

Social Equity Strategies at the City

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Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Presentation at the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

October 25, 2023





Overview

- Access, Equity & Inclusion at the City
- Spotlight on SDFA Equity Initiatives:
 - Action Plan
 - Strategy
 - Program
- Cross Divisional Collaboration

Diversity is our Strength

The City strives to apply an equity lens to its activities to identify and remove barriers and to support best practices in planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of its programs and services to better serve all residents, visitors, and employees.

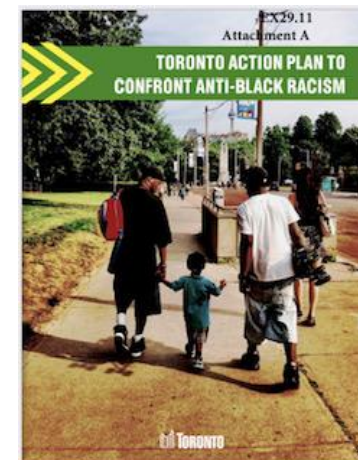


People, Places & Systems

SDFA drives transformative change to achieve stronger, safer, and more resilient communities and neighbourhoods in Toronto.

PEOPLE

Improving the life chances and quality of life of equity-deserving communities and vulnerable residents



PLACES

Strengthening neighbourhoods to be accessible, safe, resilient places to live, work and play



