

# MANY BENEFITS TO REGION'S HRCIF PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTES TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF RESIDENTS, WRITES GARY CARR



GARY CARR  
Column

Halton Region is making significant investments in social service and community health initiatives that positively impact the health, safety and well-being of residents.

On May 22, Halton regional council approved more than \$2.6 million in funding through the Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF). The funds, which are provided in one-year or multi-year grants of up to three years, support community programs that address mental

health; maintain housing and prevent homelessness; strengthen services to older adults, children and youth; improve food security; enhance safety and well-being; and support vulnerable residents.

A \$200,000 portion of the HRCIF has been reserved for emerging community safety and well-being initiatives and will be allocated throughout 2019.

The HRCIF has grown in both size and impact, helping improve the quality of life for Halton residents. Since 2012, the amount of funding has tripled to more than \$2.6 million. This year, 26 new grants have been approved for organizations helping Halton residents.

These include a \$548,854 grant to Canadian Mental Health Association to provide mental health, addiction support and crisis intervention to clients living at or transitioning out of the Salvation Army Light-house Shelter; \$100,669 to the Halton Children's Aid

Society to implement a pilot project to enhance services to youth exiting the care of the child welfare system; a \$72,000 grant to Halton Food for Thought to provide healthy meal cards for at-risk secondary school students; and a \$117,380 grant to support Acclaim Health's work to address loneliness and isolation for low-income older adults.

In addition to the new grants, 29 programs will continue to receive funding as part of the second or third instalment of multi-year grants awarded in 2017 and 2018.

Some of these programs are showcased in Halton Region's HRCIF Impact Report 2018. The report, now in its second year, profiles seven community projects from 2018 that received funding and includes testimonials from recipient organizations. The impact of these HRCIF grants are an important part of what makes Halton a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

To learn more about the HRCIF, visit [halton.ca](http://halton.ca) or call 311.

*Gary Carr is regional chair of Halton Region. His column appears the first week of each month. To contact him, email [gary.carr@halton.ca](mailto:gary.carr@halton.ca).*



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