

## **Attachment B: Downtown East Action Plan Grant – Summary of Outcomes Grant Details**

The goal of the Downtown East Action Plan Grant is to implement, advance and evaluate an initiative that enhances safe, inclusive communities and/or stability for people who are marginalized within the Downtown East. Four organizations were recommended to receive a combined total of \$460,000 over two years to support community-based activities connected to central outcomes of the Downtown East Action Plan. In addition, city staff worked with The Neighbourhood Group to provide small grants to residents in the Downtown East leading activities related to the Action Plan.

Grants were approved in late 2020 and activities began in early 2021. Year one impact is summarized below.

### **Trauma-Informed Overdose Response Curriculum**

**Lead Organization:** South Riverdale Community Health Centre      **Project End Date:** Dec. 2022

**Project Description:** To increase competency and capacity among organizations and community members to provide trauma-informed overdose response through the design, development and implementation of the first staff training curriculum for overdose response workers.

#### **Project Impact to date:**

- Creation of Community Advisory Committee with lived experience to inform the development of the training curriculum
- Pre and post evaluations at Community Advisory Meetings indicate that participating regularly in meetings increases feelings of belonging and safety among community members.
- Most participants regularly report that they always enjoy attending meetings
- 76% of survey respondents indicate that they believe it is important to be trauma-informed when responding to overdose, yet 61% disagree that trauma-informed overdose response has been included in their workplace training.
- 30 unique individuals served

### **DTE Occupational Therapy Capacity Building**

**Lead Organization:** Covenant House Toronto      **Project End Date:** April 2023

**Project Description:** Capacity building for staff working in youth emergency shelters to serve people who are marginalized (e.g. responding to issues of substance use, trauma, mental health or community safety) by hiring an Occupational Therapist.

#### **Project Impact to date:**

- Convened Steering Committee and engage youth in the co-design of the training materials
- The addition of the expertise of an Occupational Therapist Consultant to the project has revealed the large extent to which the homeless shelter sector typically does not address the barriers, appropriate accommodations and engagement strategies to best assist these youth.

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### **After Hours Mental Health and Crisis Support Telephone Service Project**

**Lead Organization:** Native Child and Family Services of Toronto  
Dec. 2022

**Project End Date:**

**Project Description:** The After Hours Mental Health and Crisis Support Telephone Service will provide community members with 24 hour access to culture-based, trauma-informed mental health services.

#### **Project Impact to date:**

- The evaluation results indicate that the Afterhours Support Line is addressing the needs of community members by providing real-time therapeutic support for crisis and emergent concerns outside of regular operating hours.
- The results from the surveys completed after each phone call demonstrates that the service is helping to reduce users' levels of distress and providing grounding, coping, and self-regulation support in the moment.
- More in-depth support to some callers has been possible than they would have otherwise received. This has been particularly helpful to community members who struggle with relapse prevention and mental health concerns who have few non-emergent services available for support in the evenings, weekends and holidays.
- 27 unique individual served, 92 instances where individuals were served

### **Safety and Sisterhood**

**Lead Organization:** Street Health

**End Date:** December 2022

**Project Description:** Increase health, wellbeing, and safety of trans and cis women who are homeless and/or street-involved during underserved hours by providing safe spaces, educational sessions, access to therapeutic counselling, and support employment.

#### **Project Impact to date:**

- 20 participants were surveyed over two weeks about their preference in programming
  - 80% of respondents indicated they prefer educational activities be imbedded in other undertakings such as art groups or recreational activities.
  - 90% of participants identified self defense training as a priority.
- Informal feedback from participants has expressed feeling good about the opportunity to come together and socialize in a safe and informal setting.
- Short evaluations of partner agency workshops indicate that participants find the activities informative and useful.
- Participants have expressed appreciation for the access to monthly counselling services through the clinical counsellor.
- Consistency in the delivery of activities regardless of the weather has allowed participants to know they can rely on where and when the drop-in is held.
- 67 unique individual served, 421 instances where individuals were served