

IMPACT REPORT

2024

Impact in Action: Funding Toronto's Community-Led Solutions

Community Funding

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE &
ADMINISTRATION



Image from Regent Park – Sunday in the Park

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INTRODUCTION

The Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) is excited to unveil our annual Impact Report. This report highlights the grant streams and initiatives managed by the Community Funding Unit (CFU) to support Indigenous, Black, and equity-deserving communities. Collaborating closely with not-for-profit organizations, grassroots, and resident-led groups, the report showcases their inspiring stories of resilience, leadership, and dedication.

In 2024, the Community Funding Unit (CFU) allocated \$28,291,048 to 225 organizations through eight grant programs.

A significant milestone was achieved in 2024 when the Indigenous Funding Framework was endorsed by leaders from Toronto's Indigenous communities and Toronto City Council. This framework, co-developed with Indigenous organizations and in close partnership with the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, underscores our commitment to addressing the funding inequities and barriers faced by Indigenous communities for far too long. The Council also endorsed a three-phase implementation plan, outlining the actions we will take to fulfill these commitments to reconciliation.



The implementation of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework continued in 2024, focusing on the development of a new grant program and the creation of tools and relationships to promote the Framework.

CFU worked in partnership with other City of Toronto divisions to leverage our processes and systems to support the release of an additional \$6,930,661. Cross-divisional work on the Toronto Grants, Rebates and Incentives Portal (TGRIP) continued with CFU designing, building and launching a versatile, simplified system designed to support grant applicants and staff to reduce administrative burden while increasing accountability and our ability to collect data on the impact of our grants.

We share these impactful stories on behalf of the hundreds of dedicated community organizations and groups with whom we have the privilege to collaborate.

MANDATE & VALUES

Guided by principles of reconciliation, equity, transparency and accountability, we aim to support community through funding that addresses critical and emerging needs while fostering innovation and collaboration.

We value community and resident leadership and inclusivity in decision-making processes. By developing innovative and responsive grant programs, we aim to support and strengthen community-led solutions that make Toronto a better place to live, work and play.



Image from Friends of Regent Park – Family Date Skate Event
Photo credits – Jennifer Lee and Wesley Reibeling

UNIT MANDATE

To develop, deliver and evaluate community-informed grant programs that support Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving communities.

VALUES

Accountability

CFU upholds ethical resource management, compliance with policies, streamlined reporting, and equity-focused funding decisions to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with community priorities.

