



For Immediate Release

Study uncovers \$450 Million Shortfall in Provincial Funding for York Region

York Region, September 10, 2026 – Today, a pivotal new report was presented to York Regional Council revealing a \$450 million annual shortfall in Provincial community service funding in the Region.

York Region has grown rapidly, bringing increased demand for community and social services. At the same time, poverty and affordability pressures have risen exponentially, while funding has failed to keep pace. The impacts of this have been felt by local nonprofits who have known that their communities have not been receiving the same level of support as comparable communities such as Toronto and Ottawa. To understand whether these experiences were reflected in data, nonprofit leaders commissioned research firm Blueprint ADE to undertake an independent analysis of provincial investment in York Region's community services.

A detailed review of government funding documents by Blueprint ADE, comparing York Region with other large Ontario municipalities, showed Provincial investment in community services is far lower in York Region than in comparable municipalities. The study uncovered a staggering, annual funding shortfall, of \$369 for every person in York Region resulting in a \$450 million gap when it comes to investments in municipal, non-profit and community health services by the province.

This shortfall affects municipal services like housing, childcare, schools and seniors care, as well as non-profit community services like mental health and addiction support and youth programs. (The study did not include analysis of underfunding of local hospitals).

"York Region is a fast growing, major urban centre, with over a million residents, that contributes to Ontario's economy and its tax base, but doesn't receive adequate provincial funding as compared to other urban centres" shared Yvonne Kelly, Co-Chair of the Social Planning Council of York Region and Affordable Housing Coalition of York Region, as well as member of the York Region Underfunding Research Committee. "That means our community doesn't get the housing programs, mental health services or seniors care that other major urban centers count on."

"The report emphasizes the need for a more proactive and preventative approach in the funding of human services" said Clovis Grant CEO of 360°kids and a member of the York Region Underfunding Research Committee. "Providing supports earlier, especially to young people, to prevent crises, strengthens community and means fewer downstream interventions that are more costly for all taxpayers."

"Underfunding social services is not just a budget issue; it's a dignity issue," adds Alykhan Suleman, CEO Social Services Network / Senior Services Network and another member of the York Region Underfunding Research Committee. "When social services are underfunded, people feel it; in longer waits, fewer supports, deeper isolation, and needs that go unmet. Equitable funding ensures that no one in York Region is left behind simply because of where they live."

Ontario for All

Debbie Schatia, CEO of Blue Door and member of the York Region Underfunding Research Committee shared “as a provider of homelessness services in York Region we see the growing needs of our community on a daily basis. One of the ways we can support those most in need is by ensuring equitable funding for York Region”.

When the province spends less, taxpayers pay more. In 2024, York Region’s property tax rose a whopping \$123 million to compensate for added social services costs.

Before the release of the study, elected officials and community organizations were engaged across York Region to share preliminary findings confidentially and receive feedback. This feedback was used to inform the final report, and to shape collaborative efforts to develop solutions to the funding gap.

“This issue has persisted for many years, across multiple governments,” said Sean Meagher, Coordinator of Ontario For All. “It is time for the Province to partner with York Region’s municipal and community sectors to co-develop a strategy that meets the funding needs of services and service delivery of community and health services across York Region”.

“This (report) is stunning information that helps us understand some of the underlying issues of why individuals and families struggle in York Region, and why institutions tasked to support them also struggle in doing so. We are not on a level playing field. But now that we know, we have the opportunity to collectively correct our course for the benefit of everyone in the Region,” shared Marie Morton, Executive Director of CAYR Community Connections and another member of the York Region Underfunding Research Committee.

The [report’s](#) comprehensive analysis provides a detailed overview of the financial challenges faced by York Region and the long-term implications of continued underfunding. Nonprofits across York Region will use this report as a catalyst for change, advocating for fair funding policies that support the well-being and prosperity of York Region residents.

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About Blueprint ADE

Blueprint ADE is a leading research and consulting firm known for its rigorous analysis and insightful reports on public funding and policy. Their work supports informed decision-making and strategic planning for governments and organizations

About Ontario for All

Ontario for All brings together nonprofit organizations to help build public policy that better serves the vulnerable populations and the people who rely on nonprofit services.

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