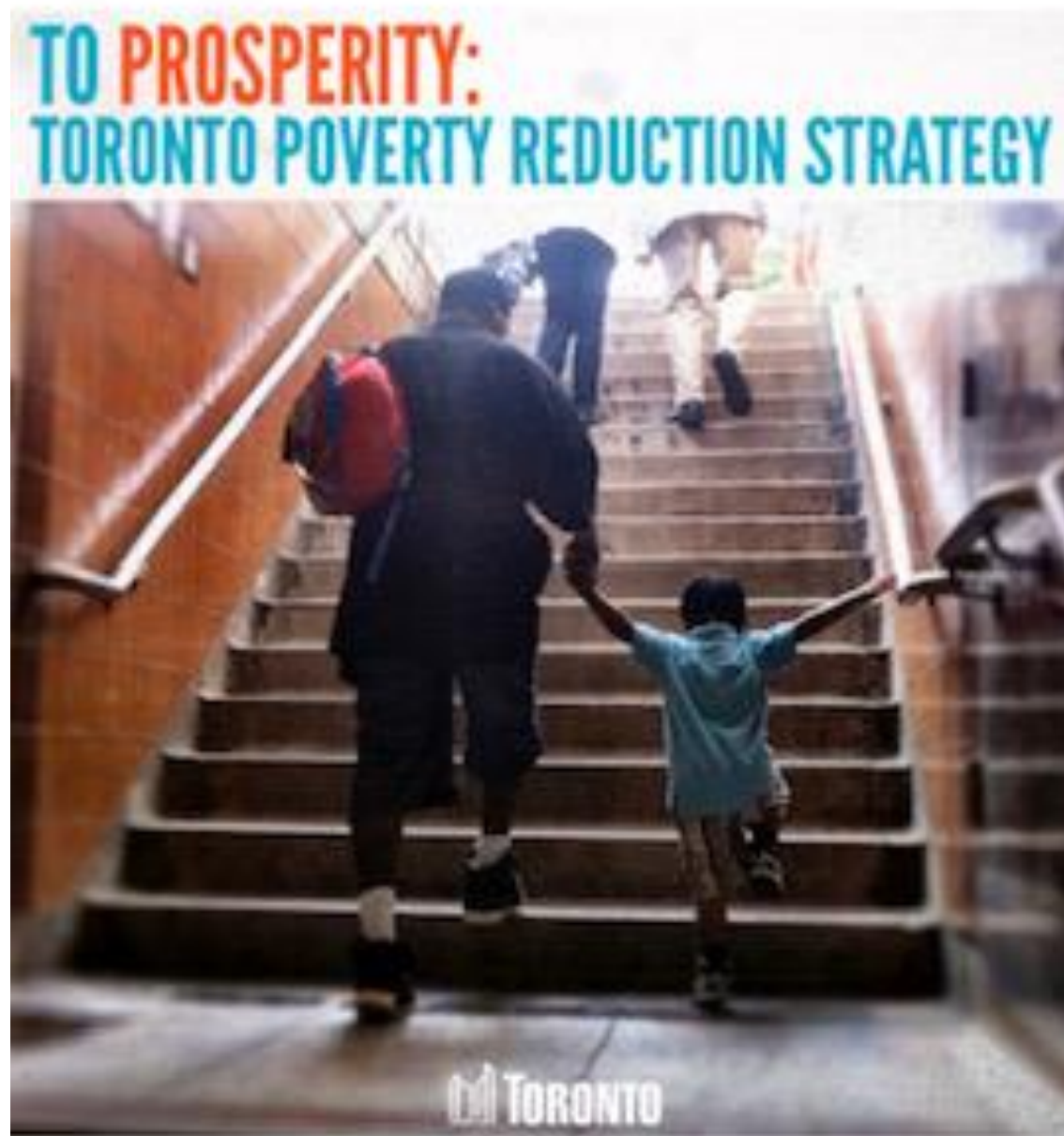
TARGETED UNIVERSALISM

SYSTEMS

Shifting policy, practice, structure and culture to better serve equity-deserving communities and vulnerable residents



Spotlight: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy



A long-term strategy to address immediate needs, create pathways to prosperity, and drive systemic change for those living in poverty in the City.



20 years to break intergenerational cycles of poverty



17 Recommendations to address poverty and build prosperity



5 Pillars:

- Housing Stability
- Service access
- Transit Equity
- Food access
- Quality jobs and incomes
- Systemic change

Building Prosperity Pathways

01



Updating Toronto's
Food Charter

Social Procurement



02

03



3rd-Term Action Plan
Report & Update

The Vision

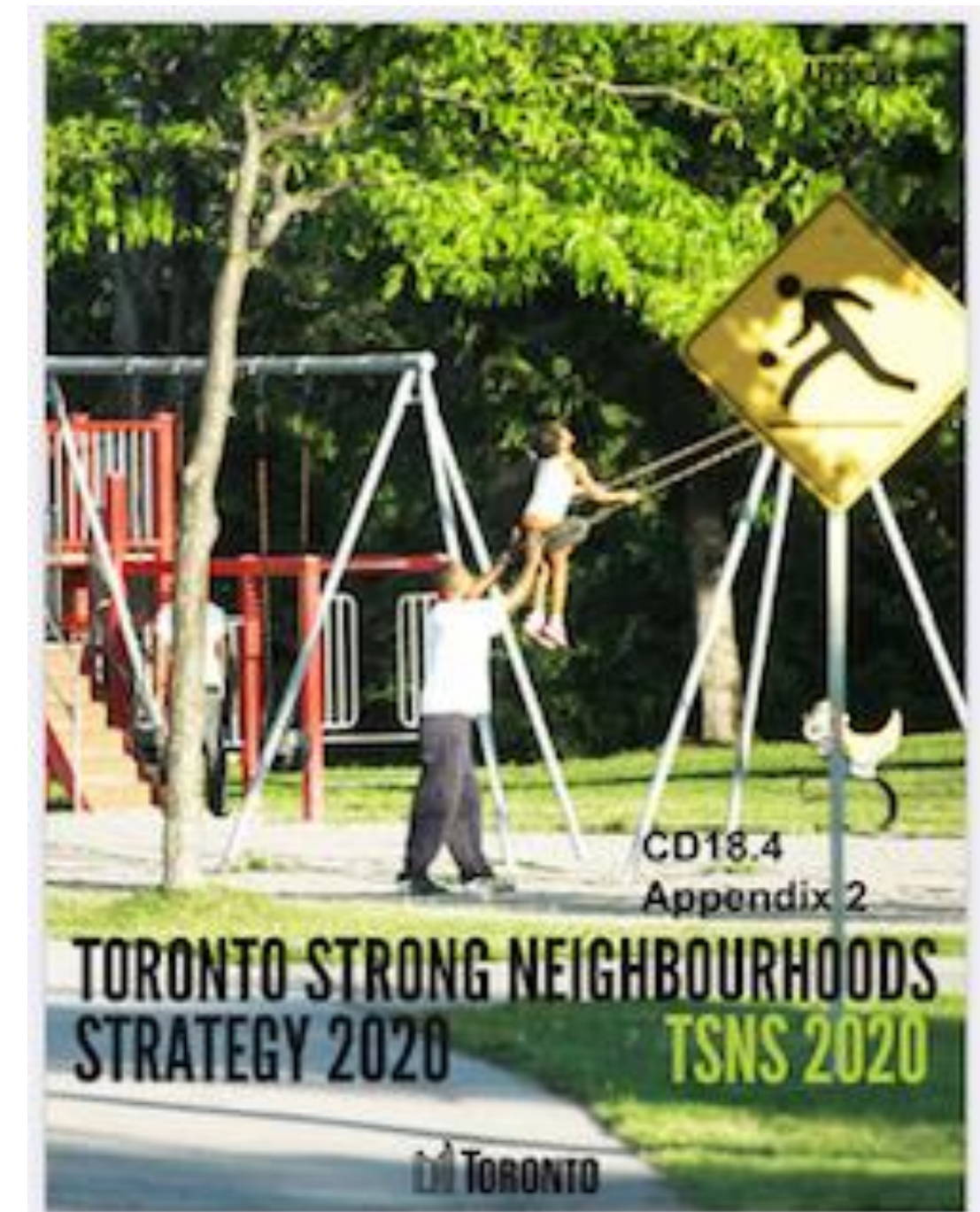
“By 2035, Toronto is a city with opportunities for all: a leader in the collective pursuit of justice, fairness and equity. We want to be renowned as a city where everyone has access to good jobs, adequate income, stable housing, affordable transportation, nutritious food, and supportive services.”