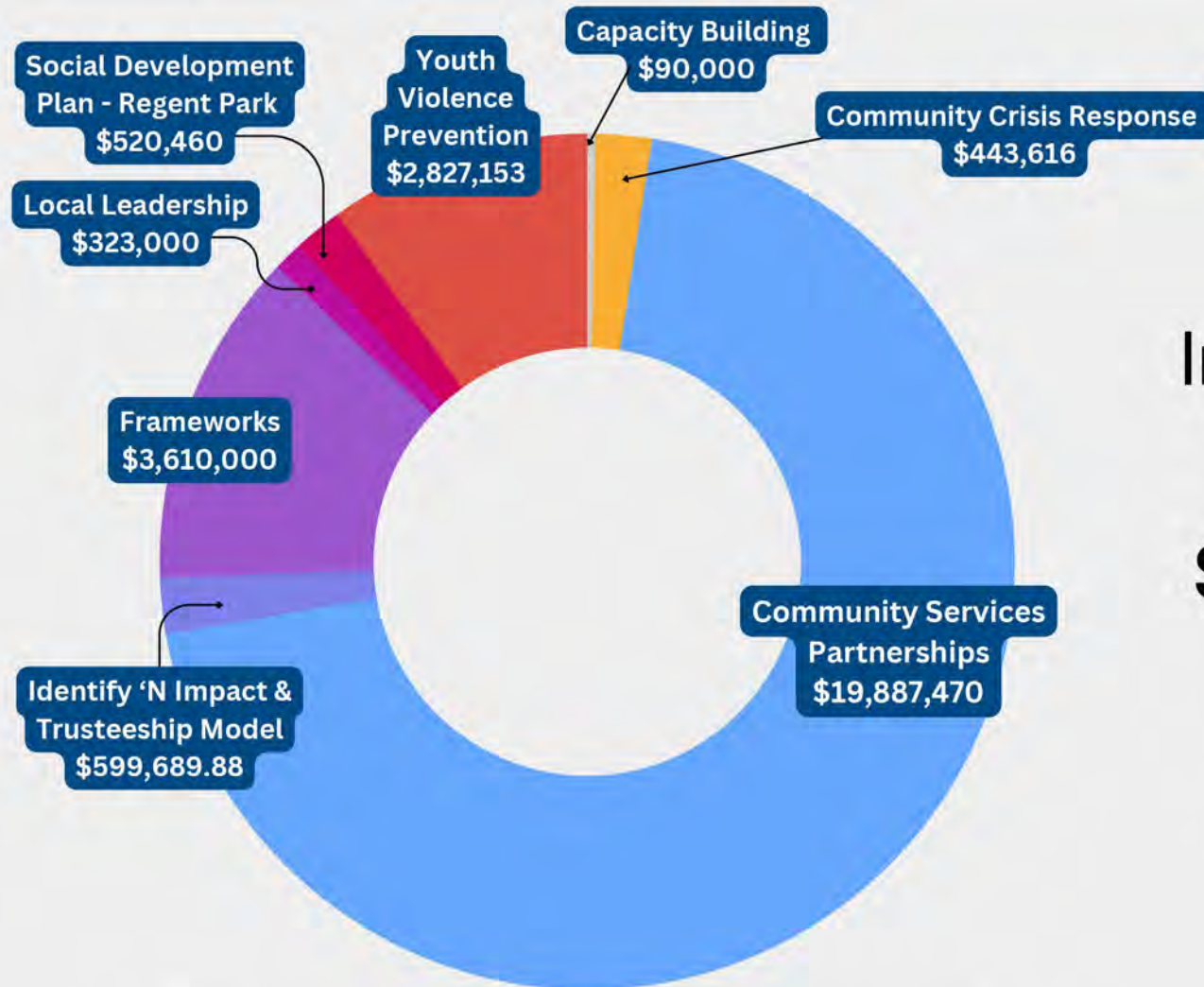
Openness

CFU prioritizes adaptability, inclusivity, and accessibility by engaging diverse communities, providing flexible support, and tailoring programs to meet equity and cultural needs.

Transparency

CFU ensures clear communication, transparent decision-making, routine disclosures, and fair funding agreements to promote accountability and accessibility.

2024 AT A GLANCE



In 2024, Community Funding released **\$28,291,048** to **225** organizations.

2024 COMMUNITY FUNDING INVESTMENTS



INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK



The Indigenous Funding Framework proposes promising practices that are designed to cultivate meaningful relationships and structures while supporting the self-determined needs and priorities identified by Indigenous organizations and communities at large.

INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK



In December 2024, City Council adopted the Indigenous Funding Framework, co-created with leaders from Indigenous not-for-profit organizations to address chronic underfunding while honouring Indigenous rights to self-determination. The Indigenous Funding Framework is a living document that reflects this work and our commitment to equitable funding investments and processes that reflect the self-determined needs and supports identified by Indigenous organizations and communities.

The development of the Indigenous Funding Framework was initiated in 2020 and included various components designed to learn from the experience of Indigenous-led organizations accessing funding, other funders who have developed more community-based approaches to investing in Indigenous communities and aligning with key City strategies and priorities.

This included:

- The establishment of an advisory committee consisting of leaders from Indigenous-led organizations funded by Social Development, Finance and Administration
- Key informant interviews with other funding organizations
- A grey literature review of emerging funding promising practices, including a review of relevant City strategies
- Surveys and roundtable conversations with both Indigenous organizations and funders supporting Indigenous communities
- A funding pilot leveraging the “take what you need, leave what you don’t” approach developed by the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council



[Click here for the link to the 2024 Indigenous Funding Framework report:](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-250452.pdf)
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-250452.pdf>
Images and Art provided by [Emilee Star Bennett](#)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



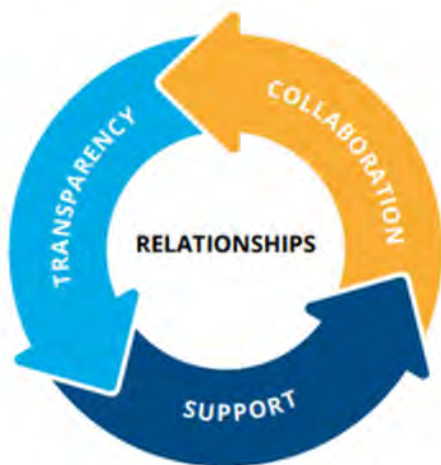
RELATIONSHIPS

Build, nurture, and sustain meaningful relationships based on clear communication that facilitates collaboration, transparency and support.

1

2

3



COLLABORATION

Foster a collaborative approach to resource management within the community. Encourage dialogue and cooperation among service providers to identify synergies, reduce duplication, and collectively address shared challenges.

TRANSPARENCY

Promote transparency in the allocation of funds to mitigate competition-related tensions. Establish clear criteria and communication channels for funding distribution to foster a sense of fairness and trust among service providers.

SUPPORT

Invest in capacity-building initiatives for service providers to enhance their ability to navigate diverse funding sources effectively. This could include training programs, workshops, or resources aimed at improving administrative efficiency.



FRAMEWORK GOALS

- 1** Increase funding to address chronic underfunding and disproportionate resource allocation.
- 2** Increase flexibility and honour Indigenous rights to self-determination.
- 3** Embrace a community-centric approach that prioritizes relationships.
- 4** Create space for cultural empowerment.

An increase in sustainable funding will provide Indigenous organizations the opportunity to hire dedicated staff and provide invaluable supports for Indigenous communities.

Promote a model that empowers Indigenous leaders with the autonomy to self-determine the unique needs of community. Flexibility is essential to support the changing needs of community.

Develop application processes collaboratively with community organizations to ensure flexibility, remove barriers and increase transparency. Application and reporting mechanisms should prioritize the diverse needs and capacities of Indigenous organizations.

