



YWCA NIAGARA REGION

Hope for Homeless Women and their Families since 1927

Human Trafficking Funding Proposal with the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services

YWCA Niagara Region





Agenda

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2. Niagara's Anti-Human Trafficking Emergency Response Protocol
3. Identifying Gaps in Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in Niagara
4. Funding Proposal with the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS)
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YWCA Niagara Region



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- The YWCA Niagara Region provides emergency shelter, food, and assistance to women and their families living in poverty.
- Provides access to three stages of transitional housing and also offers a wide variety of skills development workshops that are designed to help women enhance their skills and knowledge so that they can increase their long-term chances of success.
- The YWCA Niagara Region currently leads Niagara's Anti-Human Trafficking Emergency Response Protocol.
- In the past year, YWCA Niagara Region and Victim Services Niagara have supported over a 100 disclosures and cases of human trafficking.

Niagara's Anti-Human Trafficking Emergency Response Protocol



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- In 2018, The Anti-Human Trafficking Emergency Response Protocol was signed by 14 community partners which includes non-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations, fire departments, police and victims of human trafficking.
- The Protocol takes a human rights approach to coordinate a range of wrap-around services for victims of human trafficking.
- YWCA Niagara Region, in collaboration with community partners, leads policy development, advocacy, and training related to human trafficking.
- We have trained over 500 first responders in identification and intervention
- 66% of all those trafficked in Canada are brought to Ontario with the majority going through the Golden Horseshoe



Identifying Gaps in Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in Niagara

- Through YWCA Niagara Region's ongoing work in supporting victims of human trafficking, a critical need for further supports and services has been identified:
- Limited amount of services available that address the needs of victims of human trafficking in Niagara, particularly as it relates to victims who are youth (ages 16 – 24)
- Traditional emergency shelters, and existing programs do not adequately meet the unique needs of human trafficking survivors.
- Survivors require access to specific emergency crisis housing and would also greatly benefit from survivor-led supports.

Funding Proposal with the Ministry of Child Community, and Social Services (MCCSS)



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- Having recognized the need for more services targeted towards victims of human trafficking in Niagara, YWCA Niagara Region has submitted a funding proposal to the MCCSS that would support the development of emergency crisis housing for women and gender nonconforming youth (ages 16 – 24).
- The funding will go towards the development of a six bed emergency crisis housing program with 24-hour supports, access to harm reduction based and trauma informed wrap-around services, as well as survivor-led supports.
- The program aligns with the MCCSS's objective of supporting youth survivors of human trafficking by providing access to specialized housing, prevention, and intervention supports, as part of Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy



Scope of the Funding Proposal

- The program will provide supports to youth in collaboration with community partners to:
- Support youth from Niagara who are being trafficked locally, or assist with a return to home for youth that arrive from other communities. Youth who are unable to be in their home community due to safety concerns will also be supported whenever there is available space.
- Provide education to youth, as well as the community, through partnerships with local agencies, to better understand human trafficking prevention strategies and identify opportunities for early interventions.
- Youth who access the program will receive a spectrum of person-centred, intensive supports that actively address any trauma related symptoms and behaviours, while also providing connections to transitional housing.



Scope of the Funding Proposal

- The program was developed and will be managed by survivors of human trafficking:
- During the development phase an advisory board of community partners and survivors of trafficking oversaw the creation of policies and procedures and will continue to provide insight to the program.
- Youth will receive residential supports and peer mentoring to foster successful, long-term exit from human trafficking.
- Youth will be given the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with staff and peers, address any underlying concerns that will help prevent youth from being re-exploited, and build resiliency to heal and rebuild their lives.

Questions



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