



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Groups Receive \$1.7 million for Homelessness Programs in Toronto

TORONTO, ONTARIO — Close to \$1.7 million in Government of Canada funding through the National Homelessness Initiative will go to 33 community-based organizations that deal with homelessness in Toronto. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Member of Parliament for St. Paul's, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, made the announcement today at Wychwood Open Door Drop-In Centre, one of the projects to benefit from this funding.

“I am very pleased that we are able to support the groups and organizations who work directly with people who are homeless in Toronto and whose efforts strengthen our communities,” said Dr. Bennett. “By working with our partners in the community and other levels of government we are helping to address local needs, which in turn feeds into our national effort to combat homelessness across Canada. Together we are making a difference.”

“Today’s funding for organizations all across the City of Toronto, including our neighbour Wychwood Open Door, represents just how we are providing the most vulnerable people with ways to improve their lives,” said Mr. Joe Mihevc. “When our governments and communities work hand in hand, we can effect change.”

Initiatives being funded include programs and services, as well as community planning and research projects to enhance existing services for people who are homeless in Toronto. The funds will be used for a variety of purposes, including mentoring programs, public education, and training initiatives.

Government of Canada funding for these projects is being allocated through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's \$753 million National Homelessness Initiative. Toronto will receive \$53 million over three years under the SCPI for service programs and capital projects to build transitional housing and emergency shelters. The City of Toronto is implementing its allocation of SCPI funding through its Community Plan for Homelessness, which was developed in consultation with local community-based agencies.

The City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario share funding for Toronto's \$97.5 million emergency hostel system. In addition, the two levels of government participate in the City of Toronto's Homeless Initiatives Fund with the City and Province contributing \$2.4 and \$4.5 million respectively.

Government of Canada funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the December 2001 federal Budget and is built into the existing financial framework.

For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit our web site at: www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness

See attached backgrounder for description of projects.

For more information, please contact:

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BACKGROUNDER
Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative
APPROVED PROJECTS
Homeless Programs and Services/Community Planning and Research

Albion Neighbourhood Services
1530 Albion Rd, Suite 205, Etobicoke
Etobicoke North

Funding: \$70,265

Rexdale Transitional Housing for Youth Pre-development Initiative: Preliminary work to secure the capital funding required to develop a transitional housing project for youth in Etobicoke. This will involve six main activities including (a) needs assessment; (b) community education campaign to build community support for transitional housing in Rexdale; (c) locating a project site; (d) creating a development plan for the project; (e) completing a service plan, and (f) developing a fund raising strategy.

Albion Neighbourhood Services provides a number of services including information and referral, case management, an income tax clinic, a community access program, immigrant settlement services and advocacy.

Ernestine's Women's Shelter
Box 141, Station B, Rexdale
Etobicoke North

Funding: \$20,270

Housing Stability Research: Provide focus groups for ex-residents of Ernestine's Women's Shelter to identify families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; bridge gaps in service and improve existing services at the shelter.

Ernestine's Women's Shelter Services provides an emergency shelter for assaulted women and their children, counselling, crisis intervention, a children's program, housing search assistance and referrals to community services for women facing imminent homelessness.

Daily Bread Food Bank
839 Oxford Street, Toronto
Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Funding: \$88,000

Greater Toronto's Annual Audit: Develop a public education strategy that informs the public and policy makers of the conditions placing low-income households at risk of homelessness through survey analysis and policy recommendations.

Daily Bread Food Bank collects, sorts, stores and distributes food donations to agencies and organizations throughout the GTA and provides advocacy for clients, research, public education on hunger issues and monitoring/training of member agencies. The Parkdale Centre for Active Resources (CFAR), an organization initiated by the Daily Bread Food Bank, provides outreach and support to the Tibetan community.

Lakeshore Area Multiservice Project (LAMP)
185 Fifth St, Toronto
Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Funding: \$36,108

More than a Mat: Real Housing: Increase awareness about the issues of homelessness and mobilize residents into action through three strategies; public education, leadership development and a community strategic planning day.

Lakeshore Area Multiservice Project is a community health and social service centre. Services include chiropody, occupational health, health promotion, speech and language classes for children 2-5 years old, a youth drop-in centre, a family centre, literacy tutoring, a food bank, settlement support services and community information.