Recognize that the impact of culture cannot be reduced to numerical values. Prioritize creating spaces that honor and celebrate cultural knowledge carriers and Elders, fostering an environment of self-determination where cultural practices are respected and valued.

In a roundtable with Indigenous organizations, the words relationship, flexibility and self-determination were used the most by Indigenous community leaders.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Focus Area One Framework Implementation in SDFA's Community Funding December 2024 – December 2025

Focus Area One will evaluate the current “take what you need, leave what you don’t” funding approach, impact, and processes in line with the goals and principles of the Framework. Leverage evaluation data to co-develop robust but culturally relevant reporting mechanisms.

Focus Area Two Community Service Partnership (CSP) Redesign January – October 2025

Focus Area Two will focus on the Community Funding Unit’s CSP redesign and will implement the Framework’s goals and principles into the design of our largest and longterm funding stream for organizations across Toronto. Indigenous funding targets will be developed from research in partnership with the Social Policy, Analysis and Research team (SPAR) team. Tailored support will be customized through the redesign process to ensure Indigenous applicants are aware of the funds and are successful.



Focus Area Three Streamline Community Funding Grants October 2025 to December 2026

Focus Area Three will focus on an internal review of all community funding grants to ensure a reconciliation lens reflective of the Framework’s goals and principles is applied to each grant program. Consultations will be done with Indigenous grassroots, collectives, and non-profits to ensure the design and application of CFU’s grants is open to Indigenous communities and have processes in place to support Indigenous applicants. An outreach strategy for Indigenous communities will be developed.

Ongoing

- Develop and deliver engagement sessions about the Framework with colleagues in Social Development, Finance and Administration, other divisions and external funders to promote the Framework and share learnings.
- Advocate to City Council for increased funding.
- Work collaboratively with other City divisions to continue identifying and implementing improvements to granting processes.



2023 RECAP

INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$1,850,000

NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED

23

In 2023, 23 Indigenous organizations were funded with a total of \$1.85 million. Organizations reported using the unrestricted funds for costs such as food assistance, administrative costs, professional development, small repairs, equipment, and staffing. Many organizations reported that the self-determined nature of the funding was crucial to helping their organizations run and address costs that would normally not be supported through other funding sources.

Toronto and York Region Metis Council identified food security is one of the top concerns for many community members. A total of **325** households, **750** individuals including **200** children received food support by way of grocery gift cards.

"I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks for the generous gift of grocery store gift cards that you recently provided to me. As a student facing various challenges, especially during these uncertain times, your gift allowed me to focus more on my studies without worrying about how to afford basic necessities at this time." – **Testimonial from community member**

Top 5 Expenses

- 24% – food support
- 23% – health and safety expenses such as small renovations, cleaning supplies, etc.
- 18% – salaries
- 11% – operational and administrative supports
- 6% – telecommunications

Other expenses included traditional medicines, professional development, mental health supports, honorariums and program supplies.

INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK

2023 RECAP The Impact



“ These funds are not just financial resources – they are opportunities for us to respond swiftly to the evolving needs of our community. With this flexibility, we have been able to create essential programs and supports precisely where they are most needed, fostering an environment conducive to healing and growth”

– **2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations**

“ Many non-profits, including us, operate mainly on project-based funding, which rarely leaves space for administrative expenses, rent, capital upgrades, and other essential expenses. So, this funding was crucial for our organization to keep our doors open and programming running.” – **Tungasuvvingat Inuit Toronto**

“ Funding for the enhanced cleaning project has allowed Wigwamen to ensure that the common areas in our multiple-unit buildings and scattered housing units are cleaned and sanitized more regularly and more thoroughly than we have been able to do in the past. For the tenants, the result is an increased sense of pride in their building. For the general public, the message is that Indigenous affordable housing is well maintained and is something which ought to be welcomed in the community. – **Wigwamen**



2024 SNAPSHOT



INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK

The “take what you need, leave what you don’t” or community basket approach is a method of distributing funds that supports self-determined funding priorities and an Indigenous-led process. Funds received through the Indigenous Funding Framework were unrestricted in use and all participating members and friends of the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council are Indigenous-led not-for-profit organizations with social service mandates serving Torontonians. The process demonstrates the nimbleness of grant making responses that emerged during the pandemic and provides pathways to post-pandemic funding that addresses reconciliation commitments.

In the “take what you need, leave what you don’t” approach, organizations are offered an equal portion of available funding. Organizations may pass on the funding or accept a smaller share, should their organization not require full funding. Unused funding from one organization can then be provide to an organization with greater need that year. In 2024, all organizations were in need of full support as pandemic-related funding had ended while increased needs continued.

FUNDING ALLOTMENT	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECIEVED	NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED
\$1,950,000	24	24



2024 INDIGENOUS FUNDING FRAMEWORK RECIPIENTS

Each of the following Indigenous organizations received \$74,783* – all programs are city-wide.

*Call Auntie/7th Generation received \$35,000



Association for Native Development
in the Performing and Visual Arts



Anduhyau Inc.



