

Attachment 2

Place-based Assessment Guidelines

These are recommended criteria for assessing where there is need, community capacity and opportunity for the development and expansion of the Association of Community Centres (AOCC) across Toronto. The data in this table are meant to act as guidelines for assessment, rather than threshold criteria for decision-making.

Criteria	Domain	Measure	Relevance	Data Source
1. Enhancing Neighbourhood Equity	Socio-Economic	Unemployment Rate	Indicates the level of economic insecurity. High unemployment suggests increased demand for employment supports, job training, and income security programs.	Statistics Canada. (2021). Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population: Toronto, Ontario: Census Tracts.
		Involuntary Part-Time (Underemployment)	Captures hidden labour market vulnerability—people working fewer hours than they need. Signals need for employment services that address skills mismatch or access to better-quality jobs.	City of Toronto. (2024). <i>Toronto Employment Survey</i> . City Planning. Data set.
		Low-Income Measure (LIM-AT)	A widely used poverty threshold. Highlights income inequality and helps target financial literacy programs, housing stability support, or food insecurity initiatives.	Statistics Canada. (2021). Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population: Toronto, Ontario: Census Tracts.
		Social Assistance Rate	Serves as a direct measure of dependency on public income support. Areas with high rates may need integrated services like case management, benefits access, or crisis supports.	
		After-Shelter Income (Owners/Renters)	Measures housing affordability by capturing what percentage of households are spending more than 30% of income on shelter. Points to affordability stress and justifies supports like rent subsidies or financial counseling.	
	Child and Youth Development	Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	Strong predictor of social exclusion and long-term economic marginalization. Indicates demand for youth re-engagement strategies, mentorship, or alternative education pathways.	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. (2023). <i>Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training</i> . Data set.
		Early Childhood Development Index (EDI)	Assesses readiness-to-learn among kindergarten-aged children. Highlights early developmental risks and guides investment in early learning, parenting supports, or nutrition programs.	City of Toronto. (2017). <i>Health status indicator: Vulnerability in early child development</i> . Toronto Public Health, Data set.
	Health	Premature Mortality	Tracks preventable deaths under age 75. Suggests need for upstream interventions targeting social determinants of health and community health promotion.	City of Toronto. (2017). <i>Health status indicator: Infant mortality</i> . Toronto Public Health
		Preventable Hospitalizations	Identifies communities with unmet health needs, likely due to barriers to accessing timely, community-based care. Helps pinpoint where health-related services are most needed.	City of Toronto. (n.d.) <i>Population health status indicators</i> . Toronto Public Health.

Criteria	Domain	Measure	Relevance	Data Source
		Attachment To Primary Care Provider	Low rates indicate weaker integration with health systems. Reinforces the value of navigation services, walk-in partnerships, and outreach to marginalized populations.	City of Toronto. (2024). <i>Adult Health Behaviours and Risk Factors</i> . Data set.
	Housing	Eviction Filing Rate	Identifies areas with high rates of housing instability, where there is potential for key community services such as legal aid and tenant support programs.	Statistics Canada. (2021). Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population: Toronto, Ontario: Census Tracts.
	Safety & Mobility	Amenity Access by Biking and Walking	Assesses location based on proximity to amenities, street intersection density, population density and land use mix, rating locations from most access to least.	Mobilizing Justice. (2024). <i>Transportation Equity Dashboard</i> .
		Crime Rate Against Person	Provides crime statistics per 100,000 residents across Toronto neighbourhoods, allowing for comparison of crime trends and safety levels between different areas.	Toronto Police Services. (2023). <i>Reported Crimes</i> . Open Data.
2. Targeted Investment in Underserved Areas	Service Availability and Distribution	Proximity of Alternate Services Providers (non-City)	Helps determine service density and redundancy. In areas with few external providers, City services may need to play a larger role or facilitate partner programming.	United Way Greater Toronto. (2024). <i>Essential Spaces: Real (Estate) Solutions for Community Needs</i> .
		Proximity of City-Owned Social Purpose Real - Estate Assets and Services	Highlights co-location opportunities. Supports efficient capital investment and partnership development.	- City of Toronto. (2025). <i>Community Space Tenancy Locations</i>. Data set. - City of Toronto. (2025). <i>Association of Community Centres</i>. Data set. - City of Toronto, (2025). <i>Community Recreation Centres</i>. Data set. - City of Toronto. (2025). <i>Toronto Public Libraries</i>. Data set.
		Social Service Facility to Population Ratio	A direct measure of infrastructure adequacy. Low ratios indicate service saturation and justify new capital investment or expanded programming. Also supports equity analysis when compared across neighbourhoods.	Statistics Canada. (2021). Population and Dwelling Counts: Census Tracts.
3. Enhancing Community Leadership	Community Capacity	Local Leadership Grants Applications (City/TCHC)	Proxy for grassroots leadership and civic participation. Higher numbers suggest readiness for capacity-building programs; lower numbers may indicate a need for outreach or enabling support.	City of Toronto. (2025). <i>Local Leadership Grant</i> . Data set. Toronto Community Housing Corporation. (2025). <i>Tenant Action Funds Applications</i> . Data set.
		Local Resident Groups or Networks, associations (City)	Indicates existing organizing capacity. Strong networks support collaborative programming, mutual aid, and local decision-making processes.	

Criteria	Domain	Measure	Relevance	Data Source
4. Planning for Growth	Urban Development	Projected Population Change	Estimated growth captured at the census tract scale, capturing 2016-2051 population change. Helps target areas with increasing density for community service provision.	City of Toronto. (2023). <i>Project Population Growth 2016-2051</i> . City Planning Division.
		Proximity to Major Transit Station Areas	Future sites for development of transit hub infrastructure, including proposed population densification. Helps target future high-order transit accessible sites.	City of Toronto. (2025). Major Transit Station Areas. City Planning. Data set.
		Alignment with City Planning Policies and Secondary Plans	Defined geographies with local policy to guide growth and development. Indicates areas with long-term urban and financial planning with phased development and densification.	City of Toronto (2024). <i>Official Plan: Chapter 6 Secondary Plans</i> . City Planning Division.
	Housing Development	Adjacency to TCHC Revitalization Communities	Identifies priority concentrations of community need and social cohesion that are targeted for investment in social infrastructure.	Toronto Community Housing Corporation. (2019). <i>Revitalization</i> .
		Proximity to Affordable Housing	Areas of affordable and social housing developments on City-owned land.	- CreateTO. (2023). <i>Housing Now</i>. - City of Toronto. (2025) <i>Active Affordable and Social Housing Units</i>. Housing Secretariat. Data set. - City of Toronto. (2024). <i>Toronto Community Housing Data</i>. Housing Secretariat. Data set.