



# PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL

Social Investment Windsor-Essex

## **October 17<sup>th</sup>: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

### **Lunch & Learn Webinar**

Presented by Stephen Lynn & Teresa Falsetta Aflak

Social Policy and Planning Department

Community Development & Health Services

October 16, 2020

# Pathway to Potential & Social Investment in Windsor-Essex



- Since 2009, Pathway to Potential (P2P) has been the City of Windsor and County of Essex response to addressing the needs of children and families living in poverty.
- In 2017, P2P became a comprehensive 9-point social investment plan, focused on essential social investments in residents, neighbourhoods and the larger community.
- One element of the plan is focused on supporting vulnerable youth and families.

# Webinar Agenda

P2P is hosting this webinar to support the *International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*.

## Agenda:

1. Zoom Webinar Tips / UN Background information
2. Canada's Poverty Line
3. Windsor-Essex Low Income Context
4. Research on the impacts of COVID-19 on children & youth
5. Stories from P2P Community Partners on recalibrating programs to COVID-19
6. *Ways to Stay Connected and Get Involved*
7. Opportunity for Q&A

# Zoom Webinar Tips

## House Keeping

- We ask that you please mute yourself
  - For those joining by phone - use the mute/unmute button on your phone
  - For those joining by web- Use the buttons on the bottom of your screen
- The host may require to mute you if we experience continued background noise.

## Posing Questions & Comments

- Questions can be posed throughout the presentation by using the **Chat Box**. Please direct your messages to **Stephen Lynn**.

## Technical issues

- If you experience any issues use the chat to send a private message to **Teresa Falsetta Aflak**.

# Background



**United Nations**

The [United Nations](#) designated October 17<sup>th</sup> as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 1992.

**2020's Theme: *Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all***

Goal One of the UN's [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) to be met in 2030 is to “***End poverty in all its forms everywhere.***”



# Opportunity For All - Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy

- [Dimensions of Poverty Hub](#) and Canada's Official Poverty Line was recently updated
- **11.0% of Canadians lived in poverty in 2018**, down from 14.5% in 2015



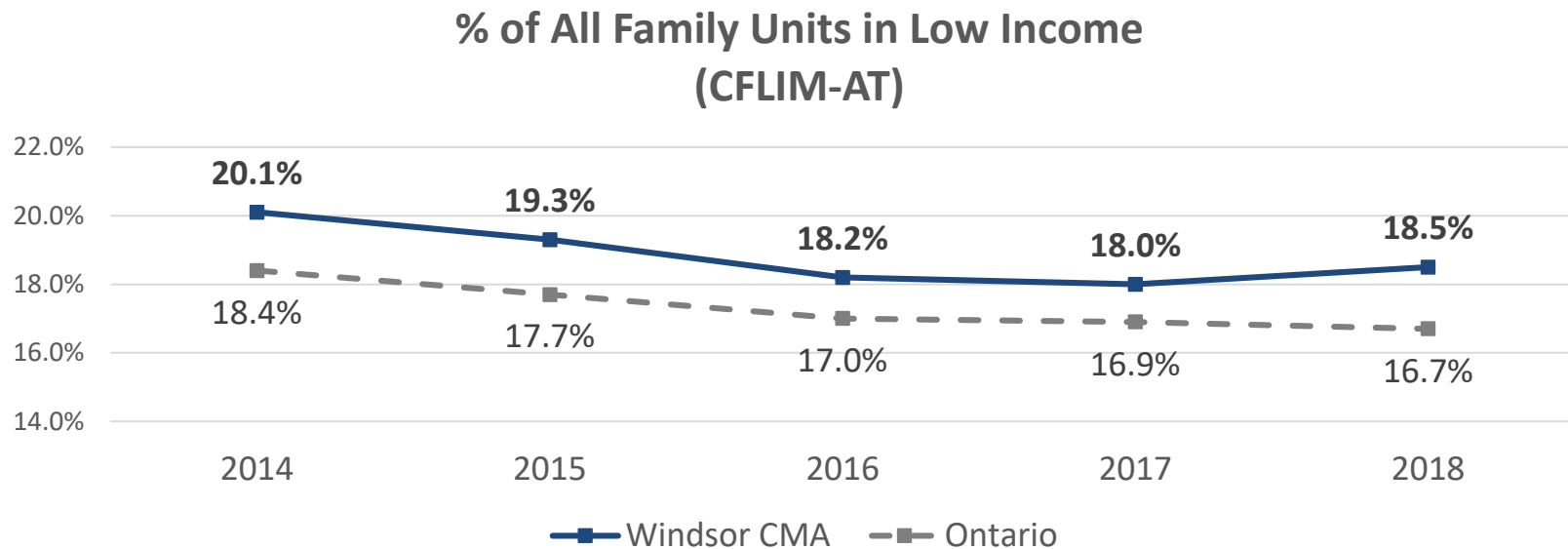
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL  
**CANADA'S  
FIRST POVERTY  
REDUCTION  
STRATEGY**