ENAGB Youth Agency



NCFST





Image from Black Creek Farm

BLACK MANDATED FRAMEWORK GRANT

The Black-Mandated Funding Framework aims to remove the systemic barriers experienced by Black-mandated organizations so that they are strengthened to better respond to the needs of Toronto's Black communities.

2023 RECAP

BLACK-MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$1,810,000

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

47

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

28

Grassroots and emerging Black-Mandated organizations received funding for programs in youth development, mental health, food security, systems navigation, arts, and sexual health education.



12,045 residents engaged



305 volunteers recruited



121 staff salaries supported

Impact Measured Through the UBUNTU African Impact Assessment Model:

- **Individuals:** Increased recruitment, leadership capacity, and culturally relevant programs
- **Groups:** Strengthened service coordination, sustained operations, and expanded services
- **Institutions:** Strengthened intergovernmental and intersectoral collaborations, inspiring similar initiatives in municipalities like Peel Region



Image from AFROWAVETO

2024 SNAPSHOT

BLACK MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK

Ran grant in collaboration with the [Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit](#) and aligned to the [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#)

The funded organizations will provide a range of programs/services and capacity building initiatives within the ecosystem of Black-mandated organizations in Toronto.

2

organizations supporting the Black Francophone community

3

supporting newcomers and/or African refugees

4

organizations supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Black Torontonians

12

organizations supporting Black youth in Toronto

FUNDING ALLOTMENT	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECIEVED	NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED
\$2,130,000	159	47



Image from G-Power'd Inc

2024 BLACK-MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK RECIPIENTS – ESTABLISHED

Each of the following Established organizations received \$35,000.
Refer to Appendix A for project descriptions and program wards.



2024 BLACK-MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK RECIPIENTS – GRASSROOTS

Each of the following grassroots organizations received \$40,000.

Refer to Appendix A for project descriptions and program wards.



Beautifully
Minded



The **Black**
Women's Institute
for **Health**



Black Action Defense Committee

2024 BLACK-MANDATED FUNDING FRAMEWORK RECIPIENTS – GRASSROOTS

Each of the following grassroots organizations received \$40,000

Refer to Appendix A for project descriptions and program wards



The Inclusivity Institute for Better Data



Safe Place





COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

Community Service Partnerships (CSP) funding provides ongoing support to Toronto's non-profit sector to deliver high-quality and relevant programs and services that build vibrant, equitable, inclusive, safe neighbourhoods and communities where the needs of people and communities who are vulnerable are met.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS RENEWAL

Renewal Timelines



Community Service Partnerships is being reviewed and redesigned to ensure that the funding stream supports a strong community-based sector. The final two years of the Community Service Partnerships renewal process will focus on framework design and an open grant call to select organizations aligned with the new model.

2025

- Development of the refreshed Community Service Partnerships Framework, including:
- Alignment with the Indigenous and Black-Mandated Funding Frameworks and other City of Toronto equity policies.
- The development of reconciliation and equity key performance indicators.
- The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of the new model.

2026

Administration of an open grant call to align funding agreements and the portfolio of agencies supported with the new model and key performance indicators.

2027

New funding agreements begin.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS RENEWAL

Community Engagement Series

The 2024 Engagement Series featured nine sessions from August to October, engaging 280 participants in discussions about the Community Service Partnerships funding stream, community priorities, reconciliation, and equity. Specialized sessions included youth engagement with the Toronto Youth Cabinet, a French-language session for Francophone organizations in partnership with the Toronto Newcomer Office, and two sessions for Toronto residents. Seven sessions were conducted virtually to meet high demand.

Positive outcomes included:

- Relationship-Building: Attendees shared lived experiences and expressed appreciation for the engagement series
- Knowledge Mobilization: Each session included presentations and Q&A opportunities with City staff
- Collaborative Discussions: Participants reflected on group responses and engaged directly with City staff
- Soliciting Feedback: Nearly 500 responses were collected through activities, achieving an 82% engagement rate

These outcomes provided valuable insights into community needs, helping shape the CSP renewal process.

Key Issues Identified: Affordable housing, poverty, food insecurity, youth employment, and community safety.

Recommendations: Increased funding, transparency, capacity-building, simplified processes, and ongoing community engagement.



Image from CSP Engagement Series

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS RENEWAL

2024 Engagement Survey

The 2024 CSP Engagement Survey, conducted from August 19 to October 10, received 195 responses, including 178 organizations (5 Indigenous-led, 27 Black-mandated).

