



# SUMMER SAFETY PLAN



## Land Acknowledgment

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

## African Ancestral Acknowledgment

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples—including those who came here as settlers—as migrants either in this generation or in generations past—and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



# Table of Contents

---

<a href="#"><u>Tracking A Rise in Youth Violence</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SafeTO: An Introduction</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>What is the Summer Safety Plan?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>What are the Goals of the Summer Safety Plan?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>13</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>How did the Summer Safety Plan come to be?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>15</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Key Partners</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Your Summer Programs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>20</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Summer Grants and Funding Opportunities</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>93</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Safer Spaces</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>96</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Community Event Kit</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>101</u></a>

Dear Toronto,

I'm pleased to present Toronto's 2025 Summer Safety Plan – our approach to prevent, intervene and respond to violence so we can keep youth and communities safe this summer and beyond.

We've worked across City divisions and with community partners to build a plan that gives Torontonians, especially young people, better access to violence prevention and recreational programs across the City. Whether that means expanding access to safe spaces, supporting community events, or increasing youth engagement in specific neighbourhoods, our goal is simple: to connect Toronto's youth and families to opportunities that help ensure summer is a safe, vibrant, and positive time for all.

We know that during the summer months, the risk of violence can rise. With school out, more people outdoors, and fewer structured activities, there is added pressure on communities—especially those already navigating social or economic challenges. That is why this plan is intentional in focusing resources where and when they are needed most.

This plan was built with and for Toronto's young people and those who love and support them. Through many conversations across our neighbourhoods, this plan reflects your insights, your lived experiences, and your hopes for a safer, stronger Toronto.

This plan is broader than just one summer — it's part of SafeTO, Toronto's 10-year plan to advance community safety and well-being. It is one important step in our year-round efforts to address the root causes of violence, invest in opportunities for youth, and build stronger, more resilient communities.

Thank you to all our community partners, including Toronto Community Housing, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Toronto Police Service and everyone who contributed their time, energy, and ideas.

Together, we are building a city where every community can feel supported, and every resident can feel safe and proud to call Toronto home.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

With gratitude,



Olivia Chow Mayor of Toronto





I remember growing up in Toronto, summer meant more than just time off school. It meant endless activities, games and sports at the park, and reconnecting with friends across the city.

After a year of studying and striving, young people in Toronto look forward to, and deserve, a summer filled with opportunity, connection, and safety. This is what the 2025 Summer Safety Plan is all about.

The summer season brings with it greater opportunities to gather outdoors and connect with friends and community. When people can gather in a safe and positive way, everyone wins. That's why programs and initiatives like the ones you will find in this Summer Safety Plan matter. The Toronto Police Service is proud to be a partner in enhancing community safety and well-being.

Over the summer, our Neighbourhood Community Officers will be leading a series of activities ranging from education and sports to community building. Whether it's soccer, movie night, tutoring sessions or many other activities: these moments will offer opportunities for kids to connect with police officers and learn about things like building confidence and career development. Other programs will allow people of all ages to learn more about crime prevention.

While these initiatives are designed to engage our youth throughout the summer, they are also part of our broader, long-term commitment to community safety and well-being, aligned with SafeTO: Toronto's Ten-Year Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Knowing the communities we serve, building strong relationships, and taking a collaborative, proactive approach to crime: these are all objectives of the Toronto Police Service's vision for community safety and well-being. Toronto's 2025 Summer Safety Plan is a strong example of the kind of partnership that brings this vision to life.

From all of us at the Toronto Police Service: have a safe, healthy, and active summer.



Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police, Toronto Police Service



# Tracking A Rise in Youth Violence

After three years of decline, gun violence in Toronto rose by 34 percent in 2024. This increase has had a serious impact on young people between the ages of 12 and 29, who were involved in more than half of all firearm-related incidents—even though they make up less than a quarter of the city’s population.

The violence is also not spread evenly across the city. Nearly half of all gun-related incidents happened in just six neighbourhoods, even though those areas are home to only 22 percent of Toronto’s residents.

In January 2025, concerned by the rapid rise of youth violence across the city, Mayor Chow convened five Toronto City Councillors, key City divisions and key institutional partners to prioritize work to improve youth safety in Toronto.

The Mayor’s Youth Safety Task Force – Deputy Mayor Morley, Councillor Ainslie, Councillor Burnside, Councillor Nunziata, Councillor Perruzza – each lead a stream of this work.

This work is wide-ranging, touching a range of activities that are proven to positively impact safety and wellbeing, in line with SafeTO, the City’s Ten-Year Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Examples of this work include, but are not limited to:

- increasing access to youth employment opportunities
- enhancing coordination with schools on violence prevention
- increasing youth access to safe and educational spaces
- fostering supportive networks and programs for parents/caregivers and families
- implementing place-based violence response initiatives and hospital-based recovery programs;
- developing a public awareness campaign addressing youth violence



## Evaluation

In addition, the City's 2025 budget includes investments of \$5M million for Youth Safety Initiatives. This funding will support proven programs in the neighbourhoods that need it most, helping to curb rising youth violence and keep communities safer.

The City of Toronto will be evaluating the Summer Safety Plan to ensure it meets the needs of communities and facilitates a safe, engaging summer for young people. The evaluation will focus on how effectively the plan supports youth development, empowers families and contributes to safe communities. The lessons learned from this evaluation will help the City build on what is working so that every young person can enjoy a safe and enriching summer in Toronto.





# SafeTO: An Introduction

Keeping young people safe in Toronto is a top priority as part of SafeTO. SafeTO is Toronto's 10-year plan to ensure all Torontonians feel safe and have a sense of wellbeing. It is a plan that brings together—governments, schools, community groups—and local leaders—to create a safer and more supportive environment for all.

## The goals of SafeTO are to:

<b>Reduce Vulnerability</b>	By providing support to those at risk, the plan aims to minimize factors that make individuals susceptible to harm.
<b>Reduce Violence</b>	Implementing strategies to decrease incidents of violence within communities.
<b>Advance Truth and Reconciliation</b>	Support actions from the Path to Reconciliation report that enhance community safety and well-being for Indigenous Peoples
<b>Promote Healing and Justice</b>	Ensuring access to services that support recovery and fair treatment for all residents.
<b>Invest in People</b>	Enhancing opportunities for personal development, education, and employment to empower individuals.
<b>Invest in Neighbourhoods</b>	Improving local infrastructure and resources to strengthen community bonds and resilience.
<b>Drive Collaboration and Accountability</b>	Encouraging coordinated efforts among various organizations and holding them accountable for progress.

## Place-Based Safety Planning

A key component of SafeTO is continuous place-based, population-focused safety planning: a year-round effort to improve safety by responding to the specific strengths and needs of a neighborhood or community.

Instead of using the same solution everywhere, this approach brings together government institutions, local leaders, residents, schools, businesses, community organizations and safety networks to address the root causes of safety concerns in each area. It plans and develops targeted programs, initiatives and services, aimed at violence prevention, intervention, response and recovery. This includes community events and gatherings, community-based violence intervention programs, youth violence prevention grants, youth and family supports to build environments where people feel safe and supported. Over time, it helps build more resilient neighborhoods where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.









# Summer Safety Plan

During the summer months, the risk of violence can increase as more people spend time outdoors, school is out, and there are fewer structured activities for youth. This can put added pressure on neighborhoods already facing social or economic challenges. By using a place-based safety approach, the City can focus resources where and when they are most needed—like expanding access to safe spaces, supporting community events, and increasing youth engagement programs in specific areas. This targeted planning helps prevent violence before it starts and ensures that summer is a safe and positive time for everyone.

The City of Toronto 2025 Summer Safety Plan brings together all of the available list of programs and services that help Toronto's youth feel safe where they live—from sports and arts programs, to job training—mental health support, to extended hours for community spaces.

The plan is designed to make it easy for youth and families to understand and connect with the resources and programs available in their community for violence prevention, intervention, response and recovery.



## Goals of the Summer Safety Plan

### Goals:

<b>Prevent Violence and Promote Safety</b>	Take proactive measures to prevent harm and create a safer community for all.
<b>Invest in Youth Development</b>	Provide programs, activities, and opportunities that help young people build skills, secure jobs, grow personally—and access safe spaces.
<b>Empower Parents and Caregivers</b>	Offer resources and services that empower parents and caregivers with the tools they need to support youth effectively.
<b>Strengthen Community Engagement</b>	Encourage participation in local summer activities and events to foster a collaborative, community-driven approach to safety.





## The Summer Safety Plan at a Glance

- Over 140 youth and family programs, grants, and drop-ins available during the summer
- 50% increase in Parks and Recreation youth drop-in programming throughout the summer
- Over 500 families, parents/caregivers will be engaged in youth violence prevention programs and workshops
- Over 3000 youth will be engaged in summer safety programming
- \$5M invested for enhanced youth violence prevention programs to support:
  - youth employment
  - civic engagement and public awareness
  - family, parents and caregivers
  - educational environments
  - place-based interventions for violence reduction
  - violence response and recovery

# Community Voices

Conversations about community violence are ongoing and happening in many different spaces. More than 2,500 people—including 200 youth—shared their experiences through the SafeTO community consultations, while over 350 participants joined each day of the Violence Prevention Symposium. Input has also come from youth groups, community programs, local safety networks, and youth-led discussions.

## Here's what we heard:

---

- A need to focus on violence prevention — Many people, especially youth, are worried about rising violence in their neighborhoods, including gun violence and gender-based violence. They want to see more programs that address the root causes of violence and provide support before things escalate.
- A need for more support for mental health & addiction — young people and families talked about the need for better mental health and addiction support. Many feel that without proper help, struggles with mental health and substance use can lead to more serious safety issues.
- A need for safer, more connected communities — people want to feel safe where they live. They said strong community programs, positive role models, and opportunities for youth can help prevent violence before it starts.
- This feedback is shaping the Summer Safety Plan to make neighborhoods safer by focusing on prevention, investing in communities, and making sure people get the help they need.

# Community Consultation Sessions on City of Toronto Summer Safety Plan

- Between April 24 and May 10, the City of Toronto hosted 16 community consultation sessions to gather feedback on its Summer Safety Plan. These sessions were designed to engage youth, parents, caregivers—and community service providers directly.
- Violence Prevention Office (VPTO), Youth Outreach Workers, the, Toronto Community Housing, and the Toronto District School Board led the sessions, which took place across the city in both virtual and in-person formats.

---

## Here's what we heard:

---

During our consultations, several important themes emerged. People shared a strong need for more job opportunities for youth, programs that build community connections, and safe, welcoming spaces for young people to spend time. Expanding access to mental health support was also a top priority.

Participants highlighted the importance of offering programs during evenings and weekends, when youth are more likely to be available.

Both young people and parents also expressed a strong interest in programs that give youth the chance to explore beyond their neighborhoods. Overall, the feedback from these consultations reinforced the importance of the programs outlined in the Summer Safety Plan and confirmed their value to the community.





# Key Partners

The success of the City of Toronto Summer Safety Plan relies on strong partnerships with organizations that are dedicated to youth safety and well-being.

