

For Immediate Release
July 10, 2019

Food Insecurity a significant theme for 2019 Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) has awarded its 2019 “Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding” (CPRRF) to a number of community-led initiatives within the District of Kenora. The need to ensure food security for children and youth emerged as a strong theme from proposals received.

CPRRF is distributed locally within the District of Kenora and is a program specifically intended to support child poverty reduction initiatives. Funding provided through this program assists over 1,000 children annually across the District, which equates to approximately 20% of children meeting eligibility for assistance. This opportunity for funding is provided solely by the Municipalities and Unincorporated Territories that comprise the KDSB’s Board. In recognizing the importance of proactive support for youth in the District, a total of \$130,145 is provided annually.

“The District of Kenora has the 2nd highest Child Poverty Rate of all of Ontario and the 7th highest percentage of low-income families with children of all the Federal Election Districts. One aspect of poverty that can be detrimental to overall health and well-being of youth and children is not having enough food to eat or having limited access to nutritious food,” says Sarah Stevenson, Director of Integrated Social Services at the KDSB.

In total, the KDSB will be providing funding to ten programs throughout the District:

Northwestern Health Unit Nutrition On Weekends Program (<i>Pickle Lake, Machin, Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls, Sioux Lookout, Dryden, Red Lake</i>)	\$40,645
Nutrition on Weekends Rotary Club Kenora	\$21,500
Making Connections for Children and Youth	\$25,000
Ignace Nursery School Parent Cooperative	\$2,100
Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub	\$3,150
Kenora Triple Play	\$18,000
Beaver Brae PASS Program	\$4,000
Minto Parent and Child Resource Centre	\$6,000
Red Lake KARE Kids Are Recreationally Equal	\$7,000
Ear Falls Child and Family Supports Enhancement Program	\$2,750
Total	\$130,145

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The Northwestern Health Unit received funding for their Nutrition on Weekends (NOW) program. “The objective of the NWHU NOW program is to increase food availability and nutrition on weekends for children in need. This funding will allow for program expansion to reach more children in the Kenora District, in partnership with local organizations and schools.” says Julie Slack, Acting Manager of Chronic Disease Prevention at the Northwestern Health Unit. The Rotary club of Kenora also received funding for NOW after implementing a 15-week pilot project in partnership with King George VI School during the 2018-2019 school year. “The importance of the pilot project has been to verify the need for such a program and how the community can successfully address the need,” says Lloyd Mack, Co-Chair of the Rotary Club Kenora’s Health and Hunger Committee, noting part of facilitating the response has been to evaluate the ongoing need of the program, possible expansion to other schools and making applications for grants and discussing other financing partnerships. “Thank you to the Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding, the NOW Kenora program will be able to increase food availability and nutrition to more Kenora children during the coming 2019-2020 school year.”

Dryden’s Making Connections for Children and Youth (MCCY) received funding to ensure that children and youth received sponsorship for many recreational, cultural and leisure activities within the community. "Our goal is to give every child the opportunity to take part in activities that assist in developing body, mind and self-esteem, the MCCY committee would like to thank the KDSB for supporting this initiative." says Helen Clark, Chair of Dryden’s Making Connections for Children and Youth.

This year, the KDSB observed requests for CPRRF oversubscribed by double the available amount. The effects of child poverty are all-encompassing and can have long-lasting impacts on a youth’s ability to succeed and thrive. Through the opportunity to provide CPRRF, the KDSB is better able to support community organizations in uniquely addressing child poverty challenges at a local level.

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Media Contact:

Roberta Lappage, Communications Officer
Kenora District Services Board
(807) 223-2100 x 2474
rlappage@kdsb.on.ca