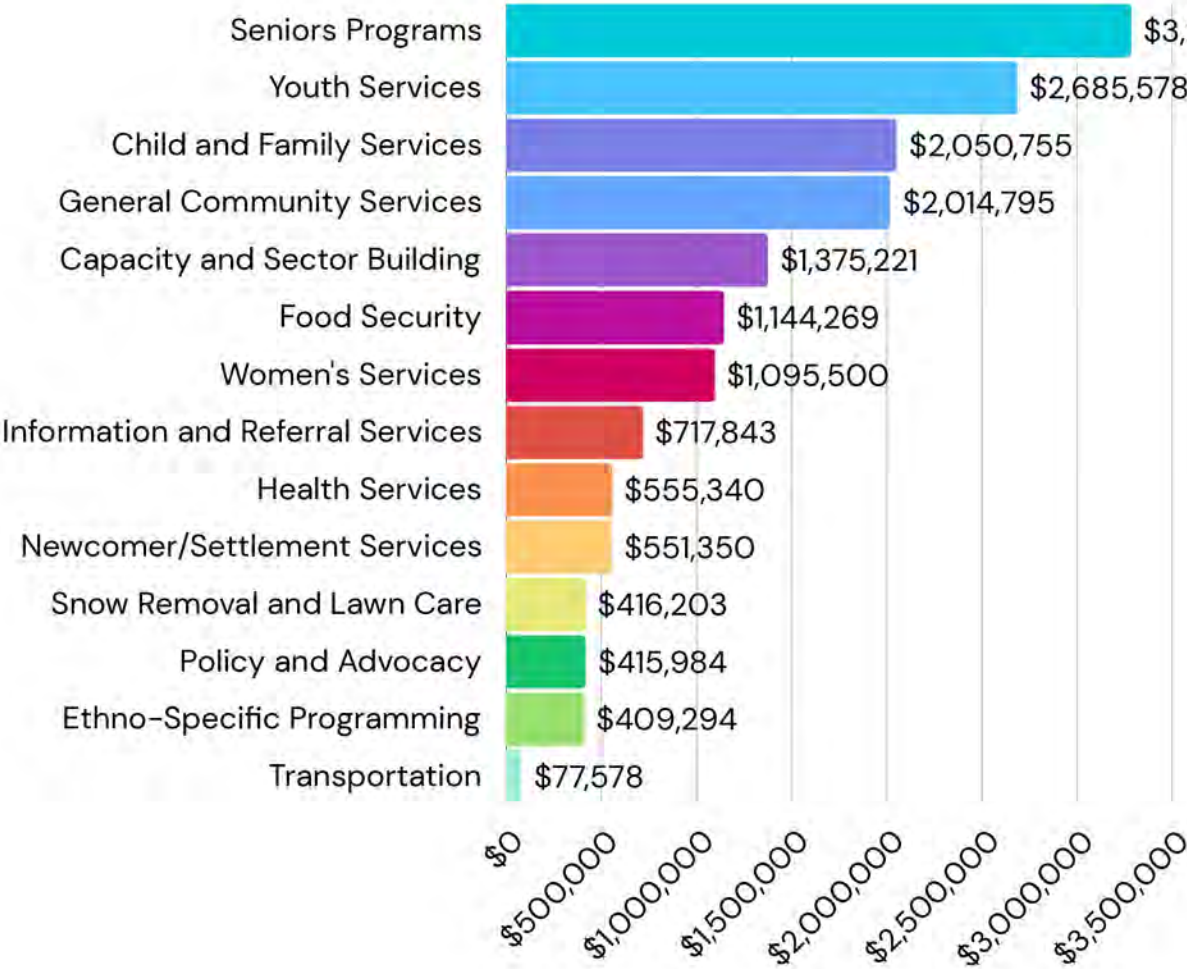
The survey provided valuable feedback, building on themes from the engagement series and offering additional context to guide the new model's development. Key themes include:

- **Top Challenges:** Increased costs (capital, professional fees, salaries, and admin), rising demand for services, and reduced revenues from other government funding sources.
- **Resources and Support Needed:** Greater funding, access to low-cost or free space, and enhanced partnerships. Residents and youth also seek volunteer and leadership opportunities, with childcare support needed to participate.
- **Outcomes:** Programs align with Community Service Partnerships' goals, focusing on social connections and poverty alleviation, primarily through food access.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDING ALLOTMENT	NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED
\$19,431,424	169



2,282,026
Unique service users

2398
Paid staff

14,383
Volunteers

\$2,662,876
Core Funding

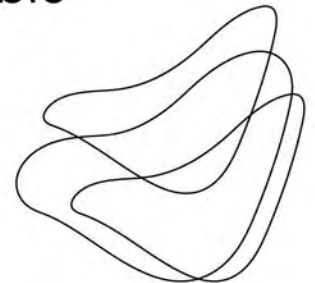
\$16,768,548
Program Funding



Image from Friends of Regent Park – Family Date Skate Event
Photo credits – Jennifer Lee and Wesley Reibeling

REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Regent Park Social Development grant aims to strengthen neighbourhoods, help residents learn skills and build leadership and remain community-led, have meaningful partner involvement, and positively impact vulnerable residents.



2023 RECAP

REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$509,660

NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED

7

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



390 youth were engaged and benefited from funded initiatives, with **25** youth hired to lead or support these projects



3000 community members attended Sunday in the Park



192 volunteers were recruited to support SDP funded events



15 households participated in Systems Navigation Workshops, gaining valuable knowledge and skills to advocate for their children's education



39,039 online viewers and in-person attendees for the Regent Park Film Festival, **217** artists engaged, **57** films screened, 13 workshops, panels, and film talkbacks and 36 community partnerships



REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Impact

The Regent Park Social Development Plan grant is dedicated to support the implementation of actions prioritized in the Regent Park Social Development Plan.