Spotlight:

Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy

The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy (TSNS) is the City of Toronto's action plan for ensuring that each Toronto neighbourhood can succeed and thrive.

- TSNS supports healthy communities across the city by partnering with residents, community agencies and businesses to invest in people, services, programs and facilities
- Focuses on 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
- 8 Emerging Neighbourhoods.





1

The Community Coordination Plan: City & United Way Collaboration with local community organizations

3

TSNS Advisory Group: City & Social Planning Toronto Partnership to support info sharing, capacity-building & decision-making

4

Local Leaders Forum & Community Workshops: Cross-neighbourhood Sharing

5

Resident Grant Pilots: \$50K for Resident-Led Projects

Spotlight: Toronto Community Crisis Service



**Toronto
Community
Crisis Service**



TORONTO STAR

These mobile crisis workers are on a mission: offer an alternative to police-led mental health calls



Community members can de-escalate some emergency calls better than police, experts say



Jonathan Ore · CBC Radio ·

Posted: Dec 03, 2022 4:00 AM EST | Last Updated: December 5, 2022

Toronto approved non-police crisis response teams. This woman is trying to build them



GTA

This Indigenous-led crisis team wants you to think twice before calling 911



HEALTH

Early data released on Toronto pilot project with specialists responding to crisis calls

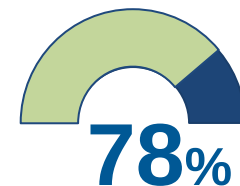
By Gabby Rodrigues · Global News
Posted July 22, 2022 11:57 am EST

In March 2022, the Toronto Community Crisis Service launched a 24/7 service to provide a community-based, client centred, trauma-informed, non-police led response to people experiencing mental health crisis and wellness checks.



