

Community Planning Committees

By investing in individual programs and by working closely with local community committees – those that receive United Way funds and those that do not – we aim to address the social needs of individuals and families in our community that are vulnerable to social and systemic barriers, to create meaningful change.

From Poverty to Possibility

Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination – Membership Committee
[2018 Roadmap](#) items include:

Overarching

- Implement an intersectional approach
- Make poverty an election issue

Housing & Homelessness

- Lead a point-in-time count
- Reducing chronic homelessness
- Support solutions to indigenous homelessness
- Prevent youth homelessness
- Launch a ‘Yes in my back yard’ (YIMBY) campaign

Livable Incomes & Decent Work

- Championing Living Wage
- Advocating for ‘decent work’ (Bill 148)
- Push for income reform

Food Insecurity

- Increase awareness of food insecurity
- Develop healthy food policies

Health Inequities

- Improve access to oral health

The steering committee and membership committee is made up of a broad range of community partners. [A list can be found here.](#)

Research & Knowledge Mobilization Committee – a committee of the PTF

This committee provides research, evaluation and knowledge mobilization support to the Poverty Task Force priorities. The committee is primarily responsible for the development of research tools, data management and data analysis.

Current projects include:

- Based on the research that the group conducted about ‘the working poor’ and the negative social and health impacts, we are deepening research about livable incomes in our community
- We are supporting research from the University of Guelph that aims to create and disseminate engaging stories about the diverse struggles of people living in poverty

Wellington-Guelph Housing Committee – an aligned committee of the PTF

Mainly an information sharing committee with aims to improve housing challenges through collective efforts.

Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy – Community Advisory Board (CAB)

Reaching Home, previously known as the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, is a governmental, community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness in communities across Canada. It does this by providing direct funding to support community efforts in addressing local needs and specific homelessness priorities.

Current activities include:

- In partnership with emergency shelter and housing providers, as well as the County of Wellington's Housing Department, the CAB is developing Guelph-Wellington's Community Plan (to respond to homelessness)
- Creating an RFP for community agencies to apply for funding against
- Deciding which communities agencies and respective programs will receive funding to implement the CAB's determined Community Plan

Additional CAB Members include:

City of Guelph, County of Wellington, Poverty Task Force, Immigrant Services, Family and Children's Services, Guelph Community Health Centre, Community members/Peers,

Guelph-Wellington Smart Cities Challenge – Community Stakeholder

The City of Guelph and County of Wellington are vying to win the Government of Canada's [Smart Cities Challenge](#) with a proposal to create the first circular food economy in Canada. The proposal outlines the aim to tackle the fundamental challenge of ensuring healthy, affordable, sustainable food is available to everyone. There are plans to replace the current linear "take-make-dispose" economic model with a circular model that strengthens connections between food producers and consumers; values waste as a resource; and creates new businesses and jobs.

Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness and Community Safety

This task force of community leaders and agencies were convened by Mayor Guthrie to take action on the issue of homelessness in Guelph and the related issues of addiction, mental health concerns, and community safety. The task force amplifies the work that is already being done by the Guelph-Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination, the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy, and other community agencies and service providers. More information on the Task force can be [found here](#). Participating partners can be [found here](#).

United Way's Food Insecurity Network

A United Way convened network of similar-minded funded agencies working together to create a collective food security strategy under the Adequate Basic Needs outcome area. Participating agencies include: Centre Wellington Food Bank, East Wellington Community Services, Chalmers Community Services Centre, HOPE House, the SEED, Welcome In Drop-In Centre.

All That Kids Can Be

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Coalition for Report Cards on the Well-Being of Children

The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Coalition for a Report Card on the Well-Being of Children is a collaborative group that examines and [provides access to](#) a wide range of population-level health and well-being indicators that supports the understanding of the status of child and youth well-being in our community.

In partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board and the Wellington Catholic District School Board, the coalition continues to:

- Develop and evaluate the Youth Survey
- Issue the Report Card on the Well-Being of Children
- Build awareness of the needs of children and youth
- Play the role of a planning tool to reveal service gaps
- Hold community forums and discussions
- Be guided by Wellington Dufferin Guelph Children's Charter of Rights

For a list of achievements over the last 10 years, [click here](#).

Additional RCC members include:

The City of Guelph, the County of Wellington, the County of Dufferin, WDG Public Health, Family and Children's Services, Toward Common Ground

Core Indicators Advisory Committee – subcommittee of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card Coalition

The purpose of the CIAC is to create a comprehensive list of core indicators that reflect the well-being of children and youth in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. Core indicators, in this context, are measures of wellbeing of children and youth populations and their communities. They reflect complex concepts in a concrete, clearly defined way using standardized definitions and methods. Core indicators will form the foundation for children and youth wellbeing status reporting.