Key priorities include:

- Community Safety
- Employment and Economic Development
- Community Building
- Communication

“ With the support of SDP Community Funding Unit, RPFF was able to bring back year-round community screenings and focused on presenting quality, meaningful core programs while prioritizing reconnecting with the community in renewed ways. With your support, we have been able to increase our capacity as an organization and extend our reach even further! An intentional and carefully curated series of film screenings were designed to reconnect with Regent Park residents post-pandemic. We believe in the power of film to strengthen community bonds through shared learning and discussion, while providing a space for people from all walks of life to enjoy a common experience together, building empathy and understanding through art and film. – **Regent Park Film Festival Team**



”

REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Project

Cultural Bazaar is a vibrant outdoor summer market in Regent Park that offers a platform for local vendors to showcase multicultural food, jewelry, clothing, and artisan goods. The event, led by residents, engages the community by providing roles for youth and residents as staff, DJs, photographers, and henna artists, and has attracted over 4,000 attendees. It also fosters civic engagement and connection, particularly among youth, while celebrating cultural diversity through seasonal events like the Eid Market.



Image from Regent Park - Cultural Bazaar

2023 Group Highlight: Mothers of Peace Regent Park

The Impact

The Cultural Bazaar strengthens community bonds by empowering residents, supporting local businesses, and celebrating Regent Park's diversity. It brings people together, expands networks, and fosters a sense of belonging. Each year, residents eagerly anticipate the event, which unites neighbours across backgrounds and creates a welcoming atmosphere.

The Bazaar also provides meaningful opportunities—women play key roles, and youth staff and volunteers gain valuable experience, with eight individuals securing scholarships or jobs. As one resident shared, "Please do arrange as much as possible. It is good for our people." Committed to community building, the Bazaar will continue to be a vital celebration of Regent Park's evolving diversity.

2024 SNAPSHOT

REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Ran grant in collaboration with the [Community Development Unit](#) and aligned to the [Regent Park Social Development Plan](#).

5 Community Organizations



12,000 residents will be engaged

4 Resident-led groups



140 volunteers will be recruited

2 Youth-led groups

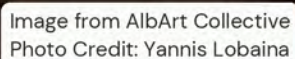


Funded projects will create **30** jobs opportunities

FUNDING ALLOTMENT	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECIEVED	NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED
\$520,460	58	11



Image from Regent Park – Cultural Bazaar



The Local Leadership grant supports place-based, resident-led projects that focus on wellness, social inclusion, and the promotion of civic engagement and education across all neighbourhoods.



2023 RECAP

LOCAL LEADERSHIP GRANT (FORMALLY RESIDENT GRANTS PILOT)

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$272,000

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

53

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

33

groups identified as Black-led

1

group identified as
Indigenous-led

4

groups identified as both

17

groups hosted events specifically
for Black, Indigenous, and/or
equity-deserving communities.

Among the 34 applicants who
submitted completion reports, their
projects collectively engaged:



4,352 event attendees



509 volunteers



88% of the groups
formed at least 1 new
partnership



Image from NAWA Choir

LOCAL LEADERSHIP GRANT

The Impact

The Local Leadership grant supports place-based, resident-led projects that focus on wellness, social inclusion, and the promotion of civic engagement and education across all neighbourhoods. The Resident Grants Pilot prioritizes the leadership and participation of Indigenous, Black and other equity-deserving groups within Neighbourhood Improvement Areas and Emerging Neighbourhoods.

“

One individual stands out—a young woman who initially felt disheartened by her job prospects and faced barriers to securing employment. Through our tailored workshop event and mentorship program, she not only revamped her resume but also gained newfound confidence in herself. Her journey is a testament to the resilience of our community. As she landed a job that matched her skills and aspirations, she shared this inspiring quote: “Empowerment isn't just about finding a job; it's about finding your voice, your worth, and the belief that you can shape your own future. This project gave me the tools, but more importantly, it gave me the belief in myself.

– Rise Up Program Lead, 2023 LLG Recipient

”



Image from Concerts on Connolly

LOCAL LEADERSHIP GRANT

2023 Group Highlight: Live Happily Live Healthily (Sống Vui Sống Khỏe)

The Project

Live Happily, Live Healthily (Sống Vui Sống Khỏe) is a vibrant Vietnamese seniors group based in the Davenport ward. Dedicated to promoting well-being, the group organizes local walking tours combined with engaging physical activities and nutrition workshops, fostering a healthy and active lifestyle for its members.



Image from Seniors Vietnamese Walking Group

The Impact

“All of participants are seniors. They had felt lonely and isolated during the pandemic so they were happy to attend the events we hosted as we got the fund from City of Toronto. As they were walking to the park, they talked a lot each other. They were smiling and walking. Seniors wanted to get more fund to create more events for them. They do not want to stay at home lonely, nobody talk with them. If we have some events, they can attend and meet someone else or make new friends. – **Project Lead**”

2024 SNAPSHOT

LOCAL LEADERSHIP GRANT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Ran grant in collaboration with the [Community Development Unit](#) and aligned to the [Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy](#).