COTA: Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Mental Health Services
700 Lawrence Avenue West, Suite 362, Toronto
Eglinton-Lawrence

Funding: \$29,892

Safe and Sound - Leaving Homelessness Behind: Safe and Sound helps people with serious mental illness leave homelessness behind. Persons wanting to leave the streets and ravines are given access to "no hassle" accommodation by providing a "Safe Room" which also provides access to services for isolated homeless individuals.

COTA: Comprehensive Rehabilitation & Mental Health Services provides a range of community based mental health, rehabilitation and developmental services for all ages across the City. The Mental Health Program includes occupational therapy, case management, network therapy, site support and court support services for people with mental health issues. Services for homeless people include housing and Hostel Outreach Program (case management for homeless men).

Out of the Cold Resource Centre Inc.
Box 612, Station F, Toronto
Eglinton-Lawrence

Funding: \$46,948

The Story of Out of the Cold: This project will document the history of the Out of the Cold program from its inception in 1986 so that important lessons learned along the way can be used to improve existing programs, help communities develop new ones, and help generate innovative responses to homelessness.

The Out of the Cold Resource Centre was formed in 1995 as the education, communication and training centre to support Out of the Cold Inc. The Out of the Cold Resource Centre has helped develop several ongoing shelters.

Accommodation Information and Support
168 Bathurst Street, Suite #201, Toronto
Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$98,622

Dream Team: The Dream Team project objective is "to build a foundation for a maturing and growing organization and movement." Activities include building the leadership capacity for the Boards for Mental Health Housing Services and Dream Team activities; developing a communications strategy; building a foundation for organizational sustainability; and promoting and supporting the replication of other groups similar to the Dream Team.

Accommodation Information and Support provides permanent affordable supportive housing for adults 16 years and older who have serious mental health issues. Services include 104 units of supportive housing in six locations; 60 units are for people with mental health issues who have been homeless.

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)
517 College St, Suite 315, Toronto
Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$74,268

Housing Access Training Initiative: Conduct action research to collect, sort and compile relevant information and produce a user friendly resource book on housing law and homelessness prevention. This resource book will be used by practitioners working in agencies that help homeless or at risk people access housing.

CERA assists individuals facing discrimination in maintaining or accessing housing, mediates with landlords to change discriminatory rental practices, conducts research on housing and human rights issues and provides public education towards removal of barriers facing disadvantaged groups in housing.

Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre
854 Bloor St W, Toronto
Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$69,345

Building Our Strengths: To facilitate the integration of a 50-bed men's hostel and a 20 unit transitional housing project within the community surrounding the site of 973 Lansdowne Avenue. The main activities include collaboration with community residents and stakeholders, inter-organizational planning, public consultation, education, and community capacity building.

Christie-Ossington Neighbourhood Centre works with local residents including people who are homeless. Services include food/employment programs and programs for children/youth. Services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include a 15-bed shelter for homeless people and a Drop-in program with meals and supports.

Sistering
523 College St, Toronto
Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$27,116

Building Competency: Building Competency is a series of training workshops designed to give staff and participants the skills to effectively deal with critical issues and to help create a safe environment for the diverse communities of women that Sistering serves. A Building Competency workbook will be developed and made available to other service providers as a training tool.

Sistering works with women 16 years and older who are homeless, socially isolated or have low income. Services include a Drop-in Centre and an outreach program where staff visit rooming and boarding houses to assist individuals who cannot travel to the drop-in centre.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
1001 Queen Street West, Toronto
Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$76,668

Housing Stability Benchmarking Study & Workshops: Research/educational project based on a model of housing stability and a benchmark evaluation procedure developed by the Community Support and Research Unit (CSRU) at the CAMH. Phase I provides benchmark practices in housing and support for people with serious, persistent mental illness who are at risk of homelessness in the GTA. In Phase II

CSRU will conduct educational workshops with housing and support service providers and other stakeholders in Toronto based upon the findings from work in Phase I.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) operates emergency and ongoing mental health/addictions treatment programs through four divisions: Addiction Research, Clarke, Donwood and Queen Street Mental Health Centre. Several units of the Centre provide services or research that respond to homeless/housing and mental health/addiction issues including Aboriginal Services, Community Support and Research Unit and Shared Care.