## Key partners include:

1. City of Toronto:
  - Social Development Division
  - Parks and Recreation Division
  - Economic Development and Culture Division
  - Toronto Public Health
2. Toronto Police Service
3. Toronto Community Housing Corporation
4. Toronto Public Library
5. Toronto District School Board
6. Toronto Catholic District School Board
7. Community-based organizations and grassroots groups providing youth programming and mentorship
8. Parents and caregiver networks

# How It All Comes Together

Wondering how the Summer Safety Plan can support youth and families? Meet Marcus, Tiffany, and Sagal—three fictional community members with different needs and goals. These snapshots show how the programs, resources, and supports in this guide can be used in real life to promote safety, connection, and opportunity all summer long.



**Marcus, 17**  
High School Student

**Marcus is looking for mentorship and safe spaces to hang out with friends.**

He can access Youth Hubs at Toronto Public Library, join the Boys to Men mentorship program, and connect with Youth Outreach Workers for one-on-one support and guidance. These programs offer safe environments, positive role models—and access to resources.



**Tiffany, 42**  
Mother of 2 Teenagers

**Tiffany is concerned about rising youth violence and wants support for herself and her teens.**

She can access the Family Wellbeing Program for caregiver support and connection to services, and her teenagers can access the Black Creek Youth Initiative's Youth Violence Prevention Program for trauma-informed group sessions focused on healing and leadership.



**Sagal, 27**  
Community Organizer

**Sagal is active in her community and wants to support youth through summer events.**

She can use the Community Event Kit to plan safe, inclusive gatherings and apply for Identify 'N Impact Grants to fund youth-led initiatives—up to \$17,000 available.





# Your Summer Programs and Resources

# Civic & Community Engagement

Get involved, speak up, and shape the future! This section highlights initiatives that empower youth to take an active role in their communities, from youth advisory councils to community-led events. When young people engage with their communities, they help build safer, stronger neighborhoods where everyone feels heard and valued.

Head to the City's website to explore the full lineup of events and activities happening all season long!

## Programs:

### Teen Councils, Toronto Public Library

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Toronto Public Library's Teen Councils provide teens with an opportunity to add their voice to teen services at TPL, recommending changes or enhancements to library policies, programs and services to ensure they best serve the interests of teens and their community. Teens earn volunteer hours, meet other community teens and develop their skills in problem-solving, leadership, decision-making, and communication. TPL staff facilitate activities and discussions to engage members in creating a welcoming and relevant environment for teens that fosters inclusion and engagement. TCs enable teens to become advocates and promoters of TPL programs, collections and online resources that support educational, professional and creative pursuits

**Email:** [teenvolunteers@tpl.ca](mailto:teenvolunteers@tpl.ca)

**Website:** [tpl.ca/teencouncils](http://tpl.ca/teencouncils)



## Youth Advisory Committee

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 17-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The Youth Advisory Committee aims to strengthen the community by amplifying youth voices and promoting positive youth representation. It empowers young people through personal development and networking opportunities.

**Program Dates:** January-December, 2025

**Website:** <https://midaynta.com/>



# Life & Social Skills

Opportunities for growth, leadership, and employment start here! This section features summer jobs, internships, and career training programs that help youth gain work experience, explore career paths, and build entrepreneurial skills. By providing access to meaningful employment, we create safer communities with empowered young people who have a vision for their future.

## Programs:

### Read for Knowledge. Read for LIFE Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents, Caregivers | 15 Years and Over

Reading club with a focus on Black Canadian Authors and marginalized voices

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website

**Description:** Each week, the program focuses on culturally relevant reading materials—like books, essays, or articles—that reflect themes important to our community. These readings spark guided discussions led by facilitators and mentors. Once a month, a local Black Canadian author will join us to read and share from one of their books.

**Program Dates:** June-August, 2025 (Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

**Email:** [solitair@thefyouproject.com](mailto:solitair@thefyouproject.com)

**Website:** <https://www.thefyouproject.com/>

**Instagram:** @projectfword

## Albion Neighbourhood Services, BGC Albion Club

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Leadership training, recreational activities and media arts for youth. Recreation, arts and crafts, STEM for children

**Program Dates:** July 7 - August 15, 2025

**Website:** [www.albionneighbourhoodservices.ca](http://www.albionneighbourhoodservices.ca)

## Anti-Sex Trafficking Workshops

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 10-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Workshops for grade 7 & 8 students and parents: Builds awareness and community vigilance to prevent exploitation, while promoting collective student action against gender-based violence

**Program Dates:** July-August

Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Attendance Support

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Strengthens school connection and healthy routines to reduce emotional distress, prevent disengagement, and interrupt pathways to violence through proactive care.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Belka Enrichment Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Summer programming including Arts, Leadership Development, Literacy/Numeracy, Mentorship/Counselling, Social, Sports & Recreation

**Program Dates:** July 2- August 15, 2025

**Website:** <https://belkaecenter.com/>



## Boys to Men Group

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 13-21 Years

Registration Requirements: Open Enrolment

Description: This program, created by BADC, is led by Dr. Chris Harris—a PhD professional, mentor, and community rapper with lived experience. He will guide a monthly boys' group for Black males, focusing on the challenges they face as well as foundational skill building.

Program Dates: All Year

Contact: Rita Asare and Shantae Clarke, Black Action Defence Committee (BADC)

Phone: 416-656-2232

Email: [info@blackactiondefencecommittee.com](mailto:info@blackactiondefencecommittee.com)

## COMPLEX- Community Arts Initiative, Rhythms of Change: Music for Community Empowerment

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 17-29 Years

Registration Requirements: Pre-Registration

Description: "Rhythms of Change" is a community initiative empowering Rexdale youth through music. The project brings together young people from diverse backgrounds, including Black, Caribbean, Indigenous, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, to share their stories, write songs, and perform original pieces. Participants will explore challenges like systemic barriers and identity struggles through workshops and discussions. The initiative focuses on three main goals: fostering connection, empowering voices, and raising awareness. Led by local musicians, these workshops provide a creative and supportive space for self-expression, building confidence, and encouraging personal growth through music.

Program Dates: February-September, 2025

Email: [complexcommunityartsinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:complexcommunityartsinitiative@gmail.com)

# Camp Inspire

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 6-12 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Camp Inspire is a summer-long day camp that provides a wide range of recreational, arts, sports, and team-building activities for Toronto Community Housing tenants

**Program Dates:** July 2-August 15, 2025

**Email:** ActiveLiving@torontohousing.ca

## Community Peers Elevating & Extending Resources and Supports (PEERS)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** Community PEERS will offer one-to-one support, workshops, training, debrief and healing circles, one-time events and program engagement on topics of mental health and resiliency within existing programs throughout the City. Through Community PEERS, graduates of the Community Healing Program's Peer Support Training program are deployed to communities upon community or Community Crisis Response Program request.

**Contact:** Asmaa Mohamed, Community Development Officer, City of Toronto

**Email:** Asmaa.Mohamed@toronto.ca

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/community-safety-programs/youth-violence-prevention-intervention/>

## EmpowerEd Transition

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-15 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: Cultivates belonging and reduces isolation-related stress to lower risk factors for violence, while promoting peaceful peer relationships.

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

For More Information: Toronto District School Board

Website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Engage416 First Robotics Program

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 4-17 years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: Eight-week program engaging youth in STEM activities.

Contact: Toronto Police Division 31

Phone: 416-808-3100



# Graffiti Eradication

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This program allows students and TPS to build relationships and skills to eradicate graffiti in the community. High school students can gain their volunteer hours through their participation in the program.

**Program Dates:** May–October, 2025

**Contact:** Staff Sergeant Shawn Gilbert,  
Toronto Police Division 33

**Phone:** 416-808-3300  
**Email:** 86793@tps.ca

## Hope and Hustle Heights-YVP Program, Unison Health and Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** This program involves a few different components:

**1) Dodgeball Tournament:** This event is intended to foster community Connection, encourage physical activity and wellness of community members. Teams will compete in a series of dodgeball matches.

**2) Financial Literacy Workshop Series:** This series of workshops aim to empower youth with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to make informed financial decisions and improve their overall financial well-being. The workshops will introduce youth to personal finance, budgeting, and saving.

### **3) Positive Coping Mechanism**

**Workshops:** The workshops are intended to empower youth in the Lawrence Heights area with the tools, techniques, and mindset to manage stress, emotions, and life challenges in a healthy, constructive way.

### **4) Community Healing Circles Program:**

This aims to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive space where youth can come together to heal, share their experiences, and build a sense of connection and mutual understanding. It happens every Sunday

**Contact:** Ahmed Adan- Program Leader and Ramla Adan- Program Leader

**Email:** hopehustleheights@gmail.com

**Instagram:** @hopehustleheights

## Lawrence Heights Parents Association, Unison Health and Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 10-29 Years and Parents/Caregivers

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** This program involves a few different components:

1) Trauma Informed Practice: A workshop intended to educate residents about trauma, its effects, and how to create supportive environments for those who have experienced trauma. We will allow time for participants to ask questions and share thoughts in an open dialogue setting, creating a space for learning, reflection, and sharing.

2) Understanding Substance Abuse: A workshop intended to educate and raise

awareness about substance abuse, its causes, and its impact on individuals, families, and the community. There will be time for questions and sharing resources for ongoing support.

3) Gardening with Families: A hands-on community gardening initiative for families intended to bring together residents to promote sustainable living.

4) Community BBQ event: This event will bring the community together to enjoy fun activities, eat, and socialize.

**Contact:** Ali Sheikhomar, Mohamed Hadi, Ali Nour    **Email:** lhparentsassoc@gmail.com

## Life Skills

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 16-20 Year

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The Life Skills workshop series focuses on a blend of practical skills, personal development and educational strategies to build confidence and a strong foundation for success.

**Email:** mosesco.tw@gmail.com



## Lit Circles, Engaged Communities

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-25 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Lit Circles Summer 2025 is a 3-step workshop series that helps youth design and lead their own summer programs.

**Round 1 (April): Idea & Planning**

- Youth brainstorm program ideas, get feedback from the community, and start planning basics like schedules and budgets.

**Round 2 (May): Project Planning**

- Youth will build clear, detailed plans for their programs.

**Round 3 (June): Training**

Youth get trained on how to run a program—covering safety, attendance, working with kids, and teamwork. They'll also focus on character building and understanding their “why.”

**Program Dates:** April 21-June 30, 2025

**Contact:** Youssef Al Hariri, Youth Leader

**Website:** <https://www.engagedcommunities.ca/>





## Lotherton Resident Group -YVP program, Unison Health and Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 10-29 Years and Parents/ Caregivers

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** This program involves a few different components:

1. **Movie Night:** This event aims to bring Lotherton residents together in a relaxed, fun, and inclusive setting, promoting social interaction and community spirit. There will be light refreshments.

2. **Summer Camp:** A camp that is youth led, peer-to-peer model, for a week in Lotherton. There will be a variety of activities and events.

3. **Basketball Tournament:** This event is intended to foster community connection in Lotherton, encourage physical activity and wellness of community members.

