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2026 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Impact of Federal Funding Loss and New and Enhanced Funding to Support Youth

Issue/Background

- At its meeting on January 16, 2026, Budget Committee requested the Executive Director, Social Development to provide a briefing note outlining the programs affected in 2026 by the loss of Federal funding, including programs that come to an end in 2026, programs that will be covered by City-funds in 2026 but are at risk of closure, as well as the total new funding in the 2026 Budget being invested to support youth. ([BU11.1 – 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets](#)).
- Starting in 2023, the City allocated funding of \$16.6 million from the Federal Government through the Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF) and the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) grants for violence prevention, interruption programs, and community safety programs:
 - The BSCF grant provided new funding for gang prevention initiatives, in Toronto and other communities. The City received a total of \$12.3 million over multiple years (February 2023 – March 2026 based on the Federal Government's fiscal year) to prevent gun and gang violence.
 - The CPAF provided time-limited grant and contribution funding for evidence-based crime prevention initiatives in communities that address known risk and protective factors associated with crime among vulnerable groups of the population, especially children and youth from 6-24 years, and chronic offenders. The City received a total of \$4.3 million through the CPAF over multiple years (January 2023 – March 2026 based on the Federal Government's fiscal year).

Key Points

- With both Federal funding streams set to conclude by March 31, 2026, Social Development will experience a combined loss of \$6.2 million reduction from the 2025 budget in staffing and program funding. This loss affects community-led programs that support youth and communities most impacted by violence, as well work to develop tools and resources related to effective crime prevention practices:
 - \$9.1 million of the \$12.3 million funding through BSCF was allocated to investment in community partnerships and \$3.2 million towards City of Toronto staffing and supports.
 - \$2.9 million of the \$4.3 million funding through CPAF was allocated to investment in community partnerships and \$1.4 million towards City of Toronto staffing and supports.

- Social Development's 2026 Staff Prepared Operating Budget includes \$0.8 million gross and net to absorb 6 positions into its base funding to support efforts to sustain certain programs.
 - Lists of all the funded programs through both the BSCF and CPAF that are affected by the loss of Federal funding are available in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.
- In 2025, Toronto saw encouraging progress, with a 43% decrease in shootings and firearm-related incidents and a 35% reduction in youth shootings and firearm-related violence. These results were made possible through the collective efforts of all orders of government, community organizations, City divisions, the Toronto Police Service and partners across the city. However, the loss of federal funding may limit the City's ability to sustain this progress and achieve optimal outcomes in strengthening community safety and developing violence prevention infrastructure.

Table 1: Summary of Building Safer Communities Fund Programs (\$12.3 Million)

Program Name	Overall Investment (\$ Million)	Description	Impact
Community PEERS (Peers Elevating and Extending Resources and Supports) *	\$0.485	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community PEERS uses a peer-led approach to preventing violence in the community, where trained youth serve as the peers. The program actively involves these youth leaders, engages youth-serving frontline workers and agencies, and helps connect young people with long-term support systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 PEERS were mobilized to support communities exposed to violence and trauma through several service requests. 85% of youth felt more comfortable speaking to someone about the help they needed to cope with their trauma. 90% of youth were more aware of where to get support and services for people who experience harm or trauma due to violence.
Training Hub	\$0.425	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Training Hub focuses on providing barrier-free in-person trainings and certifications to build the capacity of community partners, resident leaders, and City staff leading community safety and well-being work. Training certifications include: Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST), Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI), Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), and SafeTALK. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 440 frontline workers were trained through the Training Hub. 83% of survey respondents felt confident in their ability to lead a local community development and/or safety initiative because of their experience in the program. 72% of survey respondents felt confident in their ability to facilitate a local community development and/or safety initiative because of their experience in the program.

Program Name	Overall Investment (\$ Million)	Description	Impact
Family Well-Being Pilot Program (Scarborough) *	\$2.534	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Family Well-Being Program uses a holistic approach to support parents, guardians, and caregivers of youth (ages 10–29) who are vulnerable to violence or crime. It helps families navigate services and connect youth with positive, community-based opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between June 2023 and December 2025, the program served 2,535 families through one-on-one system navigation and facilitated 300 workshops to parents and/or caregivers in Scarborough. 89% of family members felt that the program provided them with the information and/or guidance needed to navigate stability services.
Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Coordinator	\$0.340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Toronto District School Board received funding to hire one full-time staff member who worked directly within the Violence Prevention Toronto Office. This staff member was responsible for coordinating responses to violent incidents, developing safety plans, providing training, and implementing preventative strategies to help reduce violence. Since the provincial appointed supervisor of the school board, this role has not been filled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged 2,400 educators and community safety practitioners in evidence informed back to school planning. Engaged 2,000 parents in community service fairs Facilitated 300 Youth Outreach Worker events across schools. Developed enhanced protocol for the Caring and Safe School Team, Social Work. In collaboration with the Violence Prevention Toronto Office (VPTO), responded to 133 situations identified through Integrated Safety Coordination Teams. Situations addressed risk factors that contributed to violence.
Community Safety Networks *	\$0.911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City-Wide Safety Tables (CWSTs) establishes localized safety networks by creating anchor tables for each district. The CWSTs engage local stakeholders, including residents, business owners, community organizations, and faith-based groups, to collaboratively develop and implement place-based safety initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Safety Networks across the city support safer communities and work with the City's Violence Intervention and Support Unit. 69% of survey respondents felt confident in their ability to lead a local community development and/or safety initiative because of their experience in the program. 72% of survey respondents felt confident in their ability to facilitate a local community development and/or safety initiative because of their experience in the program.
Youth Violence Prevention Coordination **	Included in City of Toronto Staff costs (below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Youth Violence Prevention Network (YVPN) serves as a city-wide space for the youth-serving sector, fostering opportunities for collaboration and networking to reduce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The network brings together 23 youth and family serving organizations that have signed terms of commitment and participated 18 sessions that discuss, service alignment emerging

