

Community Partnership Strategy

March 2011

What is the Community Partnership Strategy?

The *Community Partnership Strategy* is a new initiative of the City of Toronto. The purpose of the Strategy is to help the City, other funders, community organizations and residents understand whether the Community Service System in neighbourhoods is working well. It will also help the City and others figure out what can be done to make the community service system work better for Toronto residents.

The Community Partnership Strategy will help everyone understand how the community service system works. It will do this by measuring the most important things about the community service system so that we know whether the system is working well. These kinds of measures are often called "indicators." You can find more information about indicators on page 2.

Right now, the City is working with residents, community organizations and funders to choose the most important indicators are for the community service system. Indicators will be introduced each year until we have a set that give us a good understanding about how well the community service system is working in neighbourhoods.

The Community Service System

is the collection of the non-profit and voluntary community organizations and the programs and services they deliver to neighbourhood residents.

It includes:

- Programs and services, such as recreation, youth mentoring, community kitchens, arts, and help finding employment;
- All the people that work in the organizations, the places where programs run, and the funding that's used;
- The connections that organizations have with one another, with residents, governments, and with local businesses; and
- The ways that organizations make sure their programs meet community needs and priorities.

Which neighbourhoods is the City looking at?

In 2000, the City divided Toronto into 140 "social planning neighbourhoods." These neighbourhoods are designed to help governments, funders and community organizations with their planning. The Community Partnership Strategy will include information about all of these 140 social planning neighbourhoods.

Each of the City's social planning neighbourhood is has at least 7,000 people living in it. These neighbourhoods respect important boundaries in Toronto, such as major roads and rivers, and can be used to report out on data from the Census. You can get more information about these neighbourhoods at <http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm>.

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Who is developing the Community Partnership Strategy?

The Community Partnership Strategy is being developed by the City of Toronto's Social Development, Finance and Administration Division (SDFA). SDFA has been working closely with a wide variety of individuals and organizations, including:

- City-provided services that work with the community service system, such as child care, recreation, and emergency shelters;
- Government and community organizations that fund the community service system;
- Community organizations that deliver programs and services across Toronto;
- Toronto residents and business owners; and
- Researchers.

To date, more than 500 individuals from different organizations and different neighbourhoods have contributed to the development of the Community Partnership Strategy.

Indicators

An "indicator" is a number that tells us what's happening with something we are interested in, like the environment, the economy, or the community service system. Indicators are often used to make it easier to understand very complex things. Here are some common indicators:

- A grade on a student's report card is an indicator of how much the student has learned;
- A blood pressure reading is an indicator of overall health; and
- The unemployment rate is an indicator of how well the economy is working.

Some of the indicators that could tell us how well the community service system is working in neighbourhoods include:

- How long it takes residents to get to the services they need;
- Whether community organizations have the right kind of funding to deliver the programs and services neighbourhood residents need;
- How community organizations are working together with residents and each other to meet community needs; and
- Whether residents help make decisions about community organizations and their programs and services.

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Development Timeline



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When will the Community Partnership Strategy be completed?

Although a lot of work has already been done, the Community Partnership Strategy is still in its early stages.

In July 2011, a report will go to City Council that describes the first group of indicators that will be used in the Community Partnership Strategy. If City Council approves the report, work will get underway to produce these indicators.

As soon as the first group of indicators for the Community Partnership Strategy are ready, they will be put on the City's website so that they are available to everyone. We plan to have the first set of indicators available on the website by the end of 2011.

On page 3, you will find the full timeline for the Community Partnership Strategy.

Get More Information

The City's 140 Social Planning Neighbourhoods:

<http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/neighbourhoods.htm>

Reports to Council on the Community Partnership Strategy:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-17230.pdf>

(November 2008)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-26583.pdf>

(February 2010)

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