

# Community Services Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

**Public Health and Social Services Committee**  
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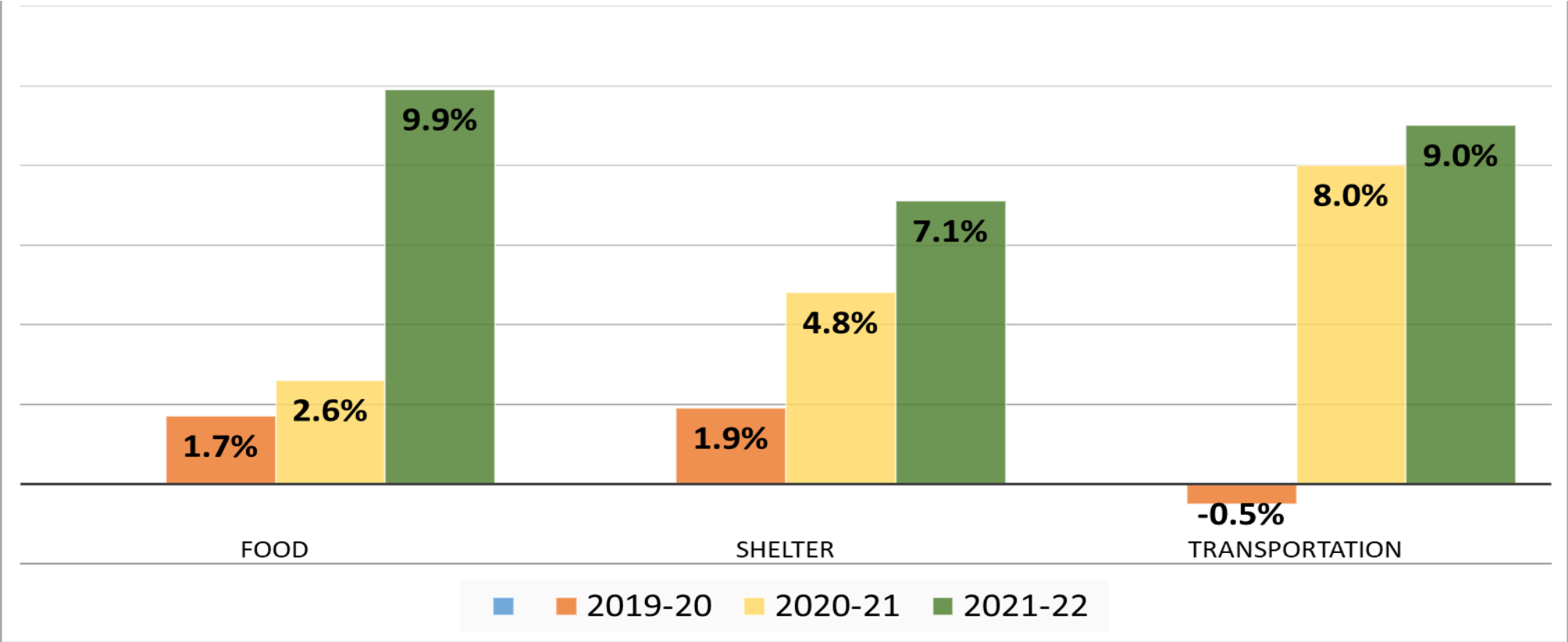
Manager, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

# Poverty in Niagara

14.5 % of the population are living below the poverty line in Niagara  
(14.4% for Ontario)

<b>Annual</b>	<b>Poverty Line</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>\$22,170</b>
<b>Single 1 child</b>	<b>\$31,353</b>
<b>Couple 2 children</b>	<b>\$44,340</b>

# Rate of Inflation 2019-2022



Source: Annual inflation rates of basic necessities, Aug 2018-Aug 2022, compared to annual increases in provincial social assistance rates, 2018-2022, Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index and Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

# Social Assistance Rates

## Monthly

	Poverty Line	Ontario Works	Ontario Disability Support Program	Shortfall OW	Shortfall ODSP
Single	\$1,848	\$733	\$1,228	-\$1,115	-\$620
Single 1 child	\$2,613	\$1,002	\$1,670	-\$1,611	-\$943
Couple 2 children	\$3,695	\$1,250	\$1,982	-\$2,445	-\$1,713

# Income Standards



Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Undated.