**Program Dates:** Movie Night: June 6, 2025

**Summer Camp:** July 2025

**Contact:** Lisa Baker- Group Leader

**Email:** sarah.scanterbury5926@gmail.com

**Contact:** Helen Teclemichael- YVP Project Coordinator

**Email:** Helen.Teclemichael@unisonhcs.org

## Melodic Mindfulness

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-15 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Participants will explore how music can provide comfort, regulate emotions, and create a personal sense of stability. Youth will also explore how different songs, lyrics, and sounds can help process emotions such as grief, anger, sadness, and hope.

**Program Dates:** June-July, 2025

**Email:** tevounjackson@gmail.com

## Mental Health Supports-Negative Peer Involvement

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** The program is designed to support a cohort of approximately 15-20 students aged 14-16. This number allows for meaningful engagement and personalized support for each participant, fostering a conducive learning environment and promoting individual growth and development.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Midaynta Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 6-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Midaynta's Summer Camp offers children and youth a safe, supportive space to build literacy, leadership, and character skills while exploring cultural identity through traditional arts and crafts like water-painting. Campers enjoy sports (basketball, soccer, swimming, etc.), daily meals, and exciting trips to key cultural sites in Toronto. Parents/guardians are engaged through workshops on community safety, education involvement, and access to local services. The camp promotes learning, well-being, and connection for children, youth, and families across the community.

**Program Dates:** July 2-August 8, 2025

**Website:** [www.midaynta.com](http://www.midaynta.com)

# Movie Night

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Program will offer youth in Pelham neighbourhood a chance to view and discuss movie content related to crime prevention, social development, life skills and future opportunities.

**Program Dates:** May-September, 2025

**Contact:** PC Debra Young, Toronto Police Division 11

**Phone:** 416-808-1100

**Email:** 10472@tps.ca





## Neptune Youth Council - Youth Violence Prevention, Unison Health and Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** This opportunity provides training for residents and health care professionals who work or reside in Toronto Community Housing Corporation communities

1) Summer Kick-Off Event – A fun start to the season with free produce, activities, and info on summer programs in Neptune.

2) Movie Night – Outdoor family movie nights with popcorn and drinks. Bring your own chairs and blankets!

3) Annual Back-to-School BBQ – Celebrate the new school year with food, music, games, and free backpacks and supplies.

4) Hers and His Conversation Circles – Safe spaces for youth to talk about mental health, grief, and connection.

5) Summer Camp – A week of fun activities at Baycrest Public School in July.

**Contact:** Kaydeen Banks, Breea Carvery, Shaniya Cameron

**Email:** [Neptunecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Neptunecommittee@gmail.com)

## Pickleball Program

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 13-18 Years

Registration Requirements: Open Enrolment

Description: The program is designed for youth and aims to strengthen relationships between the community and law enforcement.

Program Dates: May-August

Contact: Toronto Police Division 11

Phone: 416-808-1100

Email: 99659@tps.ca

## RYDE (Responsible Youth Driver Education)

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 15-17 Years

Registration Requirements: Pre-Registration

Description: The RYDE program offers youth the opportunity to meet with Neighborhood Community Officers (NCO) and Traffic Specialist officers to learn the rules of the road and how to become a responsible driver. Officers will provide all necessary learning materials with the ultimate goal of participants passing their MTO test and gaining freedom.

Program Dates: May-June, 2025

Contact: Acting Staff Sergeant Alex Wallace, Toronto Police Division 53

Phone: 416- 808 5300

Email: 9300@tps.ca







# Rexdale Youth Mentors Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-19 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Rexdale Youth Mentorship (RXYM) is a Black-led grassroots organization based in Rexdale, Toronto. We support Black youth and youth from low-income communities by breaking down systemic barriers through mentorship and access to meaningful opportunities. Our engaging workshops help youth build personal and professional skills as they transition into adulthood. Participants hear from inspiring Black and racialized guest speakers and professionals. Workshop topics include mental health & wellness, overcoming adversity, financial literacy, cultural acceptance, and more.

**Program Dates:** May-August, 2025

**Contact:** Kwaku Agyeman

**Email:** [rxym@rexdalementorship.com](mailto:rxym@rexdalementorship.com)

# She's Connected Group

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** This program supports Black-identifying middle school students and their caregivers. It offers a support group for students and helpful resources for families. The program builds self-esteem, teaches healthy boundaries, and helps reduce the risk of violence. It also helps families provide affirming, supportive care.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Show Love Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youths | All ages

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Dixon Hall hosts community event for youth networking every Friday for 8 weeks

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**Contact:** Staff Sergeant Todd Gowan, Toronto Police Division 51

**Phone:** 416-808-5152

**Email:** Todd.gowan@torontopolice.on.ca

## Skills for Life Youth Series

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-19 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Two youth leaders from the Mount Olive community created the Skills for Life program to support local youth. This weekly program offers workshops on mental well-being, career development, and more, along with certifications like First Aid and Food Handling. It also provides a safe space for youth to talk about life and school challenges while building connections with peer mentors.

**Program Dates:** March-June, 2025

**Contact:** Nicholas Arop

**Email:** nicholasarop829@gmail.com

## Sports-Based Social Skills Group

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Promotes healthy emotional expression, teamwork, and relationship-building to reduce aggression and promote pro-social behaviour.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Success Beyond Limits

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-14 years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This summer program provides a learning environment designed to meet diverse needs and learning styles through smaller class sizes, teaching staff that represent the community and also reflect the diversity of students. The focus is on eliminating barriers to access by offering a healthy breakfast and lunch and daily transportation to and from the program. Success Beyond Limits operates in the Jane and Finch area and is open to select Grade 8 students from Oakdale and Brookview. Youth will build meaningful relationships with their high school peers, and receive influential advice, guidance and leadership. Furthermore, the program provides recreational activities, field trips, youth employment, and training at no cost to participants.

**Program Dates:** July 2 to August 8, 2025

**Contact:** Shanaz Ali - Program Manager

**Email:** [s.ali@successbl.com](mailto:s.ali@successbl.com)



## Summer Camp, Engaged Communities

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-16 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This program offers youth a mix of creative and outdoor activities, including drawing, painting, sculpting, theatre, nature games, and local field trips. Youth will also take part in group projects and activities that build teamwork, leadership, and communication skills. Participants are referred by local schools and are considered at-risk. Our youth team creates a safe, supportive space where every participant feels seen and valued. Conflicts are approached through relationship-building, with guidance from facilitators. We focus on strengths and celebrate achievements to build confidence. Junior facilitators and volunteers are youth with lived experience, creating stability and growth through leadership roles.

**Program Dates:** July 8 to August 15, 2025

**Contact:** Youssef Al Hariri, Youth Leader and Lead Facilitator

**Website:** <https://www.engagedcommunities.ca/>

## Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 7-13 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Our summer camp for children ages 7–13 offers safe, reliable, and high-quality care in a fun and welcoming environment. The program supports children's emotional, physical, social, and intellectual growth through engaging activities and positive experiences.

**Program Dates:** July 2- August 15, 2025

**Email:** [thewitt@symewoolner.org](mailto:thewitt@symewoolner.org)

**Website:** <https://symewoolner.org/children-and-youth-programs/>

# Teen Programs, Toronto Public Library

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):**Youth | 13-17 years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to Website for more information

**Description:** Teens can participate in diverse workshops, camps and multi-week programs during the summer and year-round at Toronto Public Library branches. These youth-informed programs reflect local community needs and help teens develop life skills; explore interests; and connect to information, resources and opportunities in the library and community. Highlights include week-long summer camps focused on wellness, employment readiness, AI, digital illustration and robotics.

**Email:** [teens@tpl.ca](mailto:teens@tpl.ca)

**Website:** [tpl.ca/teenprograms](http://tpl.ca/teenprograms)

## Toronto Recreational Out tripping Outreach Program (TROOP)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 4-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This summer 45 youth from Toronto will camp, hike, and canoe with Toronto Police Officers. Three trips will take 15 youth and 5 officers 300 km north to Algonquin Park for three days and two nights. Youth will learn skills and build confidence in themselves to handle whatever nature can throw their way.

**Program Dates:**

July 15-17, 2025

July 29-31, 2025

August 12-14, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 43

**Phone:** 416-808-4300

PC Parker

**Email:** [5422@tps.ca](mailto:5422@tps.ca)

PC Kolebniak

**Email:** [8919@tps.ca](mailto:8919@tps.ca)

## Tree Top Trekking

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-13 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The POWERPLAY program, led by 32 Division officers, supports youth in the Lawrence Heights and Neptune communities. It helps them build self-esteem, confidence, self-control, and motivation. Through new and challenging activities—often outside their comfort zones or financial reach—youth are encouraged to grow and try things they might not otherwise explore.

**Contact:** Staff Sergeant Jonathan Collin,  
Toronto Police Division 32

**Phone:** 416-808-3200

**Email:** 8591@tps

## Urban Rez Community Mobile Unit

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The Community Mobile Unit is a 33.5 foot recreational vehicle (RV). Features and services include community outreach, meeting/program space, referral and information hub, toy, clothing and food drive distribution, media and podcast center. The Community Mobile Unit will be present in the following TCHC communities over the summer: Danzig, Orton Park, Driftwood, Grandravine and Orpington.

**Contact:** Kelly de Hoop

**Email:** [kelly.dehoop@torontohousing.ca](mailto:kelly.dehoop@torontohousing.ca)

**Website:** <https://urbanrezsocialeenterprise.com/community-mobile-unit/>



## Violence Reduction Program - Community Employment Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Must be a Toronto Community Housing tenant in the East Region

**Description:** Employment workshops & training, job fairs, one-on-one support

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Andrew Cox, TCHC  
Violence Reduction Program

**Email:** [andrew.cox@torontohousing.ca](mailto:andrew.cox@torontohousing.ca)

**Contact:** Zena Bruce-Appiah, TCHC  
Violence Reduction Program

**Email:** [zena.bruce-appiah@torontohousing.ca](mailto:zena.bruce-appiah@torontohousing.ca)

## Visions of Science

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 8-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Visions of Science will engage youth through hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) workshops. The program builds knowledge, confidence, and a strong sense of identity in STEM fields. It also includes social-emotional learning (SEL) to support personal growth and development in every activity.

**Program Dates:** June-July, 2025

**Contact:** Cristihan Rios

**Email:** [cristihan.rios@vosnl.org](mailto:cristihan.rios@vosnl.org)

**Website:** <https://www.vosnl.org/>

## West Hill Futsal Program

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-14 Years

Registration Requirements: Pre-Registration

Description: This program is an opportunity to foster positive interactions between police and the youth in the community. Officers and youth play futsal together and officers mentor and support youth during the program.

Program Dates: August – September, 2025

Contact: Toronto Police Division 43  
Phone: 416-808-4300

PC Carter  
Email: 8788@tps.ca  
PC Palmer  
Email: 10663@tps.ca

## Women's Empowerment Group

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-18 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: Female officers interact with youth, run various life skills programming and events, including leadership, health, physical activities.