 Employment and Social Development Canada Emploi et Développement social Canada

Canada



# Low-Income Statistics in Windsor-Essex



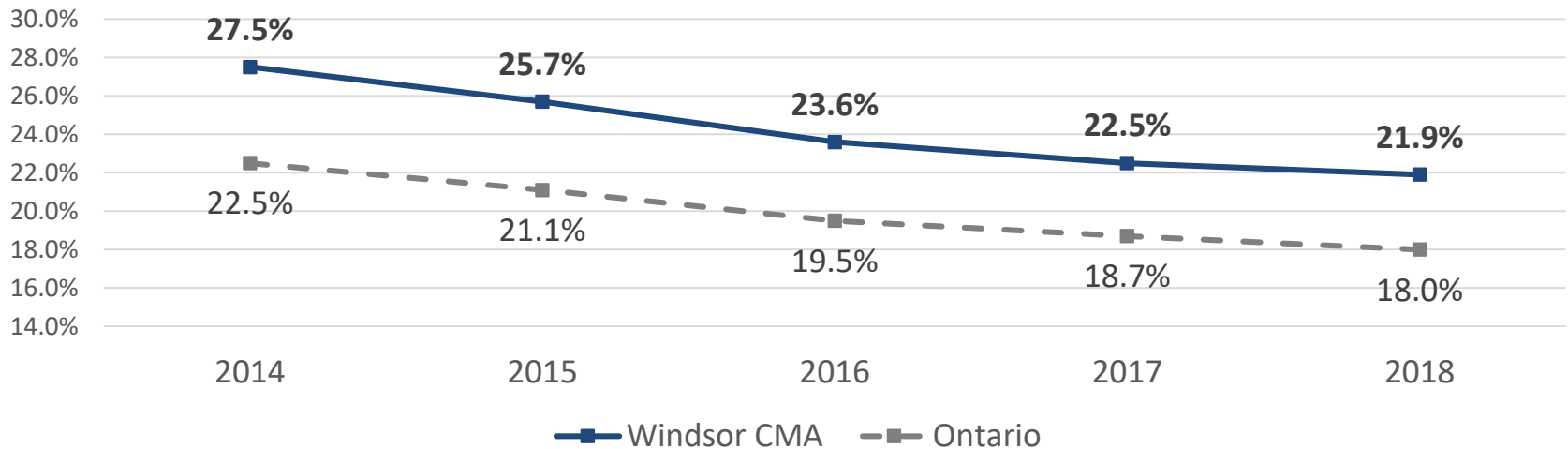
- **In 2018, 18.5% of people (62,900) in Windsor CMA were living in low-income, as defined by the Low-Income Measure\***
  - Percentage of low-income families is slightly higher in Windsor compared to the province

\*Low Income Measure (LIM-AT): Individuals are defined as having low income if the after-tax income of their household falls below half of the median adjusted household after-tax income.

Note: Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) boundaries include: Amherstburg, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Tecumseh

# Children Living in Low-Income

% of All Family Units in Low Income - Persons Aged 0-17 Years  
(CFLIM-AT)



- In 2018, **21.0% of children aged 0-17 (15,700) were living in low-income households in Windsor CMA**
  - Trend indicates a decline in prevalence of low-income among children since 2014

\*Low Income Measure (LIM-AT): Individuals are defined as having low income if the after-tax income of their household falls below half of the median adjusted household after-tax income.

Note: Windsor Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) boundaries include: Amherstburg, Lakeshore, LaSalle, Tecumseh



# Impacts of COVID-19 on Children & Youth

- **COVID-19 has impacted the educational opportunities of children and youth in low-income families:**
  - Children and teens adapted to learning from home in Spring 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic
    - **Learning from home may be a challenge for low-income families that may not have access to internet or technology**
    - School boards handed out hardware to support students (laptops and tablets)
      - 1,600 devices from the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB)
      - 1,700 devices from the Windsor Essex Catholic District School Board (WECDSB)
    - P2P funded program Computers for Kids also distributed hardware
      - Program experienced increased demand and collaborates with local school boards
- **Remaining Challenge:** Low-income families may not have access to internet/WiFi from home

# Impacts of COVID-19 on Children & Youth

- Recent research has found:
  - **COVID-19 and isolation have impacted mental health:**
    - Youth are more likely to report symptoms of **anxiety, depression, and hopelessness** compared to other age groups
    - Strong reliance on technology, but **parents concerned with increase in screen time (associated with difficulty concentrating, sadness and irritability)**
    - **Increased stress and worry in the home:** Families may be struggling with supporting the educational needs of their children and work or financial troubles
  - **An increase in food insecurity during COVID-19**
    - **14.7% of Canadians have experienced food insecurity during the pandemic**
    - **Higher rate of food insecurity among Canadians living in a household with children (19.2%)** compared to those living with no children (12.2%)
    - Breakfast and lunch programs were impacted with school closures and COVID precautions with return to school

# Sharing Stories From P2P Funded Partners

## Kate Gibb from [Drouillard Place](#)

- Drouillard Place is a multi-service provider dedicated to improving the quality of Life of the residents of the Drouillard and Grandview communities.



