-level Initiatives to Increase Community Safety in Toronto

To respond to a significant increase in violent critical incidents across the City, Mayor Tory joined the federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, the Ontario Attorney General and the Ontario Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services on June 30, 2016 to announce joint support for three new community safety initiatives; a Community Crisis Response Fund, the Expansion of the City of Toronto TYES Pre-Charge Diversion Pilot and the Expansion of FOCUS Toronto for immediate implementation.

On July 12, 2016 Toronto City Council passed a motion to receive the investments. Unfortunately as of May 22, 2017, other levels of government have not met their financial commitments to the City of Toronto resulting in a negative impact on the implementation of some of the announced initiatives. Despite the best efforts of City staff to work with provincial colleagues to rectify this issue, the commitments have not been met.

Below is a status report on each of the identified initiatives.

### Community Crisis Respond Fund

Social Development Finance and Administration, were directed to partner with Toronto Community Housing to create an Intervention Fund to provide services to communities where a violent act has taken place that has had impact on the living conditions, health or coping capacity of local residents.

The funds should enable communities to:

- Immediately implement their own crisis response activities to address neighbourhood violence.
- Services should include counselling support, provision of safe places outside the community for healing sessions, focus groups, creation of neighbourhood crisis response teams, youth engagement programs and relationship-building activities with the Toronto Police Service.
- The fund will support community-led activities that complement the work of the City's Community Crisis Response Program

### Community Crisis Respond Fund | Status

- The City of Toronto mobilized Fifty-thousand dollars from the 2016 Community Safety Investment funding program to target investment towards locally-driven intervention activities with net zero impact to the City
- Toronto Community Housing mobilized Forty-thousand dollars to enhance the fund and ensure that TCH communities impacted by violence can access the fund.

- In August 2016, the Community Crisis Response Fund was launched to provide one-time financial assistance (up to \$3,000) to initiatives or activities that address a specific violent incident/crisis in a community (local neighbourhood or community of common bond) and contributes to community capacity building and/or community healing. This fund is intended to assist communities to develop and implement their own crisis response initiatives and support mechanisms in order to improve community safety, well-being and resiliency.
- A program eligibility criteria was designed as well as a process that can mobilize funds to a community groups within 15 – 20 days. To support the accelerated allocation process the City of Toronto has partnered with four dedicated trustees:
  - Yorktown Child & Family Services
  - Delta Family Services
  - St. Stephen's Community House
  - East Metro Youth Services
- As of April 30, 2017 the Community Crisis Respond Fund has allocated \$63,342.17. The following groups have been funded:

Group Name	Project Name	Funding Amount
McGregor Youth Group	McGregor Youth Community Healing Project	\$1,686.17
Legacy D2R Youth empowerment	Community healing retreat	\$2,450.00
ACSA	Community Healing	\$3,000.00
Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club	Moving Forward Together	\$3,000.00
IMPACT 'n Communities	Healing Circles - Violence Intervention Ambassadors	\$3,000.00
Toronto Community Housing tenant rep (69 scarlettwood crt)	Scarlettwood Court & Waterton Heals	\$3,000.00
The Eastmall Community Steering Committee	A sustainable community development Program, Trainings and Workshops	\$3,000.00
Think Twice	Kings to Kingz	\$3,000.00
Somali Women and Children's Support Network	Community Support Project	\$2,946.00
Jane and Finch Unity	Unity Reach Out	\$2,760.00

Group Name	Project Name	Funding Amount
1025 Scarlett- Move	Parent/youth engagement project	\$3,000.00
TDSB Westview Centennial (Success Beyond Limits )	Westview Day of Peace	\$3,000.00
Ephraim's Place Community Centre	Community Action Team	\$2,500.00
MPOWER	H.E.A.R.T.	\$3,000.00
Young and Potential Father	Weston Community Healing Initiatives	\$3,000.00
Ladies Falstaff Tea Group	Falstaff Ladies Tea Group	\$3,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough	Young men's group	\$3,000.00
Toronto Community Housing (shoreham court animator)	Edgeley Village youth Sports and Leadership Day	3,000.00
Room to Grow Child Centre	Room to grow Family Resource Drop-In at 44 Willowridge	\$3,000.00
Cedarbrook Lunch Program	Cedarbrook Lunch Program	\$3,000.00
YAAACE	Being Proactive- Healing Retreat	\$3,000.00
Pembroke Mews Tenant group	Safety Ambassador Program	\$3,000.00

## A New Pre-Charge Diversion Program

The Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada had committed to joining the City to invest in the expansion of the Youth Pre-Charge Diversion Program across Toronto. This program aims to better leverage existing programs for support youth (ages 12 to 17) who have been accused of a criminal offence. As an alternative to facing criminal charges and going to court, some youth may be referred by police to attend a community program that will provide them with supports to reduce the roots of criminal activity.



## **Youth Pre-charge Diversion | Status**

Despite the efforts of City staff, as of May 24, 2017, other levels of government had not honoured their commitment resulting in no investment. City wide Pre-Charge diversion will commence in June 2017, with limited City of Toronto participation due to a lack of this investment.

## **Expansion of the FOCUS Program**

- The Province of Ontario agreed to provide temporary financial resources to expand the Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS) program situation tables to additional communities throughout the City. Potential expansion sites included Toronto Police Divisions 31, 12 and 43.
- FOCUS Toronto planned to utilize these resources to further expand Youth Violence Prevention work currently being developed through FOCUS Toronto from a neighbourhood-police divisional perspective to a city-wide implementation. The Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit on behalf of FOCUS Toronto would then be in a position to identify Youth Violence Prevention plans for each of the City of Toronto Community Council districts served through the Community Crisis Response Program.

## **FOCUS Expansion | Status**

- Throughout 2016, Toronto Police Service, The United Way and The City of Toronto created FOCUS Toronto and expanded from Toronto Police 23 division to the originally identified expansion sites of Toronto Police 42, 51 and 14 divisions. Through in-kind investments from Toronto Police Service and The City of Toronto and investment from the United Way, FOCUS Toronto was able to develop a coordination structure to support the expansion, an evaluation framework and the design of a youth violence prevention framework within these areas.
- Despite the efforts of this integrated team, as of May 24, 2017, the provincial government had not met their financial commitment to support the expansion of FOCUS resulting in no investment. Due to this reality, the expansion of FOCUS Toronto situation tables to additional neighbourhoods and the expansion of the Youth Violence prevention framework has not moved forward.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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