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		barriers and increase access and supports for frontline youth workers.	<p>issue and opportunities to better serve youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build stronger capacity through 7 trainings and workshops that build common understanding of youth issues and support professional development and succession planning in the youth sector. • A total of 160 participants from member organizations attended the trainings.
Communications Campaign**	Included in City of Toronto Staff costs (below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a collaborative youth-designed, youth-focused communications campaign, including materials that promote current violence-prevention programs, services, and activities, to increase awareness of supports available to young people, including employment and mental health resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged 4 focus groups of youth with lived experience with violence, trauma and anti-Black racism to inform communication concepts and distribution approach • Campaign expected to launch in Q2 2026.
Life Stabilization Fund *	\$0.865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Life Stabilization Fund supports youth (ages 12–29) receiving case management who are vulnerable to violence or crime by providing financial assistance to address barriers and life challenges that may be limiting their progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2023 to 2025, Life Stabilization Funding support was provided to 1,011 individuals. • 78% of case managers felt the fund supported the youth in achieving their case management goals. • 83% of case managers felt that the fund supported the youth in achieving their life stabilization goals.
TO Wards Peace (Scarborough)	\$2.139	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A risk-driven, multi-sectoral model to support violence intervention, interruption and prevention for youth (ages 12-29) at the center of violence and their families. The program takes a public health approach to community violence to advance following methods of engagement for youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-Person Violence Disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged 43 youth and their families through the work of front-line Violence Disruption Workers (VDWs), who had a total of 943 engagements equating to 83 hours of intensive case management and 207 hours of engagement. • The program's cohort includes youth who are at risk of experiencing violence. Violence Disruption Workers responded to 52 incidents throughout Scarborough, taking

Program Name	Overall Investment (\$ Million)	Description	Impact
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online Violence Interruption - Community Capacity Building and Investment - Referral Network of Services 	action to directly prevent harm, victimization, and—on some occasions—potential homicides. Of these incidents, 80% involved members of the program's cohort.
FOCUS Toronto *	\$0.174	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services (FOCUS) is an innovative, collaborative risk driven approach co-led by the City of Toronto, United Way Greater Toronto and Toronto Police Service that aims to reduce risk, harm, crime, victimization and improve community resiliency and wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between 2023 and 2024, FOCUS Toronto supported 4,174 individuals experiencing acutely elevated risk. • Across 307 situation table meetings, 85% of cases raised at the table experienced a real drop in risks of harm and victimization—demonstrating the table's strong success at keeping people safer.
Toronto Northwest Justice Centre Case Manager	\$0.300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Toronto Northwest (TNW) Justice Centre is an initiative led by the Ministry of Attorney General, with the City as a partner. It provides targeted community supports and programs for youth, aiming to address root causes of offending and reduce the overrepresentation of young Black and racialized individuals in the justice system. The Centre focuses on helping participants reconnect with education, develop life skills, strengthen family relationships, and access mental health and substance use support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 81% of youth improved their educational status following connection to the Case Managers and Education Advocates (i.e. registered for school, admitted back after expulsion, received credit recovery etc.) • 70% of youth connected to culturally responsive programming improved their sense of pride and self-esteem – key protective factors against anti-social behaviour and offending
Restorative Justice Program *	\$0.918	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative Justice is a program that supports youth participants to identify issues that cause harm, be exposed to strategies to cope with and manage conflicts, understand accountability, and actively participate in resolutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 300 Youth were engaged each year in Restorative Justice programming. • 90% of youth felt more comfortable speaking to someone about the help they needed to cope with their trauma. • 88% of youth were connected to other programs, organizations or people who could provide them with emotional support to deal with trauma or harm due to violence that they experienced.
Evaluation **	Included in City of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated resources to conduct evaluation across the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of a shared youth outcomes framework

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	Toronto Staff costs (below)	prevention and intervention programs. The evaluation focused on applying lessons learned throughout the implementation, and refining outcomes, indicators and data collection processes while collecting data on new shared outcomes across the investments to build and action evidence.	consisting of 6 outcome areas, 23 outcomes and 97 Performance measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity of multi-sector partners to collect data consistently and partner with the City to action it
City of Toronto Staffing and Supports	\$3.240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation, Communication Campaign, Youth Violence Prevention Network staffing and support Support and administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to specific program areas (above) for impact.
TOTAL	\$12.331		

* Programs either fully or partially funded by a one-time City reserve funding (\$2.480 million) to make up the loss of Federal funding shortfall through an in-year adjustment. Note the above chart excludes ArtworksTO \$0.400 million funded one-time from City reserves.

