Midaynta
Community Services

2025-2026

Reflecting on a Year of
Growth and Resilience

ANNUAL REPORT

ONE PEOPLE | ONE VOICE | ONE COMMUNITY



25-26

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Message from Chairman



Mahad Nur

Over the past year, the Board of Directors has focused on strengthening governance to ensure that Midaynta Community Services operates with the highest standards of accountability, sustainability, and operational excellence.

Our primary responsibility is to steer the strategic direction of the agency while providing rigorous governance and oversight. To support Midaynta's growth and evolving community needs, we have undertaken a comprehensive reform of our operational policies. Through diligent oversight, the Board has led significant modernizations across our financial policies, risk management frameworks, internal controls, and administrative operations. These policy enhancements ensure that every resource entrusted to Midaynta is deployed transparently, responsibly, and with maximum impact for the communities we serve.

Beyond policy reform, the Board remains deeply committed to organizational sustainability, equity, and strategic leadership. Working closely with Executive Director Mahad Yusuf and the senior leadership team, we ensure that Midaynta remains agile, fiscally sound, and fully equipped to advance its vital work in housing, youth empowerment, mental health, and community safety.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow Board members for their dedicated stewardship, to our leadership and staff for their hard work, and to our funders and community partners for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we are building a strong, resilient foundation for long-term community impact.

Message from Executive Director



Mahad Ali Yusuf

As we reflect on another impactful year at Midaynta Community Services, I am proud to share the remarkable progress we have made together in achieving our strategic outcomes and serving our community.

Our community is significantly safer today than it was five years ago. This achievement is a result of our continued work across collaborative tables, our partnerships with the Toronto Police Services Board (TPSB), MCIS, and the active involvement of hundreds of mothers. Safety remains rooted in building unity and opening new doors of opportunity within unique cross-collaborative spaces. Furthermore, our community safety models, which have been successfully shared across Canada and the United States, are now expanding internationally.

In response to growing homelessness, we have expanded support for vulnerable individuals through housing and eviction prevention services, partnerships with the City of Toronto, and the Wardlaw project. These efforts strengthen our housing expertise, promote stability, and help prevent homelessness. As active members of the Black Community Housing Advisory Table (BCHAT), we work to address housing inequities, advance permanent and culturally appropriate housing solutions, and strengthen a well-funded Black housing sector to better serve vulnerable community members.

We have also addressed critical mental health and youth needs. While the reintroduction of SUAP funding has been vital, our youth continue to face rising mental health concerns, substance use, and unemployment challenges. Moving forward, our core focus is on driving economic opportunity and employment for our youth. This directly reflects Midaynta's overarching vision: empowering youth and guiding them toward a brighter, self-sustaining future.

Thank you to our dedicated team, partners, funders, and community members for standing with us. Together, we continue to transform challenges into meaningful opportunities.



Midaynta Community Services

About the organization

Midaynta Community Services (Midaynta) is a registered Canadian charitable organisation that has been serving newcomer and refugee communities in Toronto and the surrounding area since 1993. Established originally as a family reunification initiative and incorporated in 1995, Midaynta has grown into a leading non-profit organisation committed to supporting settlement, integration, and empowerment for diverse communities.

Vision

Empowered Communities Driven by Unity & Opportunity.

Mission

Our mission is to cultivate unity and create opportunities by empowering individuals and families through collaboration, education, advocacy, and access to essential resources. We strive to support growth, equity, and accessibility, ensuring lasting impacts for all.

Midaynta's youth programs focus on youth empowerment, community involvement, identity, and health. Most of our youth initiatives support all youth. However, as a Black-led organization with primarily marginalized service users, we have created specific programs that focus on racialized and at-risk youth, such as Black youth and youth involved with the carceral system. Midaynta's trauma-informed eviction and housing services, provided both in the GTA and in York Region, recently expanded to include short-term, culturally appropriate counselling in recognition of the intersectionality between mental health, housing, and identity.



The family services at Midaynta not only directly helps families navigate issues but supports the ideas and ambition of families. For example, the Somali-Canadian mothers part of Midaynta's Mending a Crack in the Sky (MCIS) program formed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with the Toronto Police Service Board to decrease the disproportionally high rates of violence and injury against Somalis in the GTA. The Global Justice Lab and the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy recently published a report on MCIS, contributing to the lack of research on Somali populations in North America

Midaynta's "Breaking Down the Barriers'" program for seniors makes services, recreational activities, and at-home and community supports more accessible for seniors. This program is made possible due to the Multi Agency Partnership Project (MAPP), a partnership we have with St. Clair Seniors Services and Isra for Muslim and Caribbean seniors living in the Weston-Lawrence area. In response to the high rate of food insecurity in the GTA, Midaynta has two food banks in Neighborhood Improvement Areas, which supports the livelihood of families, seniors, and refugees. Midaynta's settlement and integration programs serve all populations and has been done in close collaboration with the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization due to the large proportion of Somali service users and the unique immigration issues Somalis face.

