

Background

The Local Poverty Reduction Fund (LPRF) is a six-year initiative launched in 2015, as part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, to support community-driven projects that improve the lives of those most affected by poverty. Funded initiatives support and evaluate poverty reduction initiatives, create partnerships, and help forge a body of evidence of programs that work for Ontarians living in poverty. In Round 2 of the LPRF, Ontario is investing over \$16 million in 30 new projects that focus on:

- breaking the cycle of poverty for children and youth
- employment and income security for people in, or at risk of being in, poverty
- preventing and reducing homelessness
- projects within Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led organizations both on and off reserve

The City of Greater Sudbury was successful in the application for the LPRF in the amount of \$529,000 which covers a 32 month period from October 2016 to June 2019.

The City of Greater Sudbury is working with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, who is responsible for managing and administering the LPRF grants on behalf of the Province of Ontario.

The project, which focuses on “breaking the cycle of poverty for children and youth”, is intended to evaluate the impact of school-based and community-based extracurricular activities on academic achievement and school success for up to 100 children in Grade 3 identified as being in need and living within deprived neighbourhoods.

The City of Greater Sudbury has partnered with all four local school boards, representing 9 schools in high need areas, and incorporating English, Francophone and Indigenous students. Grade 3 EQAO scores will function as a baseline measurement and the corresponding Grade 6 EQAO scores will be used as one indicator of a series of indicators, to quantitatively evaluate the program.

Other project indicators to be tracked include but are not limited to:

- delinquency
- truancy/absenteeism
- school participation
- leadership
- belongingness
- behavioural incidents

The Sudbury and District Health Unit (SDHU) has been selected as the project evaluator, and will be involved with the project from the initial participant selection stage. An Advisory Group will be established, including all participating agencies and partners to support the work of the project team. The project team is being led by the Children & Citizen Services Division within Community Development.

United Nations University

The City of Greater Sudbury has been asked to participate in a global research project led by the United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). "Reorienting Education and Training Systems to Improve the Lives of Indigenous and Marginalized Youth" will complete academic research into how schools and formal education systems can better meet the needs of Indigenous and marginalized youth in traditional communities, exploring curricula content and approaches. Over 30 countries will be involved in the project, with a goal of improving overall quality of individual and community well-being.

The City of Greater Sudbury was approached to participate as the City of Greater Sudbury is recognized as a Regional Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Development in Education, and successful with the Healthy Community Concept, and current Population Health initiatives.

This work will link both directly and indirectly, with the Local Poverty Reduction Fund project brought forward in this report as well as with other initiatives within the Community Development Department. The process, policy and engagement for this initiative will be defined collaboratively with the community and specifically via the Indigenous community leaders.

Next Steps

The City of Greater Sudbury will meet with the advisory group, and separately with the SDHU and the school boards to develop the project package including all aspects of the participant selection process, by the end of June 2017.

Further progress reports will be submitted to the Community Services Committee throughout the term of the project.