# Niagara Poverty Reduction Strategy

## A Call To Action

- Identification of priorities for Niagara
- Research and alignment with best practices
- Review of current investments and efforts
- Understanding the impact
- Recommendation for future investments & measurement

# What We've Heard

## Community Consultations

- Survey
- Focus Groups

Survey feedback - 900 responses  
43 Focus Groups - over 600 people

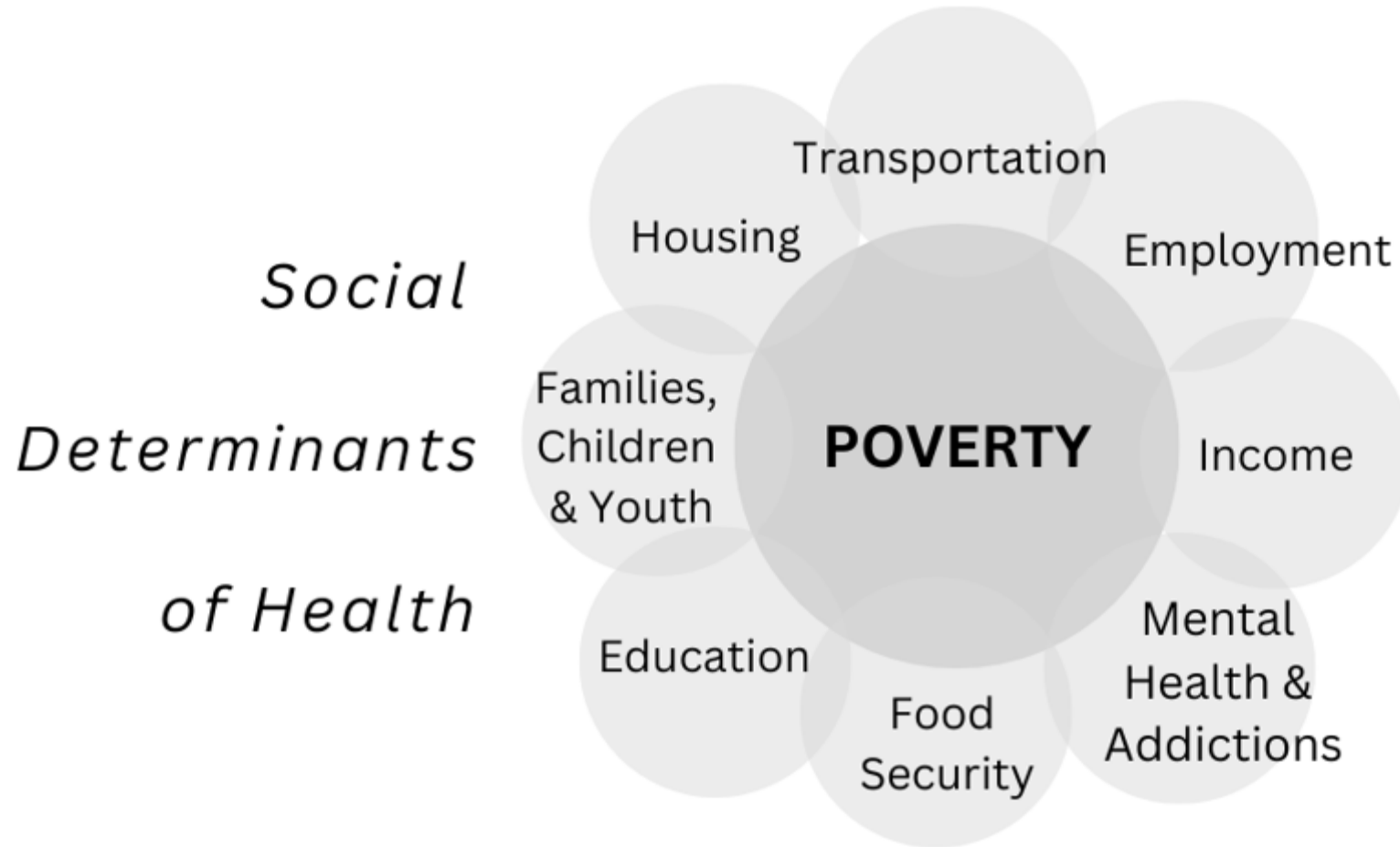
"I'm a senior in a modest home alone, and have to choose between food and utilities and walking or driving my car. I'm just trying to keep my head above inflation"

"When a crisis hits, everything is gone in a minute. And it's devastating to lose everything."

"I used to live a good life and now I don't feel like a human. . When you're down, everyone wants to kick you. I now know what that saying means. It's a never-ending

There have been many collaborative efforts and initiatives and I think that is essential to designing for a better system overall. This type of community engagement is an essential

# Levers for Change Social Determinants of Health





# Steering Committee

## Key Roles

- Champion & Advance
- Network & Engage
- Guide, Monitor, and Recommend

Membership by Sector	
Lived Experience	Indigenous
CAO Local Area Municipality	Transportation
Housing	Employment
Health	Immigration
Advocates	Academia
Public Health Social Services Committee	

# Governance Structure



# Measures of Success

- Improved alignment of Regional efforts and investments
- Improved policies and practices that support efforts that work
- Improved programs and services to support effectiveness and accountability
- Increased poverty reduction efforts

# Questions?