6,423 residents engaged



460 volunteers recruited

Program themes include a focus on youth leadership, mental health, and inclusion while fostering community connections through arts, storytelling, and cultural celebrations. Environmental sustainability initiatives, recreational activities, and wellness-focused events promote holistic well-being, intergenerational engagement, and social cohesion.

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$258,000

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECIEVED

215

NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED

52



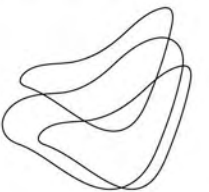
Image from Clean and Green Toronto Initiative



Image from L'AM Youth Art Group

IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT GRANT

The Identify 'N Impact (INI) Grant supports youth-led groups (ages 15–29) in Toronto with funding to bring their ideas to life. Focused on promoting youth engagement, community safety, and empowerment, the grant supports initiatives in areas like mental health, skills development, education, and the arts.



2023 RECAP

IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$375,930

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

25

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Youth Engagement:** 1,124 youth participated in Identify 'N Impact funded initiatives.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** 68 youth took on paid roles in planning, coordinating, and implementing projects.
- **Culturally Inclusive Programs:** Initiatives reduced equity barriers by providing culturally relevant mentorship, training, and artistic opportunities for marginalized groups.
- **Enhanced Accessibility:** Programs removed financial and logistical barriers through free participation, transportation support, and inclusive accommodations like halal food and prayer spaces.
- **Skill Development & Community Impact:** Projects fostered leadership, representation, and resilience through robotics programs, arts mentorships, and initiatives that empower underserved communities.



Image from Mental Health Matters

IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT

The Toronto Youth Cabinet

Established in 1998 by Toronto City Council, the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) is the official youth advocacy body to the City of Toronto. They are a youth-led organization that promotes youth partnership in municipal affairs and policy development.

Members of the Toronto Youth Cabinet are integral to the youth-centered design and leadership of the Identify 'N Impact grant program. They identify funding priorities aligned with the needs of Toronto youth, socialize the grant program through their deep networks, and support the review process by participating on the grant review panel.



IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT

2023 Group Highlight: Girl Impact



The Project: Passion Meet Purpose

Passion Meet Purpose project increased access by offering free and accessible workshops specifically tailored to the unique needs and interests of young Black girls in the Etobicoke West-Humber communities. By focusing on skills and personal development, the project created a supportive environment that enabled participants to pursue their passions and gain valuable tools. Collaboration with local communities and organizations helped to ensure a wide reach and inclusivity, fostering a sense of belonging and support.

The Impact

“

Girl Impact has transformed my life in many ways. For one, before joining I struggled with socializing, and found it difficult to talk to new people. Now I have gained more confidence and skills to connect to with others and have an easier time doing so, their support has made a difference in my life. – Program Participant

Moving to Canada was a big change, participating in Girl Impact programing made it easier. I was able to practice my English, gained more confidence in speaking. They also helped to improve my overall confidence and self-care. I learned how to take care of my hair and impact of my words on others. Girl impact taught me the importance of reaching out when I need help. – Program Participant

”

2024 SNAPSHOT

IDENTIFY 'N IMPACT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Ran grant in collaboration with the [Youth Development Unit & Toronto Youth Cabinet](#) and aligned to the [Toronto Youth Equity Strategy](#)
- This investment will support **72** youth leaders, **235** volunteers, and benefit approximately **2,540** participants in 2024–2025. Of the 29 recommended groups, **3** have **Indigenous youth leaders** and will serve Indigenous participants, while **18** are **Black-led groups** serving Black youth
- **34 youth** attended an onboarding orientation that included an evaluation workshop with YouthRex

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$479,690

NUMBER OF
APPLICATIONS RECIEVED

118

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

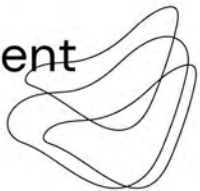
28

Image from Hidaayah House



YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The 2023–2026 Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) grant focuses on violence prevention, intervention and interruption programs for justice-involved or gang-associated youth aged 10–29. Investments prioritizing six geographical zones, encompassing 31 communities identified through data from Toronto Police, FOCUS, Toronto Community Housing, and CCRP, highlighting areas with high incident rates.



2024 SNAPSHOT


YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

KEY HIGHLIGHTS


Ran grant in collaboration with the [Youth Development Unit](#) and aligned with [SafeTO](#)

12 partnerships, each comprised of one established organization, one grassroots organization, and one city-wide serving Indigenous organization

90 frontline staff certified in Trauma-informed Crisis Prevention & Intervention

 **6291** youth participants engaged

 **235** volunteers will be recruited

 **87** staff salaries supported

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$2,827,153

NUMBER OF GROUPS FUNDED

13



Image from Mic Check

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Project

FootPrintZ is a three-year initiative addressing gun violence and gang involvement by empowering Black and racialized youth (16–24) in Eglinton East. Through 1:1 support, employment opportunities, peer mentorship, elder guidance, training, and community events, participants build resilience, conflict resolution, and leadership skills. The program connects youth and families to culturally relevant counseling and CPI certification to enhance employability. A Youth Engagement Committee ensures youth leadership in program development, while the Scarborough Gun Violence Committee provides system-level insights to strengthen impact.