Program Dates: All Year

Contact: Staff Sergeant Brian Urkosky, Toronto Police Service Division 42  
Phone: 416-808-4200  
Email: brian.urkosky@tps.ca

## YVP - Youth Empowerment Program, Jane Alliance Neighborhood

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** JANS Youth Program supports violence prevention by helping youth ages 12 to 29 build skills, make positive choices, and access key resources. The program is split into two age groups: one for younger youth with age-appropriate content, and one for older youth focused on employment and life skills. Workshops are paired with local outings, volunteer opportunities, and community service, creating experiences that build confidence, personal growth, and community connection. By meeting youth where they are, we aim to equip them with the tools they need to succeed.

**Contact:** Rose Edward

**Email:** Redward@janealliance.com

**Website:** <https://janealliance.com/youth-services/>

**Instagram:** @Jjansyouth

## Young CEO, National African Integration and Families Association (NAIFA) and Harriet Tubman Community Organization (HTCO)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-16 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Our program provides mentorship and support to youth through both one-on-one and group activities. We use sports and after-school programs to keep youth engaged—especially during times when adult supervision may be limited. Youth build strong, trusting relationships with mentors from their own communities, giving them safe adults to talk to about issues they may not feel comfortable discussing at home. We also include life skills, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities to help guide youth toward positive choices. Safety planning is part of the program too, covering both physical and online spaces.

**Contact:** Nathan Okonta - Program Director - NAIFA

**Email:** okonta@naifatoronto.ca



# Young Voices, Toronto Public Library

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-19 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Young Voices is a magazine full of writing and art created and selected by Toronto teens run through the Toronto Public Library. An Editorial Teen Council, made up of teens whose work has been previously published in YVM, works with library staff and professional mentors to evaluate submissions, select work for publication in Young Voices magazine and celebrate its launch.

**Email:** [teens@tpl.ca](mailto:teens@tpl.ca)

**Website:** [www.tpl.ca/youngvoices](http://www.tpl.ca/youngvoices)

## Youth Voice Collective, Youth Violence Prevention Program, Flemingdon Health Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth and Parents/Caregivers | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration, Drop-in, Referrals from schools and partners

**Description:** In partnership with local schools and organizations, we offer safe drop-in spaces for youth. Our workshops cover topics like harm reduction, anger management, conflict resolution, and mental health. Youth can also participate in social activities like basketball, soccer, summer camps, BBQs, and community cleanups. Parents are invited to workshops to gain tools for supporting their children. Our staff receive training in conflict management, justice, and crisis prevention to ensure a trauma-informed approach. The program is guided by a Steering Committee of partners and youth staff, and youth are encouraged to volunteer at events and local community projects, like the Bike Hub and Flemo Farm.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**For More Information:**

**Contact:** Mussarat Ejaz, Manager  
Population Health and Wellness

**Website:** <https://www.fhc-chc.com/>

**Instagram:** @fhc\_chc

## "A Story of And" Workshop

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-21 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: Two-day Asian identity and leadership workshop. This workshop aims to build racial pride, emotional safety, and peer networks to counteract racial violence and isolation.

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

For More Information: Toronto District School Board

Website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Employability and Leadership

Opportunities for growth, leadership, and employment start here! This section features summer jobs, internships, and career training programs that help youth gain work experience, explore career paths, and build entrepreneurial skills. By providing access to meaningful employment, we create safer communities with empowered young people who have a vision for their future.

## Programs:

### Access Employment Workshops & Job Fair

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 14-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** In collaboration with TCHC, Access Employment offers a series of tailored workshops designed to support residents in building job readiness and securing meaningful employment.

**Program Dates:** May-December, 2025

**Contact:** Zena Bruce Appiah, TCHC Violence Reduction Program

**Phone:** 437-221-6107

**Email:** zena.bruce-appiah@torontohousing.ca

**Contact:** Ahmed Yassin, Acces Employment

**Phone:** 416-921-1800 ext. 2289

**Email:** ayassin@accesemployment.ca

**Website:** <https://accesemployment.ca/>

# ArtWorks TO

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** ArtWorksTO provides opportunities for youth media artists (18-29) who identify as Indigenous, Black and People of Colour and/or 2SLGBTQ+ to gain professional experience, skills and network in the media arts industry. ArtWorksTO is a partnership between the Toronto Arts Foundation's Neighbourhood Arts Network (NAN), City of Toronto, The Remix Project, and Ontario College of Art & Design University (OCADU). The project is funded by Future Skills Canada.

**Email:** [norma@torontoarts.org](mailto:norma@torontoarts.org)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/employment-support/youth-job-seekers/>

# Be.Build.Brand. (B3)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-16 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Be.Build.Brand. (B3) is a 12-week entrepreneurship program for TCHC tenants between the ages of 18 and 29. Participants are expected to attend weekly three-hour sessions (6 to 9 p.m.) and two sessions per week leading up to the Pitch Night. The program supports entrepreneurial ideas and helps participants turn their ideas into viable business plans.

**Email:** [economic.opportunities@torontohousing.ca](mailto:economic.opportunities@torontohousing.ca)

**Website:** <https://torontohousing.ca/programs-and-tenant-engagement/community-programs/bebuildbrand>



## Breaking Barriers - Dream it, Be it

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Career support that aims to support girls in secondary school overcome challenges and build a strong, successful future. It connects them with professional role models, career education, and the resources they need to achieve their goals.

PC Simpson, Toronto Police Division 43

Email: 10927@tps.ca

Phone: 416-808-4300

Website: [soroptimisttoronto.ca](http://soroptimisttoronto.ca)

## Building Skills Through Recreation

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-24 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** BSTR is a free leadership program that focuses on employability skill building. Although not an eligibility criteria, the program specifically targets Black & Indigenous youth for employment. The program provides opportunities to improve leadership skills and employment readiness to ensure success in employment and establish a talent pipeline to fill Parks and Recreation jobs by teaching youth how to navigate the recruitment process. The program offers free certification trainings (i.e First Aid, High Five).

Phone: 416-843-1079

Website: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/program-activities/leadership-employment-readiness/>

## Career Coaches in Residence, Toronto Public Library

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Toronto Public Libraries Career Coaches In Residence program offers younger adults free one-on-one career counselling and job search help, as well as a range of related programming.

**Email:** [ccir@tpl.ca](mailto:ccir@tpl.ca)

**Website:** [tpl.ca/careercoach](http://tpl.ca/careercoach)

## Cultural Hotspot: Youth Mentorship & Employment, Cultural Hotspot: Youth Participation

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Visit website

**Description:** The Cultural Hotspot is an annual arts program that celebrates Toronto's outside-the-core communities. Delivered in collaboration with local arts and community organizations, the program provides valuable opportunities for youth job placement and mentorship through workshops, exhibits, events and more. In 2025, the Cultural Hotspot celebrates Jane and Finch, highlighting its creative contributions to Toronto.

**Email:** [culturalhotspot@toronto.ca](mailto:culturalhotspot@toronto.ca)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/festivals-events/cultural-hotspot/>

## Diversity Youth Fellows

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** The Diversity Youth Fellowships are a leadership and career development program for young people from equity-deserving communities in Toronto. This program provides access to opportunities for equity-deserving communities, supports young people with career navigation, job experience and professional network development.

**Website:** <https://www.youthfellowship.ca/>

## Indigenous Youth Fellows

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** Indigenous Youth Fellowships are a leadership and career development program for Indigenous youth that includes training, mentorship and 8-month, full-time placements in Council Members' offices.

**Website:** <https://www.youthfellowship.ca/>

## Mornelle Goes to the Game

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 9-13 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Program offers youth from Mornelle Court an opportunity to experience a new part of the city. The program will showcase youth a variety of potential career paths associated with professional soccer.

PC Simpson, Toronto Police Service Division 43 **Phone:** 416-808-4300

**Email:** 10927@tps.ca

## The Toronto History Museum's Youth Volunteer Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** The Toronto History Museums' Youth Volunteer Program creates a safe, accessible, and inclusive space that offers meaningful volunteer and development opportunities for Toronto's diverse youth.

**Email:** [thmyouth@toronto.ca](mailto:thmyouth@toronto.ca)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/volunteer-with-the-city/toronto-history-museums-youth-volunteer/>

## Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-30 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) aims to assist youth who face multiple barriers, specifically those who have a sporadic or non-existent employment history through workshops, coaching, and work experience.

Scarborough Neighbourhood  
Community Centre

**Phone:** 416-615-1049

Etobicoke: Arab Community  
Centre of Toronto

**Phone:** 416-231-7746 ext. 212

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/employment-support/youth-job-seekers/>



## Toronto Youth Partnerships & Employment (TYPE)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 16-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Toronto Youth Partnerships & Employment (TYPE) is a mobile intensive case management program supporting youth in Toronto who are facing multiple complex challenges including barriers to the labour market. Youth Outreach Counsellors help youth identify skills, interests, and employment barriers, develop an action plan, and connect to employment services, skill development and educational programs, and specialized services. Some Counsellors focus specifically on reaching justice-involved youth.

**Email:** [type@toronto.ca](mailto:type@toronto.ca)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/employment-support/youth-job-seekers/type@toronto.ca>

## Urban Rez Mobile Entrepreneurship program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-15 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-registration, Drop in

**Description:** Urban Rez will be collaborating with Toronto Community Housing and the Community Crisis Response Program on implementing a mobile entrepreneurship program for youth between the ages of 13-15 who have aspirations in music.

**Program Dates:** May-August, 2025

**Contact:** Jermal Humphrey, Community Development Officer, City of Toronto

**Email:** [Jermal.Humphrey@toronto.ca](mailto:Jermal.Humphrey@toronto.ca)

## Urban Rez Take Back Your World

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** Take Back Your World Initiative focuses on providing programming for Black youth, ages 15-29, at-risk of gun and gang violence, in conflict with the law or who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) living in Rexdale, Jane-Finch and East Scarborough areas of Toronto.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Roderick Bereton

**Phone:** 647-287-4741

**Email:** rod@urbanrezsolutions.com

**Website:** [www.urbanrezsolutions.com](http://www.urbanrezsolutions.com)

## Youth Employment Partnerships

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** Youth Employment Partnerships (YEP) is a youth-friendly community organization network that offers co-ordinated support to young job seekers 15 to 29 years of age. YEP is flexible to connect you to the right service and through one-on-one support and mentorship help you develop skills and knowledge as well as identify and secure the right opportunities with career potential. YEP can also connect you with training, certification and education programs to prepare you for employment.

**Contact:** Mikael Khalam, Community Development Officer, City of Toronto

**Email:** Mikael.khalem@toronto.ca

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/employment-support/youth-job-seekers/>



# Physical Health & Mental-Well-being

Wellness is the foundation of safety and success. This section includes access to trauma-informed mental health resources, peer-led support programs, and physical wellness activities. When youth have access to the right support systems, they can focus on their growth, happiness, and overall well-being.

