

Denise Andrea Campbell
Deputy City Manager
Community & Social Services

Social Development
100 Queen St. West
14th Floor, East Tower, City Hall
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7443
Mohamed.shuriye@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca

2026 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Intimate Partner Violence Initiatives

Issue/Background

- At its meeting on January 16, 2026, Budget Committee requested a briefing note on budget allocated towards the prevention and eradication of Intimate Partner Violence across all divisions. ([BU11.1 – 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets](#)).
- In 2023, Toronto City Council adopted [Item - 2023.CC8.2](#), declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence (GBV/IPV) as an epidemic in Toronto. Through that motion City Council also requested that the Provincial and Federal Governments to provide the necessary support to meaningfully address the Gender-Based Violence and Intimate-Partner Violence epidemic.
- Social Development leads and coordinates GBV and IPV work across multiple City divisions, and in partnership with City agencies and corporations. This briefing note specifically details the IPV initiatives led by the Social Development (SD), Housing Secretariat (HS), Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS), Toronto Public Health (TPH), and Toronto Children's Services (TCS) divisions and the FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat.

Key Points

2026 Budgeted IPV Initiatives

- Social Development's planned IPV work in 2026 is funded through its base budget. Building on the work in 2024 and 2025 to establish an external GBV/IPV Working Group in collaboration with community partners and complete both GBV/IPV sector and survivor consultations, Social Development will continue to advance IPV work in 2026. These initiatives are described in Table 1, alongside staffing and budget allotments.

Table 1: Intimate Partner Violence Initiatives, Staffing, and Operating Budget

City Division	Description of 2026 IPV Initiatives	2026 Operating Budget (\$000)
Social Development	<p>The Gender Equity Unit includes 4 positions that will continue to advance GBV/IPV work, as directed by Council. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching a citywide GBV/IPV public education campaign in partnership with Toronto Public Health, Communications Division, the Mayor's Champion to Eradicate Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence, and frontline community organizations. • Maintaining targeted funding for frontline organizations to inform and strengthen City approaches to supporting survivors. • Enhancing coordination through an Interdivisional Working Group table composed of staff across City divisions, boards, agencies, including the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Transit Commission. • Leading, with Toronto Public Health and the Toronto Police Service, the SafeTO data analytics working group to improve Toronto-based IPV data and strengthen monitoring. • Expanding GBV/IPV training for 311 Toronto staff and begin a phased rollout of broader GBV/IPV awareness training for all frontline City staff. • Developing a comprehensive suite of GBV/IPV training resources available to all City staff. • Collaborating with the Indigenous Affairs Office to support implementation of the Calls for Justice from the <i>National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls</i>. 	\$658.0
	<p>Additionally, Social Development funds multiple organizations that provide specific GBV/IPV programming through its Community Service Partnerships.</p>	\$290.6
TOTAL		\$948.6

Other 2026 Initiatives Addressing IPV

- Multiple City programs and services address IPV as part of their base-funded operations.
- Social Development advances work on community safety, gender, and human trafficking that intersects with IPV:
 - Leveraging federal funding, Social Development and WomanACT will pilot enhanced GBV/IPV supports at FOCUS Toronto by strengthening coordination procedures, introducing new training, improving data practices, and adding Violence Against Women specialists at pilot sites.
 - Social Development partners with Interval House to fund a Rent Subsidy Program for women survivors of IPV facing housing insecurity, which provides rental support to 10 IPV survivors. This program will continue with a new cohort from 2026–2027. These targeted rent subsidies support survivors in moving out of Violence Against Women and emergency shelters into more stable housing while helping to achieve financial and employment security.
 - The EndTraffickingTO initiative will continue coordinating proactive municipal efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and labour trafficking in collaboration with survivors, community partners, and government agencies.
- Housing Secretariat provides survivor-focused priority access pathways to social housing, including domestic violence, sponsorship abuse, and human trafficking streams. Additionally, it offers housing stability supports, such as rent bank and eviction-prevention programs, which are available to help clients, including IPV survivors, avoid homelessness, eviction and achieve rapid stabilization.
- Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS) works closely the with Violence Against Women (VAW) sector to support women and gender diverse people fleeing domestic and intimate partners violence through partnerships with provincially funded shelter providers and agencies.
- Additionally, TSSS works with the Housing Secretariat through the Housing Pathways for Women and Gender Diverse People Working Group, to improve access to affordable and rent-geared-to income for VAW shelter clients and clients of other women- and gender-diverse-focused organizations.
- Toronto Public Health supports monitoring, prevention and trauma-informed response efforts to IPV in multiple ways through existing programs and services included in its base operating budget:
 - TPH advances upstream prevention by optimizing early childhood experiences; strengthening family health and well-being; fostering resilience in children, youth and parents; improving physical and emotional well-being and strengthening social supports. These efforts help to address IPV/GBV

- risk and protective factors through mental health promotion, sexual health promotion and substance use prevention.
- TPH delivers a range of prenatal and parenting programs that may reach families who are at increased risk for IPV/GBV, such as Healthy Babies, Healthy Children which provides home visiting services. These programs promote healthy child development, positive parenting, and connects families to needed supports that may help prevent IPV/GBV or provide opportunities to identify and support those experiencing violence.
 - TPH is utilizing the Ontario Early Adversity and Resilience Framework to prioritize actions that support people affected by early trauma and reduce the likelihood of future IPV by fostering conditions in which individuals and families can thrive. This includes supporting strong connections, emotional regulation, and access to healthy built and social environments.
- Toronto Children's Services provides support to clients by providing a priority fee subsidy and placement in City-operated centres for those at risk of, or experiencing, IPV. This means ensuring that survivors and their children can access affordable and accessible childcare spaces, which is considered crucial practical support when fleeing violence.
 - Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) continues to play a critical role in supporting individuals facing urgent or high-risk circumstances, including survivors of IPV, through the Emergency Assistance program and a suite of safety-focused policies, flexibility with documentation requirements for IPV survivors, and coordinated supports. Collectively, these policies ensure that IPV survivors receive expedited, barrier-reduced, and client-centred service.
 - The FIFA World Cup 2026 Toronto Secretariat has identified the Ask for Angela program as a FWC26 legacy project that will be included in FWC26 Host City Ambassador volunteer training and implemented across key FWC26 tournament venues:
 - Under the Ask for Angela program, by using the code phrase "Is Angela here?" at participating locations such as grocery stores and pharmacies, individuals are immediately connected with trained staff who can provide support and link them to appropriate services.
 - The Ask for Angela program will be included in the FWC26 Human Rights Action Plan, recognized as part of the FWC26 Legacy Program, and integrated into Host City and tournament operations.

Prepared by: Carolyn Rowan, Manager Program and Strategic Support, Social Development, 416-397-4107, Carolyn.Rowan@toronto.ca

Further information: Mohamed Shuriye, Executive Director, Social Development, 416-392-7443, Mohamed.Shuriye@toronto.ca

Date: January 20, 2026