Youth Outreach Worker Program

During the reporting period, the Youth Outreach Worker (YOW) supported youth, newcomers, families, community members through outreach, referrals, programming, employment and housing assistance, community safety initiatives, and partnership development.

through direct outreach and referrals, youth were connected to employment and education opportunities, counselling, sports, recreation, and leadership programs. This included employment preparation, bus driver training referrals, justice-related support, and opportunities for youth to share their perspectives on community safety with municipal representatives and the Toronto Police Service.

School and community engagement remained a key part of the work, with workshops and outreach at Greenholme Middle School, John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, and West Humber. Collaboration with schools, community agencies, housing providers, probation services, and municipal partners helped strengthen referral pathways and create more opportunities for youth and families.

The YOWs also supported clients experiencing housing instability by helping them navigate housing applications, reactivate inactive files, access government benefits, and connect with food bank and other community resources. Housing remained a significant challenge due to long wait times, documentation barriers, and difficulties navigating application systems.

Beyond direct client support, the YOWs contributed to grant development, community mapping, youth sports, student placements, volunteer engagement, and organizational initiatives. They also supported the Youth Resilience and Mudug Peacebuilding Conferences through communications, website development, and promotional materials. Ongoing training in mental health, crisis response, suicide intervention, and trauma-informed practice further strengthened their capacity to respond to community needs.

Despite challenges related to limited emergency resources, youth safety, program attendance, and administrative barriers, the YOWs continued to build relationships and connect community members with meaningful supports. Moving forward, continued investment in youth engagement, housing navigation, employment opportunities, community safety, and collaborative partnerships will be important in meeting the evolving needs of the communities served by Midaynta Community Services.

Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker Program

During 2025-2026 , the Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker (EYOW) Program provided culturally responsive, client-centered support to youth and families, primarily between the ages of 12 and 25.



The program responded to a range of needs affecting youth safety, well-being, and stability, including mental health, employment, education, housing, family conflict, violence prevention, substance use, and access to basic needs. EYOW staff provided individualized outreach, advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals, and ongoing service coordination. Youth were supported with employment and education planning, resume development, housing resources, mental health and wellness services, and connections to community programs. Staff also worked with youth and families experiencing family and intergenerational conflict, using culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches to strengthen communication, reduce risk, and connect individuals with appropriate supports.

Collaboration remained an important part of the program. EYOW staff worked with schools, families, community organizations, and service providers to help youth navigate complex systems and access timely support. Midaynta also supported community food-distribution initiatives during the year, with some distributions reaching approximately 100–200 individuals and families and helping address immediate food-security and basic-needs concerns.

Despite these efforts, youth and families continued to face challenges related to affordable housing, employment, mental health and wellness, family conflict, substance use, and access to coordinated services. The EYOW Program continued to provide responsive outreach and practical support while strengthening connections between youth, families, and community resources. Overall, the 2025-2026 EYOW Program contributed to improved access to essential services and strengthened community connections for youth and families. Continued investment in culturally responsive outreach, early intervention, collaborative service delivery, and community partnerships will remain important in supporting youth safety, stability, resilience, and positive development.

Youth Mentorship Program

The Rites of Passage Youth Mentorship Program continued to provide culturally responsive mentorship to Black youth ages 12–16 across Northwest Toronto. The program matched 73 youth with 30 mentors, exceeding its annual performance targets and demonstrating the continued need for meaningful mentorship opportunities in the community.

At the heart of YMP is the importance of connecting youth with trusted adults who can provide guidance, encouragement, and support as they navigate adolescence. Through one-to-one and group mentorship, volunteer mentors helped create supportive relationships that encouraged youth to recognize their strengths, build confidence, develop leadership skills, and work toward their personal and academic goals. These relationships also provided opportunities for youth to strengthen their cultural identity, develop positive social connections, and build a greater sense of belonging.

The program continued to strengthen its school partnerships, delivering mentorship programming at Greenholme Junior Middle School, West Humber Collegiate Institute, Kipling Collegiate Institute, and North Albion Collegiate Institute, while expanding to Dixon Grove Junior Middle School. Through consistent engagement and ongoing support from program staff, mentors helped create safe and familiar spaces where youth could build trust, seek guidance, and develop meaningful connections with positive role models.