## Programs:

### Ace's Fore Success

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** This golf program provides golf lessons by a professional golfer to youth. The program offers the opportunity for youth to learn to play a sport that they may not normally have the opportunity to play due to the cost of playing.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 31

**Phone:** 416-808-3100

Sergeant Fillipin

**Phone:** 416- 209-6082

Sergeant Nelson Santizo

**Phone:** 416-669-1400

Staff Sergeant Peter Wallace

**Phone:** 647- 231-7663

**Instagram:** @tps31nco\_unite



## Ball Hockey Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Students have the ability to meet and talk with officers while playing ball hockey. Students are able to interact with officers in a positive way. This program will continue with assistance from ProAction.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Staff Sergeant Paul Dominey,  
Toronto Police Division 12

**Phone:** 416-808-1200

**Email:** Paul.dominey@torontopolice.on.ca

## CHAT CVT (Cannabis and Vaping Talk)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Student-led cannabis, vaping, and addiction resources.

Supports harm reduction and addresses substance-related violence through youth-driven education and peer care strategies for the 25-26 school year.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Calm Mental Success Group

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Student stress reduction and mental health group (20 students). Provides emotional outlets and coping strategies to reduce school-based conflict and self-directed harm.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Community Healing Project (CHP) for Crime Prevention

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The Community Healing Project (CHP) supports youth aged 12-29 who have been exposed to community violence through mental health literacy and peer support. Youth participants are trained through trauma-informed community workshops, certified in peer support and share what they learn with other youth in their communities.

**Contact:** Brandon Hay, Community Development Officer, City of Toronto

**Email:** [Brandon.Hay@toronto.ca](mailto:Brandon.Hay@toronto.ca)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/community-safety-programs/community-healing/>

# Community Recreation Programs for Youth

**Program Name:** Community Recreation Programs for Youth

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-24 Years and 13-29 Years (youth with a disability)

**Description:** Community Recreation offers over 300 activities targeted towards youth. Drop-in sports programming and instructional skill building programs are offered after school, evenings, weekends and summer break including: Basketball, Youth Leadership programs, Summer In The Six, Aquatic Leadership, Leisure Skate, Adapted & Inclusive programming

**Program Dates:** Seasonal Pre-Registration. Check Website for exact dates.

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/how-to-use-our-services/online-registration-booking/>

## Mental Health Services for Black Youth, Dixon Hall-Wanasah

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to contact for more information

**Description:** The Dixon Hall-Wanasah Mental Health Services for Black Youth Pilot Project is the fruit of a unique partnership between Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services and Wanasah Mental Health Service for Black Youth, both based in Regent Park. Dixon Hall-Wanasah Mental Health Services is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). The program is a community-based culturally responsive program providing mental health and addictions care for Black youth, and their families, ages 12-25 with mental health and addictions concerns who: are gang-involved; have experienced or are at-risk of experiencing gun and gang violence and/or human trafficking and/or in conflict with the law.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Namarig Ahmed

**Email:** [namarig.ahmed@wanasa.ca](mailto:namarig.ahmed@wanasa.ca)

**Phone:** 647-947-6090

## ENAGB YVP Program, ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-29 Years

Registration Requirements: Open Enrolment, Drop-In

Description: The ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency is currently employing three Case Managers, one Program Manager, and one Counsellor which support our program by implementing the four quadrants of Holistic Wellness (Mental, Spiritual, Emotional and Physical). This supports youth by addressing the main need for violence de-escalation by providing young people the space to increase self-identify, self-determination, self-respect and their self-worth. Case Managers provide comprehensive case management, that is tailored to each youths specific needs. These team members support with system navigation, advocacy and any need a youth may require. Program Manager supports the development of each youth drop-in location ensuring daily programming is based off the four quadrants providing youth with creative ways on implementing hands on life-skills through daily activities. Counsellor support youth in a clinical setting to help youth with tangible treatment solutions providing a space for healing.

Program Dates: All Year (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Contact: Briar Rose Perrier -  
Toronto Director

Website: [enagb-iy.ca](http://enagb-iy.ca)

## Engage416 Soccer League

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-16 years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: We've partnered with the Toronto Azzurri Soccer Club to offer a youth development program for boys and girls aged 10 to 18 from the Black Creek and Glenfield-Jane Heights neighbourhoods. Each participant will be paired with a coach—either a TPS officer or a community volunteer—for skill-building and mentorship throughout the program.

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

Contact: Toronto Police Division 31





## Grade 6 Transition Support

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-12 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Support group for Grade 5s transitioning to Grade 6, Helps young students navigate emotional transitions to reduce anxiety and disruptive behaviors, while fostering caring peer environments.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Healthy Masculinity

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Healthy Masculinity group (20–25 students). Challenges harmful gender norms and promotes non-violent expressions of self, while supporting students to build safer communities

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Healthy Spaces & Healthy Minds

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Resource creation for schools (25–26 school year).

Centring student voice and in collaboration with students to build tools that promote daily mental wellness and prevent behaviours linked to school-based violence.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# High School Transition Outreach

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-15 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Delivers targeted mental health support and connection to prevent marginalization, school dropout, and conflict escalation (~400 students).

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Horse Riding

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-13 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The POWERPLAY program, led by 32 Division officers, supports youth in the Lawrence Heights and Neptune communities. It helps them build self-esteem, confidence, self-control, and motivation. Through new and challenging activities—often outside their comfort zones or financial reach—youth are encouraged to grow and try things they might not otherwise explore.

**Contact:** Staff Sergeant Jonathan Collin,  
Toronto Police Division 32

**Phone:** 416-808-3200

**Email:** 8591@tps.ca

## Indoor Rock Climbing

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 10-13 Years

Registration Requirements: Pre-Registration

Description: The POWERPLAY program, led by 32 Division officers, supports youth in the Lawrence Heights and Neptune communities. It helps them build self-esteem, confidence, self-control, and motivation. Through new and challenging activities—often outside their comfort zones or financial reach—youth are encouraged to grow and try things they might not otherwise explore.

Contact: Staff Sergeant Jonathan Collin,  
Toronto Police Division 32

Phone: 416-808-3200  
Email: 8591@tps.ca

## Jane and Finch Weightlifting Club

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 15-18 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

Description: This initiative is a 12 week strength and conditioning program for youth in the Glenfield Heights Neighbourhood,

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

Contact: Toronto Police  
Division 31  
Phone: 416-808-3100  
Contract: Sergeant Fillipin

Phone: 416- 209-6082  
Sergeant Nelson Santizo  
Phone: 416- 669-1400



## KickStart

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 6-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** KickStart is a 6 week program that teaches youth the basics of soccer in partnership with MLSE.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**Email:** [ActiveLiving@torontohousing.ca](mailto:ActiveLiving@torontohousing.ca)

**Phone:** 647-456-9390

**Website:** <https://torontohousing.ca/programs-and-tenant-engagement/youth-programs/kickstart>

## Lay-Up Youth Basketball

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 6-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information

**Description:** The program includes basketball skill development and activities rooted in the creative arts.

**Program Dates:** June 30-August 15, 2025

**Website:** <https://www.layup.ca/>

## Men's Group, Jane/Finch Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** In collaboration with Jack.org, this initiative focuses on enhancing mental health support for Black and MVP youth. This program provides access to direct psychotherapy support.

**Program Dates:** May 9 -September 5, 2025 (Fridays, 5pm-7pm)

**Contact:** David Chin Manager of Youth,  
Equity and Settlement

**Website:** [www.janefinchcentre.org](http://www.janefinchcentre.org)

**Instagram:** @theespotyouthcentre

## Mental Health First Aid Training - Youth Specific

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 18 Years and Over

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** MHFA Standard is the foundational program designed for everyone. As a globally recognized training, it empowers everyday people to recognize when someone may be experiencing mental health challenges and equips them with practical skills to provide initial support. This course builds confidence to respond calmly and offer meaningful help during tough moments.

**Program Dates:** June-December, 2025

**Contact:** Katherine Marhong, Community  
Development Officer, City of Toronto

**Phone:** (437)-331-2637

**Email:** [Katherine.marhong3@toronto.ca](mailto:Katherine.marhong3@toronto.ca)

# Mental Health Student Ambassadors

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Capacity-building in 55 schools for mental wellness and care planning. Fosters whole-school culture shifts that reduce everyday violence by embedding daily practices of emotional regulation, safety, and relational care.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Midnight Basketball

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration. Must be a TCH tenant.

**Description:** The program brings together youth aged 14 to 18 from neighbourhoods across TCHC to play basketball on Friday nights. The program combines both physical and personal development. Every Friday night, youth are driven to the University of Toronto's Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport where they take part in free games and skills training. Before stepping on the court, the teams enjoy a dinner and take part in life-skills workshops to learn about themselves, their peers and how to access positive life-changing opportunities.

**Phone:** 647-456-9390

**Email:** [ActiveLiving@torontohousing.ca](mailto:ActiveLiving@torontohousing.ca)

**Website:** <https://torontohousing.ca/programs-and-tenant-engagement/youth-programs/midnight-basketball>

## Mind on Strength- Youth Violence Prevention Program, Unison Health and Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment, Pre-Registration

**Description:** This program involves a few different components:

1) Walking/Jogging Club: Intended to engage youth in cardiovascular endurance and promote motivation in building health habits. Youth will meet twice a month to participate in walking/jogging lead by a youth leader

2) Fathers Day Event: Participants will join a panel discussion of senior fathers, young parents and youth. The event will be focused on engagement, celebration, and meaningful conversations among fathers and youth.

3) Community Spelling Bee: This event will include a spelling bee competition among peers in the community. It aims to highlight the importance of language and communication skills while bringing together youth and residents in a positive way

4) Back to School Event: Lawrence Heights residents will celebrate the start of the new school year in a positive way while promoting community connectedness. Participants will be able to socialize, eat, and get school supplies.

5) Reading Club: Youth will come together twice a month to explore books.

**Contact:** Trevaun Douglas, Program Leader **Email:** mindonstrength@gmail.com

## Miracle Youth Basketball

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** The overall goal of the program is to develop youth's leadership skills. This initiative is a 12 week basketball program for youth in the Glenfield Jane Heights neighbourhood.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contract:** Toronto Police Division 31

Sergeant Fillipin

**Phone:** 416-808-3100

**Phone:** 416- 209-6082



## NXT LEVEL, Jane/Finch Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** In collaboration with Jack.org, this initiative focuses on enhancing mental health support for Black and MVP youth and with GIT. This program provides access to direct psychotherapy support.

**Program Dates:** May-September, 2025

**Contact:** David Chin Manager of Youth, Equity and Settlement

**Website:** <https://www.janefinchcentre.org>

**Instagram:** @theespotyouthcentre

## New Roads, Midaynta Community Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** The New Roads Youth Violence Prevention Program engages Black and equity-deserving youth through workshops, mentorship, and culturally relevant support. Key activities include weekly group workshops on topics like conflict resolution, gang prevention, and mental health, along with one-on-one case management tailored to each youth's needs. Recreational programming such as Thursday basketball nights fosters peer connection and engagement. Youth are also introduced to career and education pathways through post-secondary visits and leadership opportunities. Events like our "Effects of Gun Violence" workshop and partnerships with organizations like the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) connect youth with legal professionals and real-world learning. Altogether, the program supports positive development, community connection, and violence prevention.