# Sharing Stories From P2P Funded Partners

- **Paulina Gillett & Elise Bosson from [CommUnity Partnership \(CUP\)](#)**
  - First developed in 2005, CUP formed to revitalize neighbourhoods and support community growth and development.





# CommUnity Partnership: COVID Impacts on Children and Youth Programming

---

Elise Bosson & Paulina Gillett, Co-Directors



# CommUnity Partnership: CUP

---

- Mission: To revitalize neighbourhoods, build resilience, and create a healthy, supportive community for all through effective community partnerships.
- Services & Resources:
  - Health & Wellbeing: counselling, case management, eviction prevention support, referrals, crisis intervention, music therapy
  - Food Security: vegetable distribution, food pantries, community garden
  - Advocacy: counselling, referrals, form assistance, technology access
  - Education: after-school programs, community guest speakers
- 4 neighbourhoods: Glengarry, Ouellette Manor, 255 Riverside, Reginald





# Reginald: After-school programs

---

STARS & READY



# Program Changes:

---

- March – August
  - Remote programming through social media for READY youth
  - Package / info drop-off for STARS children
  - 2 food security community events in summer months:  
90 meals provided and surveys completed
- September – October
  - Planning / prep for on-site STARS and READY programming
  - Tues – Thurs
  - Focus on socialization, physical activity, and positive mentorship
  - Snacks provided as attendees leave



# COVID Community Impacts:

---

## School Participation

- Most students attending school in-person; some remote-learners
- Some students expressed wanting to attend remotely however parents have them attending in-person

## Technology Access

- Technology seems to be school-provided and no challenges reported from students
- Indications of increased need for other school supplies



# COVID Community Impacts:

---

## Mental Health

- Physical activities highly successful; sitting in place is challenging
- READY youth indicate needing the program for socialization and change in environment
- Some reports of increased feelings of isolation, especially from remote-learning youth
- Inquiries from residents re: gov't subsidies and mental health supports

## Food Security

- Increased need for food security: resident survey and access numbers
- Average 45 participants / week in community food security events
- Increased request for snacks / food items from children/youth, including those not in CUP programs



# Glengarry: After-school program

---

United Way funded Homework Club



# Program Changes:

---

- March – August
  - Remote programming through social media: Instagram & Facebook
  - Literacy & Math contests
  - Information sharing: food, programs, etc.
  - Phone tutoring appointments
  - Grocery gift card deliveries
  - Educational activity package drop-offs
- September – October
  - Combination of in-person and virtual services; creating choice for families
    - In-person social/emotional activity
    - Academic component offered virtually, students have access to technology and CUP space to accommodate for lack of internet and/or access to device
    - Phone tutoring appointments



# COVID Community Impacts:

---

## School Participation

- All students currently enrolled are attending in-person classes
- Parents have expressed that even if COVID-19 is a concern, school attendance is necessary for childcare

## Technology Access

- Students often have one device per family, complicating the ability to provide student-specialized curriculum
- Unreliable or nonexistent internet access, forcing children to access free WiFi services in the parking lots of businesses



# COVID Community Impacts:

---

## Mental Health

- Lack of engagement with school with reduction of sports and social activities
- Lack of engagement with afterschool programming resulting from cohorting

## Food Security

- Families not often willing to access Food Pantries
- Gift cards distributed to offset costs associated with supplementing food lost through meal programs



# Contact

---

Elise Bosson

[ebosson@cupartner.ca](mailto:ebosson@cupartner.ca)

226-348-4548

Paulina Gillett

[pgillett@cupartner.ca](mailto:pgillett@cupartner.ca)

226-340-4952

# Questions



## PATHWAY TO POTENTIAL

Social Investment Windsor-Essex





## ***How to get involved or stay connected?***

- **Awareness** - [Sign up](#) for the Pathway to Potential newsletter, share it with friends and family.
- Go to the [Chew On This](#) website by Dignity For All for more ways to get connected
- **Join the Dignity for All E-Rally:** On Saturday, October 17, 1pm-2:30pm ET (10am-11:30am PT), a mass e-rally will be held, featuring a guest panel and inviting questions from government representatives. [Register for the rally](#).
- **Join the #EndPoverty global campaign on Social Media**

# ***Chew on This! 2020***

Each year on October 17<sup>th</sup>, Dignity For All holds its annual [\*Chew on This!\*](#) Campaign to mobilize people from across Canada to call for an end to poverty.

[\*Dignity for All\*](#) is a multi-partner, non-partisan campaign co-organized by *Citizens for Public Justice* and *Canada Without Poverty* with a **vision to create a poverty-free and more socially secure and cohesive Canada.**



# Thank You!

Connect: [p2p@citywindsor.ca](mailto:p2p@citywindsor.ca)