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

1001 Queen St W, Toronto

Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$53,000

Elder Support (Aboriginal Services Homeless Initiatives in Toronto): An Aboriginal Elder will provide on- and off-site teaching and traditional/healing counselling to Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges. This person will participate in community events, conferences, workshops and other educational programming opportunities within the community and CAMH. This project will encourage participants to enter treatment services and eventually secure stable housing with the assistance of homelessness initiatives through Aboriginal Services at CAMH.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) operates emergency and ongoing mental health/addictions treatment programs through four divisions: Addiction Research, Clarke, Donwood and Queen Street Mental Health Centre.

Toronto Windfall Clothing Support Service

530 Adelaide St W., Suite 404, Toronto

Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$25,000

Windfall Clothing Unhampered: Windfall Clothing Unhampered will promote collaboration and foster partnerships among service providers to co-ordinate the provision of basic necessities to people who are at high risk or homeless in Toronto. Windfall's strategic planning will ensure that the provision of new clothing to social service agencies in Toronto maximizes scarce resources.

Toronto Windfall Clothing Support Service collects and distributes surplus clothing from manufacturers and retailers to agencies that work with homeless and low-income people across the City.

University of Toronto

455 Spadina Ave, Suite 426, Toronto

Trinity-Spadina

Funding: \$64,953

The Multidimensional Impacts of Adequate Housing: This research seeks to identify the impact that obtaining good quality, adequate housing can have on previously inadequately housed and homeless people. Research will focus on the changes that occur over the first year of occupancy compared to the year prior to moving in, including pattern of service use (e.g., medical, food, drop-in, support services), health status (physical and mental, substance use), social support and community engagement, residential stability and housing satisfaction, and income stability (employment, social assistance, and pensions).

Located at the University of Toronto, the Centre for Urban Studies co-ordinates and disseminates multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on urban issues including housing and homelessness.

Wychwood Open Door Drop In-Centre
729 St. Clair Ave, W, Toronto
St. Paul's

Funding: \$14,423

Training for Board Members: Train one board and two staff members so they can receive Hostel Standards Training Certification and a Certificate in Service Provision to the Homeless. This funding will also enable staff to participate in housing forums, meetings of West End Social Services, York and Toronto committees on homelessness.

Wychwood Open Door Drop In-Centre works with socially isolated people and psychiatric consumer survivors. Services include a Drop-in centre, meals and information/referrals.

519 Church St Community Centre
519 Church St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$67,200

The East End Drop-in Network: Improve the coordination of services in the drop-in sector in the east side of the City by developing a network of East End drop-in agencies and provide training for staff and volunteers in these agencies.

519 Church St Community Centre works with individuals and families, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transexual and transgendered people. Services include: family supports, summer camp, transgendered program, anti-hate/victim assistance program, and referrals. Services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include the Sunday Drop-in.

Homes First Society
95 Wellesley St E, 3rd floor, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$33,654

Housing-Related Crisis Response Project: The objective is to minimize the effects of on-site crisis by providing immediate and appropriate support to tenants and staff. Goals include the identification of specific needs, the research of existing crisis supports, creation of appropriate training materials, the development and delivery of training programs, and the development and implementation of organizational protocol. Outcomes of this project will be shared with other providers of non-profit supportive housing.

Homes First Society works with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services include supportive housing with shared accommodations and self-contained units, a 15-bed hostel for chronically homeless women and a range of other supports.

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto
191 Gerrard Street E, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$18,000

Kwe Waak - Anduhyatt (where women live): Provide staff training in dealing with crisis intervention and suicide prevention. NWRC will also provide a survival card or pamphlet in three languages to highlight services for Native women.

Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto provides ongoing support to Aboriginal women across the City of Toronto. Services include circles, crisis counselling, information and referral, advocacy, urban orientation, job preparation and a tutoring and homework club. Services for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include clothing, showers, food programs and help with housing issues.

Ryerson University
350 Victoria St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$77,450

Developing Affordable Housing Indicators: Provide technical assistance to identify and monitor housing needs. This will involve a review of methodologies to determine affordable housing needs, recommend options for use by the City, and recommendations for enhanced ongoing data collection and needs reporting.

The School of Urban and Regional Planning, a department of Ryerson University, conducts research and policy analysis on issues such as homelessness and affordable housing within the City of Toronto.