**Contact:** Samatar Hassan - Program Coordinator

**Website:** <https://midaynta.com/new-roads>

**Instagram:** @midayntayouth

## Project Reclaim, Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in, Open Enrolment

**Description:** Summer programming offers a range of activities to promote violence prevention and intervention through healing, resilience, and positive engagement. Youth will have opportunities to participate in an Indigenous Elder Healing Circle, Mindfulness Workshops, Sports and Recreation, and Visual Arts workshops. Additionally, we offer the Leaders in Training (LIT) summer camp, which helps youth develop leadership skills. The Mobile Recreation Team alongside the Project Reclaim team offers sports and recreation activities, as well as offering mental wellness support. Drop-in Basketball will be hosted every Wednesday, providing a structured and welcoming space for youth to stay active and build connections and offer mentorship along the way.

**Program Dates:** July 9 - August 29, 2025

**Contact:** Georgele Weller, Director,  
Programs & Community Services

**Website:** <https://www.esbgc.ca/>  
**Instagram:** @esbgc\_youth

## Run/Play with Us

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 8-10 years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** This weekly program sees the Neighborhood Community Officers participate in a sports-based program with youth from the community at the community centre. The officers, alongside the youth, play, compete, learn and interact with each other, breaking down the uniform, learning life skills like winning and losing all while increasing trust.

**Program Dates:** May-September, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 53  
Phone: 416-808-5300

**PC Robert Meloche**  
Email: 8291@tps.ca

# STEM Athletics Youth Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-13 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This program will show youth how athletics can be used as a stepping stone to a brighter future while they participate in an athletics training program.

**Program Dates:** June-July 2025

**Contact:** Irene Duah-Kessie

**Website:** <https://www.riseinstem.ca>

**Email:** irenekessie@gmail.com

# Summer Program for Children & Youth

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-15 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Summer coping skills program (10 students). Offers a safe summer space to learn emotional regulation and reduce exposure to violence and risky behaviours.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# TEAR Program for Students

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** TEAR: Healthy relationships and consent leadership (30 students). Equips students to lead violence prevention through peer education on consent, boundaries, and healthy relational dynamics.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# The Rights Project-Youth Advocacy Training

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This project seeks to foster resilience by equipping youth not only with advocacy tools but with a space to process trauma collectively. The healing and recovery sessions allow participants to react on the emotional aftermath of violence, recognizing the impact these incidents have on both individuals and communities

**Program Dates:** March-September, 2025

**Contact:** Sumay Nur, The Rights Project

**Email:** [sumaya@therightsproject.ca](mailto:sumaya@therightsproject.ca)



# Toronto Community Crisis Service

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 16 Years and Over

**Registration Requirements:** Service is available 24/7

**Description:** The Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS) provides free, confidential, in-person mental health supports city-wide from mobile crisis worker teams. TCCS supports Toronto residents 16 years of age or older and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a non-police-led, community-based, client focused, and trauma-informed response to mental health crisis calls and wellness checks. TCCS also provides: referrals and connections to other services; resources and information; post-crisis follow-up supports.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Phone** (Within Toronto city limits): 2-1-1

**Phone** (Outside Toronto city limits):  
1-800-836-3238

**TTY:** 1-888-340-1001

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/community-safety-programs/toronto-community-crisis-service/>

# Who Am I Workshop Series, Jane/Finch Centre

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** In collaboration with Jack.org, this initiative focuses on enhancing mental health support for Black and MVP youth and with GIT. This program provides access to direct psychotherapy support.

**Program Dates:** July 8-August 19, 2025 (Tuesdays 5 p.m.-7 p.m.)

**Contact:** David Chin Manager of Youth,  
Equity and Settlement

**Website:** <https://www.janefinchcentre.org>  
**Instagram:** @theespotyouthcentre

# Violence Prevention & Intervention

Every young person deserves to feel safe. This section highlights targeted outreach for youth who may be at risk, as well as community policing initiatives that focus on trust and relationship-building rather than enforcement. These efforts work to prevent violence, offer support, and create a sense of safety for all.

## Programs:

### Anti-Indigenous & Anti-Racism Workshops

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Fosters cultural safety and peer solidarity to reduce identity-based violence and bullying through student-led allyship.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## HalfTime Program, The Arab Community Centre Toronto

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-24 Years

**Description:** HalfTime is a youth-centred, strength-based program to promote the resiliency of racialized and Black youth from the East Mall//West Mall/Capri area and Rexdale/ Kingsway neighborhoods in Toronto. HalfTime aims to tackle youth violence by engaging youth and their families to build youth resilience and self-esteem, while empowering them to make positive choices and increase their access to education and employment opportunities and promote good family support and healthy relationships.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Saira Gillani, Program Manager,  
The Arab Community Centre of Toronto

**Phone:** 416-231-7746

**Email:** [saira@acctonline.ca](mailto:saira@acctonline.ca)

**Website:** <https://acctonline.ca/services-programs/youth-p/halftime/>

## Bike with Us

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** This program in Thorncliffe Park will see youth, initially identified by Community Center staff, enter into a 10-week program where they will learn from and spend time with the same Neighborhood Community Officers. The youth will be gifted a bike by Jumpstart, build the bike and learn to ride the bike throughout the Don Valley with the assistance of the Neighbourhood Community Officers

**Program Dates:** June–August, 2025

Toronto Police Service 53 Division

**Phone:** 416-808-5300

PC Robert Meloche

**Email:** [8291@tps.ca](mailto:8291@tps.ca)

PC Viktor Sarudi

**Email:** [8568@tps.ca](mailto:8568@tps.ca)

## Chester Le Safety Committee

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | All ages

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Space to discuss overall community safety, create strategies to change the perception of safety, and support violence prevention and intervention work by building tenant leadership and safety response capacity.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Andrew Cox, Violence Reduction Program, Toronto Community Housing      **Email:** [andrew.cox@torontohousing.ca](mailto:andrew.cox@torontohousing.ca)

## Footprintz, Youthlink

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 16-24 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in, Pre-Registration for certain sessions and events

**Description:** Our youth-centered programming focuses on violence prevention, intervention, and empowerment. This summer and beyond, we're creating safe spaces where young people can build skills, connect, and thrive. Key activities include: Conflict Resolution and CPI Training, Gun Violence Awareness Event (June 6), weekly Drop-Ins (Wednesdays & Fridays), Pop-Up BBQs, and a Graduation/Beach Day Celebration. Ongoing programs include the Danforth Cooking Program, Gender-Based Violence & Healthy Relationships Workshops, Financial Literacy (4 sessions/year), and Elder Support Groups (6 sessions/year) through the Afrocentric Neighbourhood Group. Every session aims to build leadership, promote wellness, and support youth in shaping safer, stronger communities.

**Program Dates:** Drop-in (Wednesdays and Fridays)

**Website:** [youthlink.ca](http://youthlink.ca)

## Fresh Start Diversion Program, and New Narrative, Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE)

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth and Parents/Caregivers | 12-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Application for case-management programs, Open Enrolment for other programs

**Description:** Fresh Start Diversion Program is a court-diversion initiative offering justice-involved youth structured intervention to avoid criminal records in ways that are culturally responsive and trauma-informed. Participants aged 12 to 17 engage in restorative justice circles, life skills workshops, and community service to promote accountability and positive decision-making. The program provides educational support, career readiness training, and mentorship to help youth successfully reintegrate into school and society. By focusing on personal growth and future opportunities, Fresh Start aims to break the cycle of justice system involvement and set youth on a path to long-term success.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE) **Website:** [www.yaaace.com](http://www.yaaace.com)  
**Instagram:** @yaaace\_si

## Jane and Finch Streets Smarts Conference

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Intentional series of trainings/workshops by individuals with lived experience who have navigated or overcame community violence in Jane and Finch.

**Contact:** Temesgen Ghebremicael, Community Development Officer, City of Toronto **Phone:** 416-206-0439  
**Email:** [Temesgen.Ghebremicael@toronto.ca](mailto:Temesgen.Ghebremicael@toronto.ca)



## K2K Project, Think 2wice

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Application

**Description:** Youth will attend a five-week program that includes pre and post-workshops in the community led by facilitators with lived experience. An in-person prison event will feature an open discussion where inmates share their stories. Participants will also be paired into smaller groups where mentorship will take place.

**Program Dates:** April–September, 2025

**Website:** <https://www.think2.org/programs>

## Legacy, The Neighbourhood Group

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** Conflict mediation and restorative justice training, workshops. Justice supports, access to social rec volunteer opportunities, integrative model of care, physical and mental health support and wrap around services, fundamental and elite basketball training, effecting positive change and discipline through sport

**Program Dates:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

**Website:** <https://tngcommunityto.org/Programs-Services/Programs/MOTIV8-Youth-Violence-Prevention-Program?cat=4153>

## Project Prosper

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Project Prosper supports youth who are incarcerated by connecting them to education and other supports. When youth are released, they are connected to reintegration supports using a strengths-based case management approach. Youth are also connected to peer support workers to support healing and connecting to community resources. The program aims to enhance the support system of youth with criminal backgrounds, facilitate relationships with caring adults, connect youth to support services, and reduce the likelihood of involvement in serious crime.

**Email:** [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca)

**Website:** <https://amadeusz.ca/about/our-programs-and-services>

## Project Reclaim, Bridging Borders with Inmates

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 13-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in, Pre-Registration

**Description:** This initiative is focused on preventing youth violence and provides diverse programming aimed at fostering emotional well-being, resilience, and constructive community involvement. Young people have opportunities to join healing circles led by Indigenous Elders, mindfulness sessions, athletic and recreational activities, and a creative visual arts program offered during the summer months. A Leaders in Training (LIT) camp offered during the summer is designed to nurture leadership qualities among youth participants. Furthermore, our Mobile Recreation Team delivers sports and leisure programs directly to various neighborhoods, increasing accessibility to beneficial and secure activities. Each Wednesday, we facilitate a structured drop-in basketball session, creating a friendly and supportive environment for youth to engage physically and socially. Additionally, we conduct specialized workshops addressing youth mental health and strategies.

**Program Dates:** July 9-August 7, 2025 (Wednesdays)

**Website:** <https://bridgingborderswithin-mates.com>

**Instagram:** @bridgingborderswithinmates

# TO Wards Peace Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** TO Wards Peace (TWP) is a community-led, risk-driven, wraparound intervention program that takes a public health approach to the disruption, intervention, and prevention of community violence. The core of the program focuses on three methods of community-based engagement and intervention. These methods include community-based interventions with the support of individuals with lived experience – referred to as Violence Disruptions Workers (VDWs) that are overseen by local grassroots groups and Lead Agency.