** Directly supported by City of Toronto staff.

Table 2: Summary of Crime Prevention Action Fund Programs (\$4.3 Million)

Program Name	Overall Investment (\$ Million)	Description	Impact
Mapping Prevention Community Asset Mapping	\$0.630	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A partnership between the City and community organizations was established to collect, validate, and leverage geospatial asset data, with the goal of enhancing system-level responses to youth violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 community sourced and validated geospatial assets and violence prevention services identified and mapped in a central database, accessible by anyone working in violence prevention and community safety. Strengthened community data research capacity with six community-based and grassroots organizations. 73% reported strengthened capacity to use local data for violence prevention to help them identify and prioritize community-specific interventions. Increased youth employment skills development, 8 youth hired in direct employment, and 84% of all

Program Name	Overall Investment (\$ Million)	Description	Impact
			program participants reporting new skills and confidence in using data for community-driven decision-making.
Advanced Statistical Analytics	\$1.176	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing quantitative insights on criminal victimization in Toronto based on structural determinants of health Testing of a novel Statistics Canada/municipal government statistical data platform Piloting of direct data collection tools to benchmark, and track population level impact and outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced research impact through access to over 30 non-public Statistics Canada datasets, including complete microdata for the Toronto sample of the General Social Survey, that empowers staff to generate precise and rigorous insights.
SafeTO Data Sharing Hub and Multisectoral Collaboration	\$0.353	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated cross-institutional sharing of data relevant to community safety and wellbeing analysis through strategic technology investments and collaboration processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity to share data across 6 institutions and multiple community organizations, including quarterly disaggregated police-reported violent incident data. Improved access to data insights through the launch of public dashboards, with over 4,000 public visits in 2025.
Community Data Capacity, Research and Reporting Infrastructure	\$0.195	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A comparative, community-based research study that identifies the system barriers experienced by individuals impacted and victimized by violence. The study provides evidence and insights across six SafeTO priority zones, providing critical insight into system gaps and enabling effective service-planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased place-based evidence on risk and protective factors gathered from 17 focus groups and 101 interviews and residents and families impacted by violence. Creation of youth employment opportunities with 12 hired as Neighbourhood Ambassadors, including the receipt of certified research ethics training. Successfully piloted youth-based research employment program with the hiring of 6 PEER researchers to support program evaluation and analytics.
Program Staffing, Evaluation and Support	\$1.946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapted and operationalized the SafeTO Indicator Framework to establish clear measurable outcomes for Violence Prevention Toronto activities in partnership with Toronto Police Service, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Public Health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased alignment on safety and well-being goals across multiple sectors, including identification of 55 violence prevention outcome indicators. Increased used of evidence-based decision-making and measurement tools for consistent multi-sector analysis.
TOTAL	\$4.300		

2026 New and Enhanced Funding to Support Youth:

- As part of the 2026 Staff Prepared Capital and Operating Budgets, three City Divisions, Agencies, and Corporations proposed a total of \$6.6 million gross and net in new and enhanced investments across three proposals to support youth in 2026 (see Table 3).

Table 3: 2026 New and Enhanced Funding to Support Youth

Program Name	Description	2026 New/Enhanced Funding (\$ Million)
Complimentary Zoo School Trips for Toronto Students – Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Toronto Zoo's 2026 Operating Budget includes an investment of \$0.100 million gross and net to remove financial barriers for class visits by Toronto students on weekdays during the school year through a pilot program to launch in Fall 2026. The pilot will help ensure Toronto students have equitable access to environmental education and career exposure in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and conservation. 	\$0.100
Expansion of Student Nutrition Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toronto Public Health's 2026 Operating Budget includes an investment of \$6.000 million gross and net to expand the Student Nutrition Program to support up to 155 new school communities to deliver a student nutrition program starting in the Spring of 2026 for the 2025/26 school year and into the 2026/27 school year. The expansion of the Student Nutrition Program will have a positive impact on approximately 62,000+ additional students in Toronto. 	\$6.000
Universal Camp Nutrition Program at 185 Camp Locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and Recreation 2026 Operating Budget includes an investment of \$0.500 million gross and net to expand the CampTO Nutrition Program to all sites, up to 185 camp locations city-wide. The expansion of this Program is designed to enhance food accessibility, financial security and child and youth development by increasing the accessibility of the program to more low-income households across the city. 	\$0.500
TOTAL		\$6.600

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