St. Michael's Hospital
30 Bond St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$150,000

Seaton House Street to Community Shelter-Hospital (SHIFE): Goal is to break the cycle between shelter, hospital and street through improved coordination and integration of shelter and hospital harm reduction, infirmary, community care referral, discharge planning, and continuity of care programs between Seaton House and St. Michael's Hospital. The Project will produce a process and outcomes based evaluation of the hospital-shelter integration looking at client satisfaction, discharge planning, appropriate referral and continuity of care.

St. Michael's Hospital provides a range of health care services including the Inner City Health Program and the Rotary Centre.

Youthlink
34 Huntley St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$23,150

Action Mentors for Immigrants: The project will address the adjustment issues faced by immigrant and refugee youth who live in the Family Residence Shelter through the development of peer mentors and the production of resource material.

Youthlink works with youth ages 14-21 and their families. Services include a residential treatment home for young women, academic and life skills program and Big Sister Thrift Shop. Services for youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include the Street Involved Youth Program, a program to stabilize the lives of street-involved youth, and Youthlink Inner City, an outreach and resource centre for homeless youth.

Good Shepherd Refuge Social Ministries
412 Queen St E, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$54,509

People Accessing Shelter and Services: Designed to identify and address the barriers that inhibit homeless individuals from accessing services that respond to their specific needs, this project will collect data which will be analyzed and shared with other service providers. This research will help develop strategies to improve access to its services and those of other providers, fill gaps and limit overlap of services within the community. Through this project, Good Shepherd Centre expects to develop a strategy for the provision of optimal service for homeless individuals attending its existing drop-in program.

Good Shepherd Refuge Social Ministries works with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Services include a drop-in centre for homeless people, a shelter for men, a daily free meal program, clothing distribution, crisis intervention counselling, two non-profit housing complexes for people living with HIV/AIDS and one for frail, elderly men.

Open Door Centre & Rooms Registry Inc.
315 Dundas St E, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$62,000

Asset Mapping: Building Capacity at Open Door: The basic premise of this proposal is that the most important assets of the Open Door Centre are the 300 clients who drop in on a daily basis. Using a community economic development model, the project will collect detailed information on the assets of all of its clients to help them deal with unemployment, exclusion and marginality in society, low self-esteem and poor quality of life.

Open Door Centre & Rooms Registry Inc. works with people who are unemployed, homeless and mentally or physically disabled. Services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include a Drop-in Centre and a Rooms Registry service.

Street Haven at the Crossroads
87 Pembroke St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$41,475

Computer Literacy Access: Provide homeless women in downtown Toronto with basic computer skills and facilitate access to computers for personal advocacy and employment search purposes. The project will open Street Haven's computer lab for 25 hours per week. Also, tools will be developed to train committed volunteers to take over support of the lab when funding ends in March 2003.

Street Haven at the Crossroads works with homeless women. Services include a 22-bed emergency shelter; Joubert House, a long-term house for women with psychiatric disabilities; supportive housing in two locations; the Addiction Case Management Program; and Learning and Drop-In Centres.

Street Haven at the Crossroads
87 Pembroke St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$19,019

Training and Support: To provide a comprehensive training program for staff, volunteers and board members.

Street Haven at the Crossroads works with homeless women. Services include a 22-bed emergency shelter; Joubert House, a long-term house for women with psychiatric disabilities; supportive housing in two locations; the Addiction Case Management Program; and Learning and Drop-In Centres.

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
439 Dundas Street E, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$26,000

Rekindling the Flame: Rekindling the spirit and values of First Nations people in the GTA by bringing in traditional resource people to speak on the Creation Story and the Great Law. Teaching First Nations history and roles, and guides for interacting with families and community as Aboriginal people.

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre works with Aboriginal and homeless people. Services include a 24-hour Drop-in centre, meals, information and referral, counselling, a clothing bank, employment assistance, a legal clinic and family support.

United Way of Greater Toronto
26 Wellington St E, 11th Floor, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$66,960

Harm Reduction Research Project: This action research project will provide learning and evaluation supports and opportunities for information exchange and networking among agencies that provide harm reduction services. A research report will document the learnings, effective practices and challenges of incorporating harm reduction strategies into agency programs and services.

