



Tackling Poverty Together

Neighbourhood Hub

Toolkit



**HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

For Hamilton, For Ever

Preface:

This “toolkit” has been put together to support the neighbourhood hubs funded under the Hamilton Community Foundation’s “TPT II: Building Strong Communities” initiative.

Introduction:

In 2004 the Board of Directors of Hamilton Community Foundation made a commitment to devote the majority of its unrestricted funds to reducing, preventing or alleviating poverty. Between 2004 and 2008, just over \$3.4 million was awarded in “Tackling Poverty Together”. Evaluation reports showed that over 25,000 residents were impacted by the projects funded through TPT.

In 2008 there was a further refining of the priorities for TPT II: Building Strong Communities with an additional commitment of \$5 million over 5 years. The new priority areas are addressing poverty reduction, prevention and alleviation through: a) strengthening neighbourhood hubs and b) foundational grants.

What is a neighbourhood hub?

Poverty in Hamilton is more concentrated in certain neighbourhoods. In such cases, neighbourhood development through “hubs” has been shown to be an important way to address poverty.

A ***neighbourhood hub*** can be defined as a local collaborative with a strong resident voice. It is an existing structure focused on centralized community work to reduce and prevent poverty.

What is not a neighbourhood hub?

- Any one specific agency or organization
- A neighbourhood association
- Groups and organizations which do not share a geographic focus

A neighbourhood hub is overseen by a ***local planning team*** made up of residents, service providers, business people, public institutions such as libraries, recreation centres and schools, and places of worship. The local planning team meets on a regular basis to better understand their neighbourhood and then work together to help address the needs of the residents of the community. The local planning team will consider and utilize resources and partners across all sectors and build on the existing assets of the neighbourhood. For HCF funding purposes the local planning team **must** include residents and any other organization receiving funds through Tackling Poverty Together. This forms the backbone of the local planning team and then others are invited to join who are concerned about the neighbourhood.

Each local planning team will have a lead agency which has charitable status. This provides the hub with the ability to apply for grants when charitable status is required

(such as with Hamilton Community Foundation). The lead organization takes on responsibility for handling the finances provided for the hub as a whole.

It is important for the local planning teams to reflect the diversity of their neighbourhoods (age, gender, race, and ethnicity) to ensure that everyone's opinions are heard and valued.

We recognize the importance of having someone "on the ground" to assist with engaging local residents. In some cases there are community development workers already working in the neighbourhood who can help with this. In addition, the Foundation supports a neighbourhood development worker from Wesley Urban Ministries who helps facilitate the development of local planning teams and can share the experiences of other neighbourhood hubs. The Foundation also provides opportunities for the hubs to come together for additional learning and leadership development. These opportunities are communicated electronically through the ***TPT Connects E-Blast***.

Currently there are 8 neighbourhood hubs funded through Hamilton Community Foundation (Jamesville, McQuesten, CATCH, South Sherman, Wever, Riverdale, Crown Point and Keith). Each of these neighbourhoods have challenges but also great projects and partners to build on. While they all meet the HCF definition of a hub, they all look quite different and reflect the diversity of Hamilton's neighbourhoods.

What does it mean to be a part of a neighbourhood hub?

For a Resident, being part of the hub gives you:

- the opportunity to make your opinions known to others who are also interested in your neighbourhood
- the opportunity to work with other residents on small projects to improve your neighbourhood. Funding is available for these projects.
- The chance to participate in learning and leadership development opportunities
- To take on a leadership role on the local planning team
- A way to give back to your community and make it a better place to live

For service providers and public institutions, being part of the hub gives you:

- A way of delivering services differently – at a neighbourhood level
- The opportunity to hear directly from residents
- The opportunity to work collaboratively with other service providers and institutions
- The possibility of being able to sustain your work through new partnerships
- The opportunity to apply for funding from HCF through the neighbourhood hub
- The responsibility of serving on the local planning team
- The chance to participate in learning and leadership development opportunities
- A way to bring your own resources to improve the neighbourhood
- The opportunity to pilot innovative strategies with different partners

For Businesses, being part of the hub gives you:

- The opportunity to build relationships in the community where your business is located
- Increase the visibility of your business to potential customers
- A way to bring your own resources to improve the neighbourhood

For Example:

The need for quality afterschool programming was identified by the residents of the McQuesten neighbourhood. The YMCA was invited by the McQuesten local planning team to provide a Virtual Y program at two locations within the community. The YMCA was able to access funding from HCF for one of the sites and raised funds for the site from other sources. The YMCA is an active and committed partner in the McQuesten neighbourhood.

Funding for Neighbourhood Hubs...