6,827

total calls received for service



78%

of calls transferred from 911 were handled by TCCS with no police involvement



1,160

service users accepted a follow up within 48h



300

culturally relevant supports were provided to service users

Building Resilience in the Crisis System



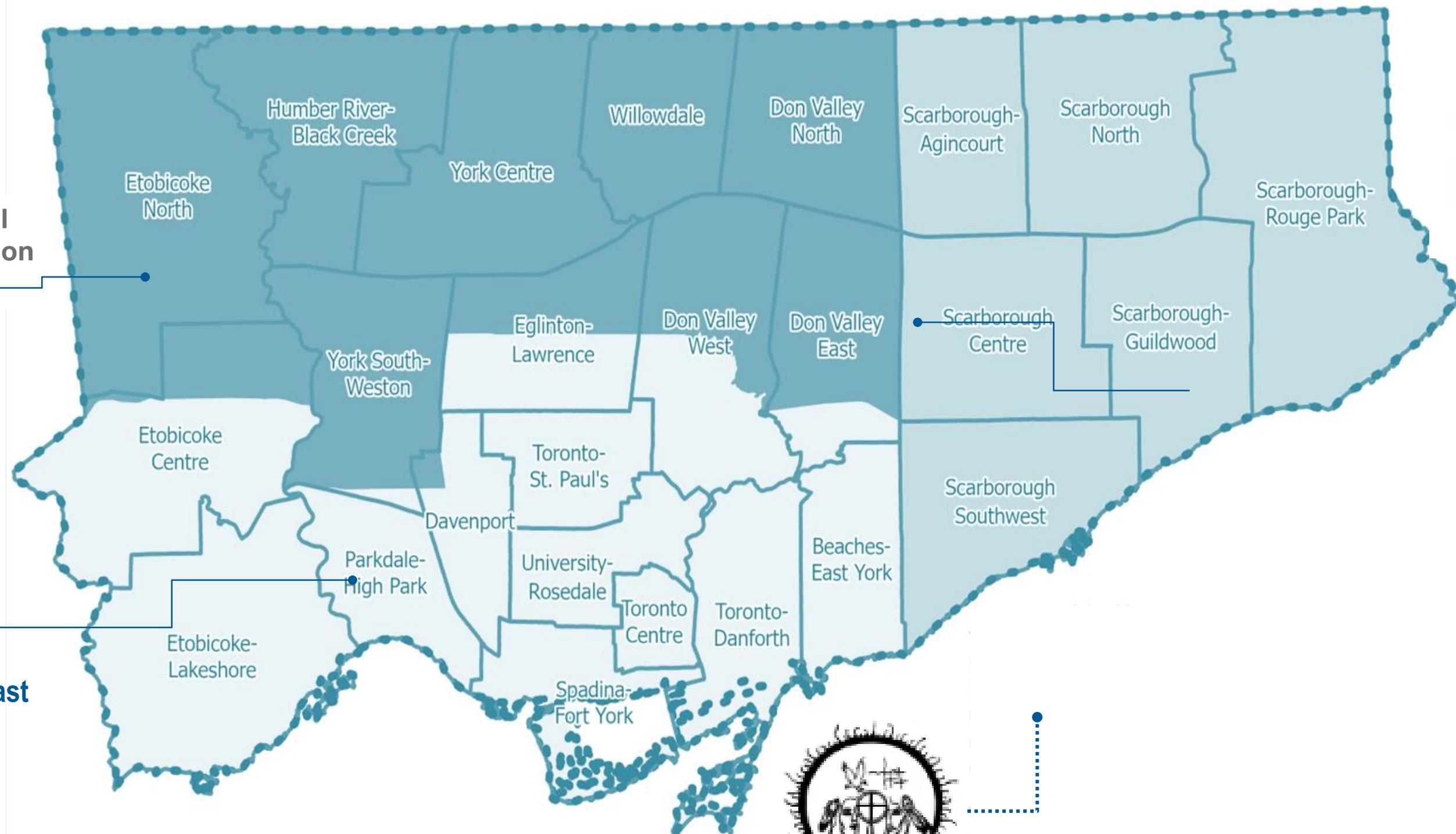
Canadian Mental
Health Association
Toronto

Northwest & North York



Gerstein
Crisis Centre

Etobicoke, Downtown, Mid-East



Scarborough



Indigenous-specific
City-Wide

Cross-Divisional Collaborations

Interdivisional collaboration is a foundational principle to create more inclusive and equitable neighbourhood planning, increasing access to funding, local infrastructure, and targeted programs.

	Community Funding	Community Infrastructure	Targeted Programs	Business Supports
Inclusive Economic Opportunity Initiative				
Little Jamaica Initiative				
The Jane and Finch Initiative				

Thank you

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