**Program Dates:** All Year

## 1. Northwest (Black Creek)

**Contact:** YAAACE (Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education)

**Website:** <https://yaaace.com/programs/comSafety?tab=twp>

## 2. Northwest (Rexdale)

**Contact:** Rexdale Community Health Centre

**Website:** <https://www.rexdalechc.com/health-care-services-youth-and-family-services-programs/to-wards-peace-youth-and-children-program>

**Contact:** Think 2wice

**Website:** <https://www.think2.org/>

## 3. Scarborough:

**Contact:** Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities:

**Website:** <https://schcontario.ca/programs/community-partner-initiatives/twp/>

**Contact:** IMPACT 'n Communities:

**Website:** <https://www.impact.kelsiegr.com/#impact-top>

**Contact:** The Forgiveness Project

**Website:** <https://www.thefyouproject.com/>

## Tailored Grief and Trauma Workshops, Think 2wice

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Supports are offered to TO Wards Peace program participants and those closest to them that are impacted by gun violence.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Zya Brown, Founder, Think 2wice    **Website:** <https://www.think2.org/>  
**Email:** [zya@think2.org](mailto:zya@think2.org)    **Instagram:** @ think2wiceintl

## IMPACT 'n Communities TO Wards Peace Leadership Workshops

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** The TO Wards Peace Leadership workshops is an intensive life skill series which provides evidence-informed interactive workshops in the areas of anger management, substance abuse prevention, violence intervention, employment and financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Other learned topics build awareness and understanding of active citizenship, social justice and understanding the justice system.

**Contact:** Soul-R Damon, IMPACT 'n Communities  
**Phone:** 416-560-5857

**Email:** [impactncommunities@hotmail.com](mailto:impactncommunities@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** <https://www.impact.kelsiegr.com/>  
**Instagram:** @impact\_n\_communities

## Wear It! T-Shirt Design Drop-in, The Forgiveness Project

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | All ages

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Exploring creativity by exploring art with designing a t-shirt, button or bag to express your journey thus far.

**Program Dates:** June–August, 2025 (Mondays, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.)

**Contact:** Tara Muldoon, Program Lead,  
TO Wards Peace

**Email:** tara@thefyouproject.com

**Website:** <https://www.thefyouproject.com/>

**Instagram:** @projectfword

## Cohorts & Kids Vision Boarding, The Forgiveness Project

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** TO Wards Peace participants and their children/younger siblings | Under 29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** TOwards Peace participants, family members, and community members are invited to drop in to The Forgiveness Project space to utilize a variety of artforms to create vision boards. Each session will have a theme: future, health, community and forgiveness.

**Program Dates:** All Year (First Saturday of every month)

**Contact:** Tara Muldoon, Program Lead,  
TO Wards Peace

**Email:** tara@thefyouproject.com

**Website:** <https://www.thefyouproject.com/>

**Instagram:** @projectfword





## IMPACT 'n Communities TO Wards Peace Leadership Workshops

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** The TO Wards Peace Leadership workshops is an intensive life skill series which provides evidence-informed interactive workshops in the areas of anger management, substance abuse prevention, violence intervention, employment and financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Other learned topics build awareness and understanding of active citizenship, social justice and understanding the justice system.

**Contact:** Soul-R Damon, IMPACT 'n Communities

**Phone:** 416-560-5857

**Email:** [impactncommunities@hotmail.com](mailto:impactncommunities@hotmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.impact.kelsiegr.com/>

**Instagram:** @impact\_n\_communities

# MASTERPeace

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 14-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** The ultimate goal of MASTERPeace is to reduce community violence and foster resilience by leveraging the power of creative arts to evoke change and to empower youth to be the next generation of community leaders to advocate for peace and positivity within their communities. Alumni artists will be given the opportunity to lead funded initiatives for youth, focused on art-driven community resilience and empowerment (e.g., music, lyric writing, performance skills, etc.) within TO Wards Peace sites.

**Program Dates:** April-June, 2025

**Contact:** Anastasia De Lyon, R.I.S.E. Edutainment

**Email:** [anastasia@riseedutainment.com](mailto:anastasia@riseedutainment.com)

**Website:** <https://www.riseedutainment.com/>

# YAAACE Community Service and Employment Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** YAAACE Summer Institute will be hiring identified and appropriate TOWards Peace participants as part of community service and employment programming.

**Program Dates:** June 23 - August 22, 2025

**Contact:** Youth Association for Academics, Athletics, and Character Education (YAAACE)

**Website:** <https://yaaace.com/>

**Instagram:** @yaaace\_si

## TYES Support Services

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** Fernie Youth Services provides rehabilitative, community based service for young adults (ages 18-29) that are in conflict with the law. The TYES-SS program provides case management support to 40-50 youth/young adults annually, through a youth-centred, trauma informed, strength based, holistic and tailored service to meet the individual goals, strengths, needs, circumstances and preferences of each participant.

**Contact:** Fareen Khimji, Fernie /  
Youth Services

**Email:** [fkhimji@ferniefyouth.ca](mailto:fkhimji@ferniefyouth.ca)

**Website:** <https://ferniefyouth.ca/tyes/>

## Community Safety Workshop, Think 2twice

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 10-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** After a critical incident of violence occurs in a neighbourhood in Toronto, workshops are offered to support the children and youth impacted. They can be school- or community- based, depending on the need, age of participants and partners making the request. Content and activities vary based on the incident being addressed. Safety, grief, loss and trauma are themes that are always explored. Resources and referrals are provided based on need/request.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Zya Brown, Founder,  
Think 2twice  
**Email:** [zya@think2.org](mailto:zya@think2.org)

**Website:** <https://www.think2.org/>

**Instagram:** @ think2twiceintl

## Addressing Risk Factors of Violence & Victimization for Black Youth, Uzima Women International

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 15-29 Years

Registration Requirements: Refer to contact for more information

Description: The Addressing Risk Factors of Violence and Victimization for Black Youth project supports youth and families in educational workshops on violence and mental health. Youth will also build a youth-led digital network and digital media library. The youth-led network will create and run social development programs centered around youth from most vulnerable populations and will be a safe space network for youth mentorship with peer leaders and survivors of violence. The digital media library of violence prevention campaign, commercials and recurring events will increase public awareness to reduce violence. The platforms will grow the network's brand to empower youth leadership and generate jobs for youth after the project ends.

Program Dates: All Year

Contact: Jacobet Wambayi, Uzima Women International

Phone: 647-721-6826

Email: [jacobet@uzimawomeninternational.org](mailto:jacobet@uzimawomeninternational.org)

Website: [uzimawomeninternational.org](http://uzimawomeninternational.org)

## Youth Violence Prevention Program, Black Creek Youth Initiative

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 18-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** The Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) program provides trauma-informed weekly group sessions for youth ages 12–29, focusing on healing, leadership, and community empowerment. Core activities include peer-led workshops, mentorship, culturally grounded art and storytelling, and community outings. Youth participate in advocacy and creative initiatives like “Youth Voices for Change,” exploring root causes of violence. The program also offers leadership training, one-on-one case management, and connections to vital resources such as mental health supports, employment, and legal aid. YVP creates a safe space where youth build resilience, strengthen identity, and become agents of change in their community.

**Program Dates:** All Year (Tuesday and Thursdays, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

**Contact:** Destin N Bujang, Black Creek Youth Initiative

**Email:** [info@blackcreekyouthinitiative.com](mailto:info@blackcreekyouthinitiative.com)

**Website:** [www.blackcreekyouthinitiative.com](http://www.blackcreekyouthinitiative.com)



# Support for Parents, Caregivers and Families

Strong families create safer communities. This section provides resources for parents and caregivers looking to better support the youth in their lives. From workshops on youth safety and mental health to resources on positive parenting and conflict resolution, these programs help families foster safe and supportive environments for young people

## Programs:

### Family Well-being Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Parents and/or Caregivers

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-Registration

**Description:** The Family Well-Being Program applies a holistic approach in service to parents, guardians, and/or caregivers that support youth (ages 10 to 29 years old) vulnerable to violence and/or crime to better navigate and connect with services and pro-social opportunities in their communities. The program aims to build family confidence, raise participation levels, build resiliency, and improve youth outcomes through a healthy family and community approach by providing: One-on-one system navigation supports; Group workshops/education sessions, and Engagement opportunities.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**Contact:** Christina Alexiou, Project Manager, Family Wellbeing Pilot Program  
**Email:** Christina.Alexiou@toronto.ca  
**Email:** familywellbeing@toronto.ca

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/home/311-toronto-at-your-service/find-service-information/article/?kb=k-A06g000001xwHsCAI>

## S.E.E.D.S Eco-based Therapy

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 12-21 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

**Description:** Adapted S.E.E.D.S summer program with therapy and parent celebration. Supports youth and caregivers to heal together, build resilience, and prevent emotional dysregulation that can lead to violence.

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

For More Information: Toronto District School Board

Website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## Stepping Up: Transition to Grade 9

Eligibility (Audience/Age): Youth | 14-15 Years

Registration Requirements: By Referral

**Description:** Grade 9 transition group with basic needs and parent engagement (20–30 students). Wraparound care addresses the root causes of violence—disconnection, stress, and unmet needs—by fostering stability and trust.

Program Dates: July-August, 2025

For More Information: Toronto District School Board

Website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

# Virtual Family Transformation: Conflict Resolution

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth, Parents and Caregivers | 12-21 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Equips caregivers to de-escalate tensions, recognize signs of distress, and support youth in resolving conflicts without harm

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**For More Information:** Toronto District School Board

**Website:** <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Contact-Us>

## We Are Hear for You

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Parents / caregivers

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** Focuses on violence prevention and intervention by allowing parents and caregivers to meet with Neighborhood Officers in a private setting at the same time every week in a facility that has a wide range of uses. The purpose of this program is to allow caregivers to discuss challenges or concerns that the caregivers have regarding their children either being involved in criminal activity or simply displaying behavior that the parents are concerned about.

**Program Dates:** May-September, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 53

**Phone:** 416-808-5300

**PC Robert Meloche**

**Email:** 8291@tps.ca

**PC Viktor Sarudi**

**Email:** 8568@tps.ca

# Grants and Funding Opportunities

Got an idea that could make a difference? Whether you are looking to start a community project, launch a youth-led initiative, or expand a local safety program, this section connects you with grants and funding opportunities. Investing in youth-led solutions builds a safer, more innovative future for everyone.

## Programs:

### Community Crisis Response Fund

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Parents and/or Caregivers

**Eligibility:** Community residents impacted by violence / All Ages / Applications related to a critical incident. See website for more information.

**Grant Dates:** Ongoing

**Funding Opportunity:** Up to \$5000 each

**Description:** The Community Crisis Response Fund (CCRF) provides one-time financial assistance for projects that address a specific violent incident/crisis in a community (local neighbourhood or community of common bond) and contribute to community capacity building and/or healing.

**Email:** CCRF@toronto.ca

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/community/community-funding/community-crisis-response-fund/>

## Identify 'N Impact Grant Program

**Eligibility:** Youth-led groups with at least three members between the ages of 15 and 29. See website for more information.

**Grant Dates:** Current activities will run through the summer; the 2025 grant call will start in the summer or very early fall

**Funding Opportunity:** Up to \$17,000 each

**Description:** The purpose of the Identify 'N Impact grant program is to help promote youth engagement and community safety in the City of Toronto; support youth to turn ideas into action; support emerging (new, small, grassroots) youth-led groups and collaborative youth-led networks; and motivate and encourage MVP youth to become involved in their communities.