HCF Funding through Tackling Poverty Together:

Service providing organizations with charitable status and public institutions are able to apply for funding from HCF through the neighbourhood hubs to provide **poverty reduction, prevention and alleviation initiatives** which are determined by the local planning team to be important and needed in the neighbourhood. The organization completes an application (available on the HCF website at www.hcf.on.ca) and submits it to the local planning team for approval. Once approved, it is submitted in a package with other hub applications. If the grant is awarded the money goes directly to the applicant organization. In certain circumstances, if the service providing organization does not have charitable status, they may be able to partner with a charity who would administer the grant. Further information on this type of “sponsorship” situation may be obtained by calling the Hamilton Community Foundation office.

In addition, each neighbourhood hub supported by HCF is eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per year to support “**small project funding**”. This funding is to support resident-led initiatives designed to support community engagement and undertake initiatives to improve the neighbourhood. The local planning team decides which small projects will be funded and provides a report to the Foundation at the end of the granting year. Examples of resident-led small projects include: community celebrations, volunteer-run afterschool programs, beautification projects, community gardens and community kitchens. A small project funding toolkit is available on the HCF website which outlines the process for applying for this funding.

The Foundation also supports the neighbourhood hubs by linking the hubs for information sharing and support, providing opportunities for leadership development, and building the capacity of the hubs around evaluation, governance and marketing.

A second component of TPT is “**Foundational**” grants which may be used to provide services across the hubs. For example, in 2008-09 Mohawk College received a Foundational grant to allow Mohawk students to undertake poverty reduction initiatives in each of the hubs.

Other Funders:

Hamilton Community Foundation is part of the Hamilton Funders Network. The network is composed of government, Foundation, United Way and corporate funders who support projects in the Hamilton community. Information on how to apply to members of the network is available on the Funders Network website at:

www.hamiltonfundersnetwork.ca

Neighbourhood Hubs Funded through TPT II: Building Strong Communities

Name	Geographical Area	Contact
Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)	East Hamilton (Quigley Road area)	Judy Kloosterman Phone: 905 561-1875 Email: catch_hamilton@yahoo.ca Website: www.capc.hamilton.on.ca
Crown Point Neighbourhood Hub	Northeast Hamilton (Main St. to the Bay, Kenilworth to Gage Avenues)	Dwayne Brown Phone: 905-545-7334 E-mail: dabsweetie@yahoo.ca
Jamesville Neighbourhood Hub	James St. North (community centre is located in St. Mary's School)	Rev. Sue-Ann Ward Phone: 905-527-1316 ext. 340 E-Mail: sueann.ward@gmail.com
Keith Neighbourhood Hub	North central Hamilton (community centre is located at the former Robert Land School on Wentworth North)	Joelle Moxham E-mail: moxbabe@hotmail.com or Ted Hotkinson Phone: 905-526-1558 E-mail: rlca@bellnet.ca
McQuesten Neighbourhood Hub	East Hamilton (community centre is located at former St. Helen's School)	Pat Reid E-mail: patriciareid@mountaincable.net Or David Derbyshire Phone: 905-528-5629 ext. 235 E-mail: david.derbyshire@wesleyurbanministires.ca
Riverdale Neighbourhood Hub	East Hamilton (off Centennial Parkway below Queenston Rd.)	Don Jaffray Phone: 905-522-1148 E-mail: : djaffray@sprc.hamilton.on.ca
South Sherman Neighbourhood Hub	St. Clair and Gibson neighbourhoods	Dan Peace E-mail: dpeace@primus.ca

Resources

The following are some resources you may find helpful:

Community Mapping

Social Planning & Research Council – www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

McMaster School of Nursing (teams of students will undertake neighbourhood mapping)
– contact Ruth Schofield at schofir@mcmaster.ca

Funding

Hamilton Funders Network – www.hamiltonfundersnetwork.ca

Partners In Nutrition (school nutrition funding) – www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

Community Development/Organizing

The Asset Based Community Development Institute – www.abcdinstitute.org

The Community Toolbox - <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/LearnMore.htm>

Poverty

Social Planning & Research Council (for reports and statistical information) –
www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

Vibrant Communities – www.vibrantcommunities.org

Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction – www.hamiltonpoverty.ca

Playground Development

Kaboom – www.kaboom.org

Let Them Be Kids – www.ltbk.ca

Afterschool Programming/Support

School Age Solutions (includes mentoring initiative for new afterschool program providers) – www.ascy.ca/projects_school-age

Diversity

Hamilton Community Foundation (Diversity Scan) -
<http://www.hcf.on.ca/pdf/diversityscan.pdf>

Questions?

Need further information?

Contact: Sharon Charters, Manager of Grants
Phone: (905) 523-5600 x 242
s.charters@hcf.on.ca