

## Regent Park Social Impact Investment Fund Progress Update – February 2020

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Regent Park Social Impact Investment Fund (RPSIIF) to date. The first Resident Grassroots projects have been selected, and the grant process for the Agency Collaborative Process has launched.

### Resident Grassroots Projects

United Way received a total of **23** applications from resident and grassroots groups in Regent Park for this first round of funding. An 8-member Review Committee, comprised equally of Regent Park residents and representatives from community agencies, convened in November 2019 to assess the applications and put forward their recommendations—and we’re happy to announce that five projects have been approved. These projects will receive a total of \$75,000 in Year 1, and \$30,000 in Year 2.

Here are the selected Resident Grassroots projects, aligned to the RPSIIF’s focus areas:

Funded Project	Amount Awarded
<b>Focus Area: SAFETY</b> <i>Create the reality and the positive image that Regent Park is a safe space for everybody</i>	
<b>Parent Conference and Workshop Series</b> The initiative will host a parent conference to create opportunities for healing from trauma (violence) and will foster intergenerational communication. <i>Trustee: Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development</i>	\$30,000 over 2 years
<b>Youth Service Mapping Project</b> This project will map all the youth services in Regent Park to connect residents to services and improve coordination across agencies <i>Trustee: Central Neighbourhood House</i>	\$15,000
<b>Focus Area: EMPLOYMENT</b> <i>Increase sustainable employment rates and entrepreneurial opportunities for residents</i>	
<b>Employment and Economic Development Strategy</b> The project will retain a Coordinator (resident) to align employment-related programming in Regent Park. It will hold consultation and information and job fairs targeting agencies and residents to connect them to the labour market/employment opportunities. <i>Trustee: Yonge Street Mission</i>	\$30,000 over 2 years
<b>Focus Area: COMMUNITY BUILDING</b> <i>Create accessible informal and formal spaces, events and groups that bring residents together by removing social and physical barriers; Build bridges between market and TCH residents, as well as between residents and agencies/institutions</i>	

<p><b>Community Volunteer Recruitment Project</b>  This project aims to retain staff (resident) to engage Regent Park Neighbourhood Association and Toronto Community Housing residents and increase social cohesion and engagement in the Social Development Plan tables to inform goals and support progress on prioritized actions  <i>Trustee: Yonge Street Mission</i></p>	<p>\$15,000</p>
<p><b>Cultural Bazaar</b>  This initiative aims to engage the broader Regent Park community and enhance social cohesion. The project will consist of 6 events held in various locations across Regent Park. Residents will implement the project and sell products and skills. Outreach will take place over social media with opportunities for youth engagement.  <i>Trustee: Toronto Centre for Community Learning and Development</i></p>	<p>\$15,000</p>

Additionally, three applications were submitted under the **Communication** Focus Area—however, none were approved due to the limited amount of funds and the strength of the applications. The Review Committee believes that the five projects selected will advance the aims of the Communication Focus Area of the Social Development Plan.

### Agency Collaborative Projects

United Way received a total of **10** applications from Agency Collaboratives in Regent Park for this round of funding. An 8-member Review Committee, comprised equally of Regent Park residents and representatives from community agencies, convened in February 2020 to assess the applications and put forward their recommendations—and we’re happy to announce that four projects have been approved, with three being funded by UWGT and one by City of Toronto. These projects will receive a total of \$225,000 in Year 1, and \$225,000 in Year 2 and \$225,000 in Year 3 from UWGT and \$75,000 per year from the City of Toronto.

Here are the selected Resident Grassroots projects, aligned to the RPSIIF’s focus areas:

Funded Project	Amount Awarded
<p><b>Focus Area: SAFETY</b>  <i>Create the reality and the positive image that Regent Park is a safe space for everybody</i></p>	
<p><b>YEA - Youth Enrichment Academy</b>  The proposed partnership will enable YEA! to provide after school programming to Nelson Mandela Park Public School students in grades 7 and 8. Nelson Mandela Park PS will offer promotion and spaces for student recruitment; identification of students that can most benefit from YEA! programming; in-kind advisory capacity in the areas of knowledge building, program development, parent advisory, etc.  <i>Lead: Regent Park CHC</i></p>	<p>\$75,000 per year over three years</p>
<p><b>Regent Park Youth Outreach Workers &amp; Youth Empower Youth (YOW/YEY)</b>  This initiative supports key recommendations contained in the Regent Park Community Safety Action Plan. YOWs are critical in creating space for youth and</p>	<p>\$75,000 per year</p>

<p>youth workers to explore solutions that will utilize individual and community asset to address the needs and improve the quality of life for vulnerable youth and drive safety-related improvements across the neighbourhood. Also, as a collaborative partnership, this project will ultimately create a youth service provision plan which will seek to improve existing services through a collective impact framework and guide holistic and one-on-one support services for vulnerable youth. Critically, this service provision plan will have been created through asset mapping by the vulnerable youth themselves.</p> <p><i>Lead: Central Neighbourhood House</i></p>	<p>over three years</p>
<p><b>Focus Area: COMMUNICATIONS</b>  <i>Increase local knowledge and awareness of neighbourhood assets, needs and priorities (e.g. service mapping, local newsletters, community bulletin boards)</i></p>	
<p><b>SDP - Communications Strategy</b>          Communications working group has designed a consolidated communication strategy that will: provide coordinated messaging and channels for and by residents; build awareness of RP events and issues across the neighbourhood; and build social cohesion amongst residents. The current communication strategy has 3 main project priorities 1) the support and elevation of the Regent Park newsletter; 2) the development, launch and maintenance of a new website for RPNA and a centralized online neighbourhood hub; 3) the engagement of community members in the robust creation of neighbourhood content for Regent Park TV.</p> <p><i>Lead: CSI</i></p>	<p>\$75,000 per year over three years</p>
<p><b>Focus Area: COMMUNITY BUILDING</b>  <i>Create accessible informal and formal spaces, events and groups that bring residents together by removing social and physical barriers; Build bridges between market and TCH residents, as well as between residents and agencies/institutions</i></p>	
<p><b>Regent Park Neighbourhood Association (RPNA)<sup>1</sup></b>          This project requests a support staff for the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association. RPNA provides a platform for residents to address neighbourhood issues through targeted advocacy. RPNA has been involved in leading the formation of the Regent Park Community Benefits Coalition and under their Advocacy Group, the coalition's purpose is to improve the RFP process for better community benefits and increase transparency for Phase 4 and 5 of the Regent Park revitalization plan by implementing a community benefits agreement. The coalition is a multi-collaborative group and requires a backbone support staff to provide logistical support facilitation tasks delegation and overall help to move this initiative forward.</p> <p><i>Lead: Yonge Street Mission</i></p>	<p>\$75,000 per year over three years</p>

**Thank you**

We are so excited to see these projects start to take shape. Thank you for believing, as we do, in the power of civic engagement—and for giving the people of Regent Park the support they need to build a strong and vibrant community, together. Thank you.

<sup>1</sup> This project is funded by City of Toronto in conjunction with UWGT as part of the Regent Park SIIF funding process.