

United Way's Community Priorities

There's an issue

Every day, people across Peel, Toronto and York Region struggle to build better lives for themselves and their families. These challenges are fuelled by serious social and economic barriers including poverty, youth unemployment and community decline, among others, making it remarkably difficult to get ahead.

1 in 5 people in Toronto live in poverty. In York Region, it's 1 in 7.

62% of Toronto food bank clients reported having a disability or serious illness in 2017.

1 in 5 Canadians live with a mental illness.

43% of workers in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area between the ages of 25-64 were working in some degree of precarious employment in 2015.

Roughly 40% of seniors living alone in Peel Region are living in poverty.

There's a way forward

United Way is committed to helping people and families across our community build better lives—both today and tomorrow. We do this by moving people from poverty to possibility, helping kids be all they can be, and building strong and healthy communities.

\$5 provides one meal to someone who is homeless, giving them refuge in a safe environment.

\$260 provides 10 people with 10 weeks of programming on how to support a family member or friend struggling with mental illness.

\$400 covers one week of work experience wages for a young person in an employment program.

\$800 helps bring together 100 neighbours to identify common challenges and solutions, making their community stronger and safer.

\$1,200 provides important household items to six families, helping them make a life-changing move to secure housing.

But, there are barriers

Social and economic challenges like poverty, youth unemployment and isolation are issues that affect all of us. They widen gaps between those who are doing well financially and those who are not, and threaten the strong social fabric that is vital to healthy, connected communities.

1 in 3 immigrant families in Toronto live on a low income.

12% of emergency housing clients in York Region are children under 16.

1 in 3 people who reported having a need for mental-health care during a three-month period did not have their needs met.

52%: The increase in low and very low income neighbourhoods in Peel Region between 1970 and 2015.

21% of those staying in Toronto youth shelters identify as part of the LGBTQ2S community.

That's why your help matters

When you support United Way, you're helping to build a strong social safety net for people in neighbourhoods across the region. This means that people have access to all the supports they need the most, when and where they need them.

\$80M+ is invested in communities across Toronto and York Region, empowering individuals and entire neighbourhoods through important programs and services.

819 programs and services help people move from poverty to possibility, help children and youth succeed and strengthen and unite entire neighbourhoods.

1.2M+ individuals and families are served across Toronto and York Region.