**Email:** [communityfunding@toronto.ca](mailto:communityfunding@toronto.ca)

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/get-involved/community/community-funding/identify-n-impact-grant-program/>

## Summer Safety Grant

**Eligibility:** Community residents impacted by violence. See contact for more information.

**Grant Dates:** Grant closes March 10, 2025 - Projects run from May 1 to September 30, 2025

**Funding Opportunity:** Up to \$20,000 each

**Description:** The Summer Safety Grant offers support to grassroots groups to develop and implement projects and initiatives that promote community safety, well-being, and reduction of community violence during the summer months. Grassroots groups play a key role in supporting equity-deserving populations as many have existing relationships with the community and have already established the trust required to do this important work. Priority will be given to projects that address issues that are directly related to the contributing factors of violence in their community. Some examples of contributing factors or trends of violence have been associated to violence include but are not limited to social media use/misuse, cross-community conflict, organized crime and gang involvement.

**Email:** [communityfunding@toronto.ca](mailto:communityfunding@toronto.ca)





# Safer Spaces

Safe spaces are key to strong communities. This section features youth hubs, drop-in programs, and other spaces where young people can gather, create, and connect in a safe and supportive environment. When youth have positive spaces to express themselves and build connections, communities flourish.

## Programs:

### Enhanced Youth Spaces, Parks and Recreation, City of Toronto

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** Enhanced Youth Spaces provide safe spaces where youth can grow as individuals, connect to role models and peers, and access the programs and resources they need to succeed. They build their connection to supportive peers and adults, build life, social, and employment-readiness skills, and increase their civic and community engagement. The spaces are supported by dedicated Youth Recreation Programmers and Youth Outreach Workers. Free programs at the spaces include photography, barbering and hairstyling, yoga, nail art, DJing and music recording. Programming is dependent based on location. The spaces are supported by dedicated Youth Recreation Programmers and Youth Outreach Workers.

**Program Dates:** All Year (Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

Some Enhanced Youth Space hours of operation may differ from the 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. timeframe. Contact your local Enhanced Youth Space staff for more information.

**Website:** <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/program-activities/>

# iHelp Centre, Toronto Community Housing

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 15 Years and Over

**Registration Requirements:** Pre-registration, Drop in

**Description:** TCHC provides spaces for grassroots groups and agencies to implement activities in communities.

**Program Dates:** May-August, 2025

**Contact:** Diandra Greaves, Community Services Coordinator, Toronto Community Housing

**Email:** [Diandra.Greaves@torontohousing.ca](mailto:Diandra.Greaves@torontohousing.ca)

## Playing for Success

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 8 to 14 Years

**Registration Requirements:** By Referral

**Description:** Youth from communities in the Black Creek Neighbourhood will be given a safe place to engage with their peers and build relationships with Neighbourhood Community Officers. The initiative will offer access to video games, alongside guest speakers, safety tips and resources.

**Program Dates:** May-June, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 31  
**Phone:** 416-808-3100

**Sergeant Fillipin**  
**Phone:** 416- 209-6082  
**Sergeant Nelson Santizo**  
**Phone:** 416- 669-1400

## Regular Youth Spaces, Parks and Recreation, City of Toronto

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** Regular Youth Spaces have youth-centric programming during the week at different times. They might not be available every day of the week, so make sure to check ahead.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**For More Information:** Each Regular Youth Space location has their own specific contact. Please refer to the website for specific contact information: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/program-activities/youth-recreation/>

## School's Out, Rec's In

**Eligibility:** Youth 13-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop in

**Description:** School's Out, Rec's In Program offers free, drop-in sports programming for youth ages 13-17 three times per week, for three hours per session, over a seven-week period during the summer. Programming will take place across 46 school locations, selected based on their alignment with SafeTO Zones and Neighbourhood Improvement Area (NIA) designation. The program is in partnership with Social Development (SD), the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and the French School Board.

**Email:** [Jermeen.Baddour@toronto.ca](mailto:Jermeen.Baddour@toronto.ca)

**Phone Number:** +1 (647) 472- 1449

## Summer Safe Play

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | All ages

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment

**Description:** This initiative creates consistent safe spaces in identified priority neighbourhoods where children and youth are free to engage in recreational activities with positive social interactions, while simultaneously preventing gun and gang-related activities, through high visibility uniformed police presence and positive community engagement.

**Program Dates:** July-August, 2025

**Contact:** Toronto Police Division 31

**Phone:** 416-808-3100

Sergeant Fillipin

**Phone:** 416- 209-6082

Sergeant Nelson Santizo

**Phone:** 416- 669-1400

Staff Sergeant Peter Wallace

**Phone:** 647- 231-7663

**Instagram:** @tps31nco\_unite

## Youth Drop-in Program

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-18 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Open Enrolment for residents of Flemingdon Park

**Description:** This program in collaboration with Engaged Communities offers a safe, welcoming and engaging space for youth to connect, unwind and participate in a variety of activities. Open during afterschool hours, the program provides access to recreational games, homework support and leadership-building workshops

**Program Dates:** May-December, 2025

**Contact:** Omar Khan, Engaged Communities

**Phone:** 647-773-4112



## Youth Hubs, Toronto Public Library

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 13-17 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Drop-in

**Description:** Toronto Public Library offers a welcoming year-round drop-in service for teens at 28 locations across the city. Multi-faceted offerings include a dedicated library space and staff, programs and activities, school support, access to technology and nutritious snacks. The service aims to increase academic success; support skills development, technological proficiency and self-directed learning; facilitate social connections; and increase awareness of TPL's extensive collections and responsive services. Youth Hubs allow teens to build relationships with caring staff and peers, and explore their identities and future possibilities.

**Program Dates:** All Year (Monday to Friday, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) Check Holiday Hours for closures on or near public holidays.

**For More Information:** Youth Hubs: Toronto Public Library

**Website:** [www.tpl.ca/youthhubs](http://www.tpl.ca/youthhubs)

## Youth Outreach Workers, Parks and Recreation, City of Toronto

**Eligibility (Audience/Age):** Youth | 12-29 Years

**Registration Requirements:** Refer to website for more information.

**Description:** Youth Outreach Workers (YOWs) support youth to grow as individuals, connect to role models and peers, and access the programs and resources they need to succeed. YOWs build their connection to supportive peers and adults, build life, social, and employment-readiness skills, and increase their civic and community engagement.

**Program Dates:** All Year

**For More Information:** YOWs are available at 31 locations across the City. Please refer to the website for location information and contact information: <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-recreation/program-activities/youth-recreation/>





Summer is the perfect time to connect, celebrate, and build stronger communities! Whether you are organizing a block party, a youth gathering, a cultural celebration, or a community safety event, this guide offers tips and considerations to help you navigate the process smoothly.





## Planning A Local Event

Before you start, ask yourself:

☐

What is the goal of this event? (Fun, awareness, fundraising, engagement?)

☐

Who is your audience? (Youth, families, the whole neighborhood?)

☐

What space do you need? (Park, community centre, closed street?)

☐

Do you need partnerships and/or funding? (Local businesses, City agencies, non-profits?)

☐

How will you make the event enjoyable and accessible for everyone? (Accessible spaces, low or no cost activities, multiple languages?)





# Permits & Approvals

Some events may require permits from the City. Event organizers are encouraged to [visit the City's website](#) to assist with planning your special event in Toronto and link to relevant contacts, checklists, required forms and guides.





### Example 1:

A group of residents is organizing a local block party to get to know their neighbours. They wish to close a side street, put up some inflatable bouncy castles, have a BBQ, and perhaps invite police and fire to provide community information.



---

1

Obtain a Transportation – [Temporary Street Closure Permit](#)

- Create a site map of the proposed street and activities for submission with your application
- If required by Toronto Transportation, submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for closure that may impact vehicular traffic or building access;
- Submit an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), which is required by the City's Office of Emergency Management.
- Provide a Certificate of Insurance to facilitate the Street Closure

---

2

Notify impacted residents and business of the street closure

- Provide potential street closure signs and road barricades, depending on the nature of the street

---

3

Complete an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and submit the information using the [Toronto Emergency Management online portal](#)

---

4

Submit a [Public Health Temporary Food Establishment Package](#)

- Ensure BBQs are operated within safety standards

---

5

Contact your local Toronto Police Division – Community Response Unit or Neighbourhood Community Office about an appearance.

- Contact the Toronto Police Paid Duty office to book any Paid Duty officers that may be required for road closures.
- Note: Opening a new client account usually requires a minimum of 2 weeks, and full payment must be made in advance.
- Don't know your neighbourhood?
- Find it here: <https://www.tps.ca/my-neighbourhood/>



## Example 2:

A local soccer club wishes to host a tournament and end of season party in their local park. They wish to erect a small stage for entertainment and serve food. Based on this information, the group would be required to:

---

1

**Obtain a Parks & Recreation – Special Events Permit for a City of Toronto Park**

- Create a site map of the park, noting activities and structures, for submission with your application
- Potentially apply for a Building Permit if tent is over 60 sqm/600 sqf
- Provide a Certificate of Insurance to facilitate the Parks & Recreation permit and Toronto Building Services Permit

---

2

Contact the Toronto Police Paid Duty office once you have received your Special Event Permit and consulted with Parks and Recreation to book any Paid Duty officers that may be required. Be sure to also contact your local Toronto Police Division for their awareness.

---

3

If using amplified sound, contact Municipal Licensing and Standards and apply for a Noise By-law exemption (if required, based on hours of operations)

---

4

**Submit a Public Health Temporary Food Establishment Application Organizers & Vendor Packages**

- Ensure BBQs are operated within safety standards
  - Develop a Solid Waste Management Plan for your event
- 

For general questions, please contact Event Support at [eventsupport@toronto.ca](mailto:eventsupport@toronto.ca) or 416-395-0490. Tip: Start your permit applications early! Some approvals take a few weeks.





### Example 3:

A group of TCHC residents are planning to celebrate their neighbour's birthday. They wish to invite everyone to their building's community room for cake and refreshments. Based on this information, the group would be required to:

---

1

Complete and submit the [“One-Time Use of Space Application” Form](#)

---

2

Follow all instructions outlined on the “One-Time Use of Space Application” Form on the day of your event.

---

For questions about one-time use of space for community events, please contact the Use of Space team by emailing [useofspace@torontohousing.ca](mailto:useofspace@torontohousing.ca) or calling 416-981-5051.





# Safety Planning

Ensuring a safe environment is key to a successful event. It is important to understand the policy and procedures for the setting that your event is in, including the relevant fire safety and emergency protocols.

The Toronto Police Service can also be a resource for community safety planning and advice. To find and contact your local police division, visit: [tps.ca/my-neighbourhood](https://tps.ca/my-neighbourhood)

For help connecting to local community organizations, safety networks, resources and funding opportunities, reach out to the City of Toronto's [Community Development Officers](#) to support your planning and ensure your summer gatherings are safe and successful.