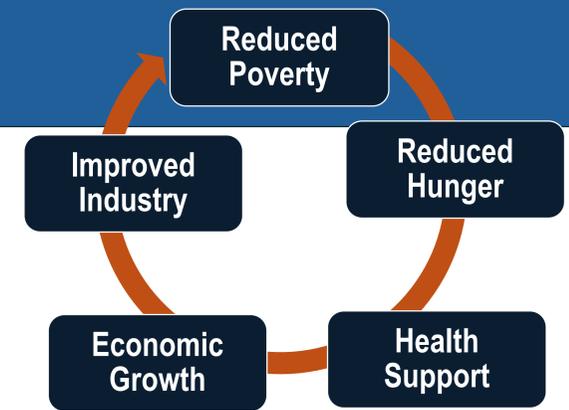


Assisting Marginalized Individuals Who Fall Outside Peterborough's Social Programs



Background

Peterborough & the Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce

- Facilitates local networking and education, fosters economic development, and advocates for the business community
- Acknowledged and taken measures to address the increase of marginalized individuals on the Peterborough streets living in inadequate health conditions, with poor nutrition and/or housing.

Homeless Statistics



February 2022 Statistics: (Built for Zero, 2022)

- **92%:** Average shelter system occupancy
- **172:** Unique individuals sheltered this month
- **84:** Average people sheltered per night

Hunger Statistics

"Unaffordable housing is linked to negative health impacts, food insecurity, and inadequate nutrition."
 (Peterborough Public Health, 2023)

2023 Food Insecurity Count:

- **1 in 5:** families of couples with children
- **2 in 5** female-led lone parents
- **1 in 4:** children



Marginalized Individual

Someone who is at a societal disadvantage, often experiencing struggles related to hunger, unemployment, housing instability, mental health, and/or substance abuse.

Purpose

To understand the constraints on Peterborough's food bank and shelter services that are creating obstacles and reducing the number of individuals utilizing the support.

Research Questions

What are the solutions for marginalized people who are not accessing food banks &/or shelters?

What methods and resources are needed to improve these social support services?

Methodology

Analytical Observations

- Background information on Peterborough's poverty crisis
- Research/observations of previous research projects

Qualitative and Quantitative Data Collection

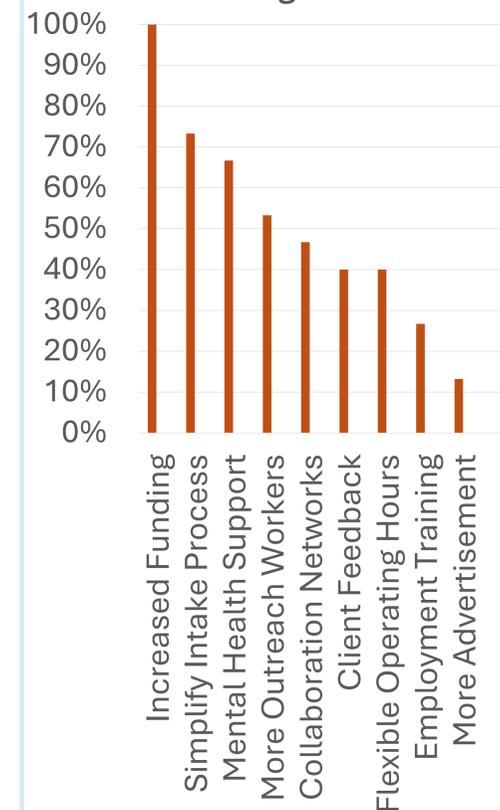
- Online anonymous survey for social service workers
- Phone calls with service coordinators/managers

Thematic Analysis

- Identify common limitations & constraints
- Advise on most suitable recommendations

Findings & Recommendations

Improvements Needed for Existing Social Service Programs



#1 - Increased Funding

- Fundraisers
- Donations
- Grant Applications
- Corporate Partnerships

#2 - Simplify Intake Process

- Separate waitlists dependent on extent of needs
- No visitation limits
- Simplify registration forms

#3 - Mental Health & Addiction Support

- Suited based on personal needs
- Less instructions, more guidance

#4 - More Outreach Workers

- Build personal connections/trust
- Understanding individualized circumstances/needs

Conclusion

By implementing these recommendations, we meet the immediate needs, establish long-term empowerment, and build an inclusive community, uniting as advocates to amplify marginalized voices and create a compassionate and equitable society.