



Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

-serving infants, children and young parents - together

L'Association ontarienne des agences pour jeunes parents

-servir nourrissons, enfants et jeunes parents - ensemble

December 20, 2021

MEMO: OAYPA receives three years of funding for Project Ujima - Collectively Supporting Children of Adolescent Mothers

The Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies (OAYPA) is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of \$5.5 million over three years from an anonymous funder to establish Early Childhood Development Hubs throughout Ontario. Massey Centre will serve as the Project Trustee.

This project will improve early outcomes for babies born to at risk families across the province by supporting the early development needs of underserved, vulnerable children of adolescent mothers by creating Early Childhood Development Hubs across the province. We will use a hub-and-spoke model that will centralize essential evidence-based services in key “hubs” with outreach capabilities via “spokes” to key population densities throughout Ontario.

These hubs will offer essential components of early literacy, speech and language services, service navigation, and optimal infant, early childhood and family mental health under one roof. Twenty new staff positions will be created to support this project. We anticipate that 1000 children and 900 young mothers will benefit each year from this project.

The agencies hosting Early Childhood Development hubs are:

- Rose of Durham, Durham Region
- Regina's Place, Hamilton East/Lower Mountain
- Rosalie Hall, East Toronto
- Youville Centre, Ottawa
- Massey Centre, Central and North Toronto
- Monica Place, Waterloo Region
- St. Mary's Home, Champlain, Eastern Ontario
- Fresh Start Supportive Services, London/St. Thomas
- St. Martin's Manor, Hamilton West

This project is also supported by the Young Families Program at SickKids Hospital. This team will offer resources and support to all of our hubs including a Pediatrician, Nurse Practitioner, and Social Worker. Families with complex cases will be connected with additional SickKids services including telepsychiatry.

We have also received funding to work with Infant and Early Mental Health Promotion (IEMHP) on this project. IEMHP will lead the training and evaluation of this project over the next three years.

Project Ujima will begin in January 2021.