The United Way raises and distributes funds to a City-wide network of 200 social service agencies, mobilizes voluntary resources and conducts research and education regarding social need and community services in Toronto.

Yonge Street Mission
381 Yonge St, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$18,640

Evergreen Expansion-Pilot Project: To expand current drop-in centre hours from five days to seven days a week. Development of a community awareness "zine" (independent magazine) with the help of street youth. Conditional on similar training not being available elsewhere free of charge.

Yonge Street Mission works with people who are homeless and/or living in poverty. Services include daycare, supportive housing, programs for children, youth, adults and seniors, life skills training, drop-in day centres, economic development initiatives, medical and dental services and health prevention and education. Sites include the Christian Community Centre, a multiservice centre; Genesis Place Housing; Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, a drop-in centre; TD Securities Computer Literacy Centre and the Double Take Clothing Store.

Yonge Street Mission
270 Gerrard Street East, Toronto
Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Funding: \$9,840

Staff Training: Training for staff serving youth to enhance skills. Two staff will receive Life Skills Coach Certification. Courses in Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training will be provided to staff and volunteers.

Yonge Street Mission works with people who are homeless and/or living in poverty. Services include daycare, supportive housing, programs for children, youth, adults and seniors, life skills training, drop-in day centres, economic development initiatives, medical and dental services and health prevention and education. Sites include the Christian Community Centre, a multiservice centre; Genesis Place Housing; Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, a drop-in centre; TD Securities Computer Literacy Centre and the Double Take Clothing Store.

FCJ Hamilton House Refugee Project
83 Hamilton St., Toronto
Toronto-Danforth

Funding: \$51,400

Research, Training and Capacity Building: The project involves interviewing past clients in order to write an "effective practices" manual on refugee settlement addressing issues related to homeless refugee claimants. The project will be carried out in collaboration with other shelters. Other objectives include delivering training workshops to community agencies; developing a "Refugee Helping Refugee" program in FCJ Hamilton House shelters; and strengthening the capacity of the organization by increasing the volunteer base.

FCJ Hamilton House Refugee Project assists refugees in the City of Toronto with issues such as poverty, lack of resources, isolation and discrimination. Services include a shelter for women and children, settlement services, interpretation, womens' programs and economic development programs.

Pape Adolescent Resource Centre
469 Pape Ave, Toronto
Toronto-Danforth

Funding: \$48,000

Home Free: An Apartment/Community for Former Youth in Care: The development of a needs assessment model and plan of action related to the implementation of housing for former Crown Wards.

Pape Adolescent Resource Centre is a joint program of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto for youth 15 years and older. Services include counselling on education/employment, literacy, sexuality, substance use and recreational activities. Services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness include housing and assistance with housing.

Eva's Initiatives
360 Lesmill Rd, Toronto
Don Valley East

Funding: \$76,421

Community Partnership Development and Public Education: This project will conduct public education and partnership development in order to create a more supportive community for homeless youth, and to reduce barriers to access to services for substance-using homeless youth. The project will develop partnerships with core service providers and stakeholders, including schools, recreation centres, the police and security forces, and private businesses.

Eva's Initiatives, formerly known as North York Emergency Youth Shelter and Eva's Place operates three shelters and provides support for homeless youth. Facilities and services include Eva's Place, a 32-bed co-educational shelter for youth ages 16-21 years; Eva's Satellite, a 40-bed co-educational harm reduction emergency shelter for youth ages 16-24 years; and Eva's Phoenix, a 50-bed co-educational transitional shelter.

Scarborough Housing Help Centre
2500 Lawrence Avenue East, Unit 204, Scarborough
Scarborough Centre

Funding: \$51,450

Community Workshops on Homelessness in Scarborough: With the input of those who are homeless and those who work with homeless people, design and deliver workshops on homelessness resources available at various sites in Scarborough. Develop resource and referral tools to be distributed at workshops for agencies working with homeless people. Develop a template for various workshop presentations so they can be delivered after the end of the funding period.

Scarborough Housing Help Centre works with low-income and homeless people who need assistance with housing. Scarborough Housing Help Centre, which was formerly trustee by Agincourt Community Services, became fully incorporated in 2001.

Total Funding :

\$ 1,690,046