

Community Program Grants – Our Aim and Approach

Fighting local poverty.

We love where we live, but poverty is hurting our community. There are more people living in poverty in the GTA than anywhere else in Canada. That means we're not harnessing all the potential of our community, not living up to the promise of an inclusive GTA, and ultimately hurting our economy's bottom line. We believe that every person in every community deserves the opportunities, access and connections they need to build a good life - regardless of their income, the neighbourhood they live in, or their social identity.



Some of the issues underlying poverty in our region include an increasingly precarious labour market, a lack of affordable housing and neighbourhood infrastructure, and systemic racism and discrimination in the economy and everyday life, all of which make escaping poverty very difficult. We know that in Peel, Toronto and York Region, Indigenous, Black or other equity-deserving groups are disproportionately impacted by poverty, and many of whom are living in low-income neighbourhoods. To combat poverty, inequality and racism, we need to work with neighbourhoods most affected by it, and address barriers for people most impacted by it.

We fight local poverty by supporting the people impacted by it and the neighbourhoods they live in. And we do it by building and strengthening a network of agencies that is the GTA's social safety net.

Poverty shows up geographically. We do too.

People experiencing poverty are increasingly concentrated in neighbourhoods and geographic areas across our region – those located outside of the downtown core that lack critical social infrastructure and which are poorly served by transit. Healthy places boast a rich mixture of cultures of residents, safe streets, abundant green space, and social infrastructure of community services and programs. But many areas in our region do not offer these assets.



We can't fight poverty without advancing equity.

We know that poverty impacts some groups more than others. Young people, Indigenous people, racialized people, immigrants, women, and those with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and face significant barriers to getting out of poverty. Indigenous and Black people specifically have faced historical disadvantage whose impacts continue to be felt today.



Solving poverty is complex.

To meet urgent needs and change the systems that enable poverty, we focus our work in 13 different, yet interconnected issue areas:

1. Aging in Community
2. Community Building
3. Early Learning and Parenting
4. Food Security
5. Gender-Based, Intimate Partner and Family Violence
6. Housing and Homelessness
7. Inclusive Employment
8. Living Independently
9. Mental Health and Addictions
10. Middle Years
11. Settlement
12. Youth Development
13. Social & Systems Change



For the 2024 funding call for the Community Program Grant (CPG) Stream, UWGT is only accepting applications under the Housing and Homelessness and Inclusive Employment issues areas, as outlined in the Request for Proposals for these grants.