Data Access Working Group – subcommittee of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card Coalition

DAWG members conduct various types of data analysis depending on the data source and expertise of the member. The DAWG may, as capacity allows, support system monitoring and/or a system's level evaluation by providing population data and/or consulting on which population data should be used.

The DAWG is responsible for:

- Implementing the WDG Youth Survey every three years and updating the questions to reflect the data needs in the community.
- Gathering data from local community organizations and from administrative datasets as it pertains to children, youth and their families.
- Critically review, analyze and present data collected from the WDG Youth Survey, community organizations, national surveys, and administrative datasets to make sense of the trends

Knowledge Activation Team – subcommittee of the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Report Card Coalition

The KAT ensures that the data collected and analyzed by the Report Card Coalition is relevant, accessible and useful to community partners. The committee aims to inform the data products that are created by the Report Card Coalition (based on intended the intended target audience), how to actively disseminate it to service providers, and look for opportunities to share the data with youth.

Integrated Youth Services (IYS) – Steering Committee

Initiated by the Guelph Rotary Club, in partnership with the YMCA-YWCA and the Canadian Mental Health Association, the IYS initiative aims deliver a “one-stop-shop” model of services for youth aged 12-26. The integrated model will be designed to meet a wide range of needs across the continuum, including mental health, substance use, primary care, education, employment, training, housing and other community and social services. Co-designed with youth, they are created to include peer services, outreach, and system-navigation services. Services emphasize quality, are timely, integrated and co-located, making it incredibly easy for youth to get what they need, when they need it.

Additional steering committee members include:

Rotary Club of Guelph members, Family & Children’s Services, Guelph YMCA/YWCA, Guelph Community Foundation, Canadian Mental Health Association, Waterloo Wellington, Wellington Catholic District School Board, Upper, Grand District School Board, Wyndham House, WWLHIN, Youth Representatives, Michael House, County of Wellington, The Guelph Public Library, WDG Public Health, Portage, the University of Guelph.

United Way’s Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Network

A United Way convened network of similar-minded funded agencies working together to create a collective strategy under the Connected Kids outcome area. Participating agencies include: Action Read, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph of Guelph, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Wellington, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian Mental Health Association, Family and Children’s Services, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition, John Howard Society, Shelldale Family Gateway, Wellington County Learning Centre, YMCA-YWCA,

Strong Communities

Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership – Leadership Council

The Guelph-Wellington Local Immigration Partnership (GWLIP) is a large coalition of individuals representing various groups in the community. We are creating a more welcoming and inclusive community for immigrants by addressing important economic and social issues and finding effective solutions that make it easier for immigrants to settle in Guelph Wellington. The GWLIP is one of 35 LIPs across Ontario funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRC). It is steered by a leadership council, on which United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin is a member of. The leadership council provides strategic leadership and direction to the project as a whole, sets priorities, and oversees the implementation of those priorities.

The list of LIP Leadership Council partners [can be found here](#).

Toward Common Ground (TCG) – Steering Committee

TCG aims to build a sustainable collective planning model to support stakeholders of social and health wellbeing to take strategic action that makes a difference in the lives of people who live in Guelph & Wellington. Within all of the current collaboration in the community, there is room to be more strategic and intentional about the way that we work together across issues, across populations and across sectors.

The pathways in which we will achieve success include:

- Creating a bird's eye view of the health and social services sector
- Connecting the dots and contextualizing among the issues in our community
- Transferring and mobilizing knowledge by sharing information in an ongoing and accessible way as a resource for human service stakeholders to make key planning decisions
- Building collective capacity as needed or requested by the sector
- Championing and supporting strategic action in response to community needs

Some of the outcomes that will be achieved by implementation of these pathways include:

- Clarity about how and where we intervene to affect change
- Opportunities to work together for a common purpose
- Identification of duplication of efforts
- Inform resource allocation

For a list of community partners, [click here](#).

Guelph-Wellington Funders' Network

The purpose of the Funders' Network is to:

- Hold a bird's eye view of local needs to support strategic funding decisions;
- Take steps to make access to local funding more clear and easy;
- Seize opportunities to align or streamline funding processes and requirements;
- Learn from and with each other.

Current activities include:

- Identifying opportunities and taking collective action to increase access to information about local funding (for example, creating summary of local funding opportunities; planning a Funders' Forum)
- Problem-solving in response to funding requests, needs and gaps
- Reviewing and looking for alignment across current funding requirements, processes and documentation (including, applications, outcome measurement, reporting requirements)

Additional members include: the City of Guelph, the County of Wellington, and the Guelph Community Foundation.

Community Data Program – Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Consortium

The Community Data Program (CDP) was established by the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) as a gateway for municipalities and community sector organizations to access customized tables from Statistics Canada and other providers to monitor and report on social and economic development trends within their communities. Relying on a Community Consortium model, the group is able to reduce the cost of acquiring community data from the Canadian Census, builds community data analysis capacity and connects a national network of data users.