2024 Group Highlight: Mic Check

The Impact

"Everywhere around me there's so much violence and badness, The Footprintz Project is literally my escape." –Kamar, 17

"I really catch myself having moments of reflection and I just feel so proud of myself and how far I've come. TFP has made the growth way easier and more fun." –Sym, 20

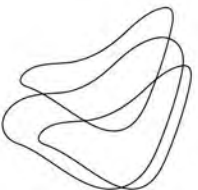
"One time my next door neighbour told me he's been in the same unit for almost 30 years, and he said it with pride!! The thought of that being me is scary. The Footprintz Project is helping me plan my way up out the hood!" –Jahnae, 18

"My favourite part is how much I'm learning about myself. My dad's always in jail and my mom's always working. The old me was so angry but after getting comfortable with TFP staff and opening up more, I realized I was actually more sad and lonely, not angry. It's way easier to fix a problem when you know what it is." –Chico, 18



COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

The Community Crisis Response Fund (CCRF) offers up to \$5,000 in one-time financial support for communities affected by traumatic incidents or violence. Open to resident-led groups and non-profits, it supports healing and capacity-building initiatives within six months of when an incident has occurred. CCRF includes general and youth-led streams.



2023 RECAP

COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$362,189

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

73

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

54

out of the 103 applicants identified the incident was on or near TCHC property

The top five common workshop themes were:

1. Mental Health
2. Conflict resolution
3. Employment
4. Selfcare
5. De-escalation



2268 community members served



358 volunteers recruited



99 staff salaries supported





COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

The Impact

“ Our project made a significant impact by fostering understanding, healing, and community engagement among youth. We brought in someone who shared his personal experiences with gun violence and how he managed to cope with its aftermath. For the speaker, this was a unique opportunity to process his trauma in a supportive environment and discuss ways the community can combat such issues. We could tell the project had an impact through the positive feedback and experiences shared by the youth. They formed strong relationships with one another and expressed a deeper understanding of the effects of gun violence. Many participants showed a heightened interest in community work, expressing a desire to become more involved in initiatives aimed at preventing violence and supporting those affected. This enthusiasm and commitment from the youth demonstrated the project's success in inspiring and empowering them to make a difference in their communities. – **Project Lead**

This project had the impact of bringing kids and families together in support of each other. Through the couple months I have seen more families engage in conversation inside and outside of the studio because of the connections they have made. I constantly see them outside in the community getting together practicing the dances that they have learned. Every week they were so eager to rush in and take in as much material as possible. A parent even told me that the discipline they learn in class helped with their focus in school. Lastly by the end of the program the kids didn't want it to end. When I would run into them in the community they would constantly ask me when is dance coming back.

– **Project Lead**

COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

The Impact

“



My Name is Shondelle Reis, Over the past few months, I have been deeply involved in a transformative program that have received invaluable support from the city: the Danzig Stage initiative. This program has left a profound impact on the community, strengthening families and empowering individuals in meaningful ways.

Through the Danzig Stage program, I have witnessed an incredible transformation in the children involved. Once shy and hesitant, they have blossomed into confident, expressive individuals who are unafraid to stand up, speak in front of crowds, and assert their self-worth. This initiative has also been instrumental in improving children's reading literacy, providing them with the tools and confidence to excel not only in performance but also in academics. The growth in their self-esteem and communication skills is a testament to the power of this program to uplift and inspire.

The Stage is an incredible example of how community-focused initiatives can bring about real, lasting change. From instilling confidence in our youth to helping families navigate complex emotions and build stronger relationships, the Danzig Stage Initiative is shaping brighter futures for the Danzig community. It is my hope and prayer that we continue to receive the support needed to flourish and grow and yield even greater benefits for years to come.

– Shondelle Reis

”



Image from Danzig Stage Program

2024 SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Ran grant in collaboration with the [Community Crisis Response Program](#) and aligned to [SafeTO](#).

23
groups identified serving Indigenous peoples



Top Wards with CCRF applications:
Humber River-Black Creek,
Scarborough-Guildwood, Etobicoke
North & Toronto Centre

53
groups identified they are serving
Black Torontonians

There has been a steady increase
of applications year after year:



2022
86 groups applied and 64 were awarded

2023
105 groups applied and 73 were awarded

30
youth-led projects with a total
allocation of \$148,099

FUNDING ALLOTMENT

\$443,616

NUMBER OF
APPLICATIONS RECIEVED

135

NUMBER OF GROUPS
FUNDED

94





WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025

- Phase three implementation of the Black-Mandated Funding Framework
- Focus areas one and two implementation of the Indigenous Funding Framework
- Rolling intake of applications in the Community Crisis Response Fund
- Open grant calls for the Local Leadership Grant and Identify 'N Impact grant streams
- Second of three-year programming in the Youth Violence Prevention grant stream
- Two-year extensions for Community Service Partnerships-funded organizations
- Refinement of the refreshed Community Service Partnerships Framework



Community Funding Team Members

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