

Lived Experience Advisory Group - Third Cohort Application

Applications will be accepted until **August 8, 2025**.

The City of Toronto is seeking individuals who have lived experience with poverty to join the next Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG). Understanding that poverty affects people differently, this is an open call to residents of Toronto who can inform the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy as well as a range of City services and programs based on their firsthand experience with poverty. The LEAG is supported by the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Office. For more information on the Poverty Reduction Strategy please visit www.toronto.ca/povertyreduction.

Time Commitment:

- Three-year term from September 2025 to August 2028
- Two-day in-person weekend orientation session in September 2025
- Monthly virtual meetings (2 hours long, day and time to be determined), additional meetings as required
- Attend and/or participate in local community meetings and activities (virtual/ in-person)
- Other activities as identified

For your participation we will provide:

- Ongoing training and skills development (virtual/ in-person)
- Honorarium for all sessions at \$50/hour
- TTC fare for in-person meetings
- Childcare and attendant care for in-person meetings (upon request)
- Wi-fi stipend for virtual meetings (upon request)

Eligibility:

- All City of Toronto residents (M postal code)
- Ages 18+

To ensure this panel is diverse and as representative as possible of those currently or previously living in poverty, we ask personal questions that will assist us in creating a short list of applicants to interview. Your application will be treated with respect and kept confidential.

Only questions with an * are required.

If you require more space, please attach additional paper and identify the question you are responding to.

If you require support completing this application, please connect with the Poverty Reduction Office at 416.397.0797 or email the LEAG team at leag@toronto.ca.

You may submit your application by completing it online (toronto.ca/povertyreduction) or by mail:

Poverty Reduction Office Toronto City Hall,

14th Floor East

100 Queen Street W.

Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Notice of Collection

Social Development, Finance & Administration collects personal information on this form under the legal authority of the City of Toronto Act, 2006, SO 2006, Chapter 11, Schedule A, s 136(c) and the City of Toronto By-Laws No 1176-2015 and 163-2018.

The information is used to process your application for the Lived Experience Advisory Group and for further communication. Questions about this collection can be directed to Support Assistant, Social, Policy, Research and Analysis (SPAR), 100 Queen Street West, 14th Floor, East Tower, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2 or by telephone at 416.392.8706

Applicant's Information

*** 1. First and Last Name**

*** 2. Preferred Name**

*** 3. Phone (###-###-####)**

*** 4. Email (emailaddress@xyz.com)**

*** 5. Postal code (e.g. M5H 2N2)**

- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ No fixed address
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Your postal code: _____

*** 6. While living in poverty (either now or in the past), your income is/was from:** (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Ontario Works (OW)
- ☐ Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- ☐ Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- ☐ Old Age Security (OAS)
- ☐ Employer-sponsored pension
- ☐ Student loan (if you are/were a student)
- ☐ Employment Insurance (EI)
- ☐ Employment - full-time
- ☐ Employment - part-time
- ☐ Employment - casual, on-call, temporary or seasonal
- ☐ I had no source of income
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

7. If you are no longer living in poverty, please indicate that here. What is your current source of income?

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*** 8. My lived experience of poverty is connected to:** (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Single parenthood
- ☐ Foreign credentials not recognized in Canada
- ☐ Mental health and/or addictions
- ☐ Lack of formal education (high school, post-secondary, etc.)
- ☐ Criminal record
- ☐ Injury or short-term disability
- ☐ Aging
- ☐ Physical disability/chronic physical illness
- ☐ Mental health disability
- ☐ Difficulty with spoken/written English
- ☐ Aging out of care (Children's Aid)
- ☐ Homelessness
- ☐ Domestic violence/ intimate partner violence
- ☐ Gender based violence
- ☐ Family or community violence
- ☐ Family or generational poverty
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ I prefer to share my experience in my own words: _____

9. If you are no longer living in poverty, what advice would you would offer others who are living in poverty? (Suggested word count: 100 words)

10. I identify as an individual who is a(n): (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Person with a disability
- ☐ Member of a racialized group
- ☐ Immigrant
- ☐ Refugee
- ☐ Newcomer (arrived to Canada in the past 5 years)
- ☐ Indigenous to Canada (First Nations, Inuit, Métis)
- ☐ Member of a religious community
- ☐ Youth (16 to 29)
- ☐ Adult (30 to 59)
- ☐ Senior (60 and above)
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ I prefer to share in my own words: _____

11. My gender is best described as:

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Trans woman
- ☐ Trans man
- ☐ Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ I prefer to share in my own words: _____

*** 12. What describes your current housing situation?**

- ☐ Owning home
- ☐ Renting home
- ☐ Permanently living with parent(s) or others
- ☐ Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)
- ☐ Houseless (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)
- ☐ Situation varies
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (please describe): _____

*** 13. How do you typically travel in the City? (Select all that apply)**

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Wheelchair/assistive mobility device
- ☐ Bike
- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Public Transit
- ☐ Wheel-Trans
- ☐ Taxi/Private Transportation Company
- ☐ Rideshare (ex. Uber/Lyft)
- ☐ Other (please describe): _____

*** 14. If I were selected to be part of this group, my top three (3) areas of interest would be... please explain (Suggested word count 100 words). Examples may include decent housing, access to education, skill development and/or employment, food access, subsidized daycare, responsive and enabling services, affordable transportation, stigma and prejudice, other.**

1)

2)

3)

*** 15. My experience with poverty has taught me...**

1)

2)

3)

*** 16. Have you had opportunities to engage with your community (through work, volunteering, helping others in an unofficial capacity) in the last five years?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

17. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, tell us about how you engaged with community

Name of the organization/group/community:

What was your role?

What motivated you to engage with community?

What did you learn from the experience?

*** 18. Have you participated in any of the following activities in the last two years?**

	1 Yes	2 No	3 Unsure
Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation led by Community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation led by Government (city, provincial, federal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Organizing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, tell us about one of these activities.

What was the purpose of the activity?

What was your role?

What motivated you to participate in the activity?

What did you learn from the experience?

20. You may provide any feedback on this application process here (optional - this will not affect your application):

Next Steps: Short listed applicants will be contacted for an interview in August 2025. Selected members will be notified in September 2025.

Thank you for applying to the LEAG, and good luck!