Looking ahead, Midaynta will continue to prioritize mentor recruitment, training, and retention while strengthening mentor-mentee relationships and creating opportunities for youth to develop into future leaders and mentors themselves. Continued investment in mentorship capacity and access to additional supports will help the program respond to the evolving needs of youth and sustain meaningful relationships that contribute to their personal, social, and academic development.

Student and Family Advocate Program

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Midaynta Community Services continued to support Black youth and their families through culturally responsive advocacy, education, and community engagement under Ontario's Black Youth Action Plan.





The Student and Family Advocates program provided advocacy support to 93 students and their families, exceeding its initial target of 72 students. The team participated in 14 teacher-parent meetings and provided 50 referrals to internal and external services, helping families navigate the education system and access relevant community resources.

The program delivered 16 workshops addressing anti-Black racism, newcomer parents' rights within the education system, employment readiness, youth safety, and mental health and well-being. Wellness Wednesday workshops and Keele Hub Café activities provided opportunities for youth, families, educators, and community partners to strengthen relationships, promote healthy communication, and build resilience. The program also developed and distributed a multilingual infographic explaining Bill 33 in English, Somali, Swahili, and Arabic, improving access to important information for newcomer families. A key achievement was Family Fun Day, held on February 7, 2026, at Greenholme Junior Middle School. The event welcomed 194 attendees, including 115 children, and featured games, arts and crafts, henna, entertainment, food, and community resource booths. Participation from local community leaders, Neighbourhood Community Officers, Save on Energy representatives, and volunteers strengthened community connections and provided families with access to safety and energy-saving resources.

Challenges included higher-than-anticipated demand for individual support, competing family commitments, language barriers, and limited resources. The team responded through flexible programming, multilingual resources, stronger partnerships, and improved case management. Overall, the program strengthened family-school relationships, improved access to services, and created welcoming spaces where Black youth and families felt supported, respected, and connected to their community.

Project Turn Around

The Gang Prevention Intervention Program (GPIP), delivered through Project Turn Around, provides culturally responsive prevention and intervention support to youth experiencing or at increased risk of gang involvement, violence, justice-system involvement, and other barriers to stability. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, GPIP continued supporting youth through individualized case management, mentorship, school and community programming, family engagement, outreach, workshops, and coordinated referrals.

The Gang Prevention Intervention Program (GPIP), delivered through Project Turn Around, provides culturally responsive prevention and intervention support to youth at risk of gang involvement, violence, justice-system involvement, and other barriers to stability. During 2025–2026, GPIP continued providing individualized case management, mentorship, family engagement, outreach, workshops, school and community programming, and referrals. Support focused on identifying needs, setting goals, strengthening protective factors, and connecting youth to education, employment, mental health, housing, food assistance, and other resources. Rise in Leadership remained a key school-based prevention initiative, supporting youth in leadership, goal setting, communication, healthy relationships, time management, and conflict resolution. The initiative is expanding to additional grades, schools, and youth groups, strengthening early intervention and connections to GPIP's broader services.

Youth and families continued facing complex challenges, including limited employment opportunities, housing and food insecurity, mental health concerns, family conflict, school disengagement, and negative peer influences. Social media and online networks also exposed youth to high-risk situations and promises of quick money, reinforcing the need for comprehensive, individualized support. GPIP collaborated with schools, probation services, Toronto Police Service Neighbourhood Community Officers, community agencies, employment services, open-custody partners, and other youth-serving organizations. Participation in FOCUS and community-safety tables strengthened referral pathways and coordinated responses to elevated risks. Staff also supported outreach to youth and families affected by critical incidents. Despite progress, limited affordable housing, lengthy waits for specialized mental health services, employment barriers, food insecurity, and limited safe community spaces continue to affect youth. Growing demand and increasingly complex needs highlight the importance of sustained support.

Moving forward, GPIP will expand Rise in Leadership, strengthen case management and family engagement, develop employment pathways, and maintain partnerships. The program will also advance community-based and open-custody programming to help youth build skills, strengthen relationships, and pursue safer, more stable futures.

Youth Justice Program

In 2025-2026, Midaynta's Youth Justice Program supported 33 Black and racialized youth in Northwest Toronto through case management, counselling, restorative practices, legal education, employment support, and referrals. Case plans were created within 48 hours, with weekly or biweekly participation over 6–12 weeks. Of 33 participants, 26 were Black; 18 completed the program with no voluntary dropouts. Services included 30 one-to-one sessions monthly and 10 group sessions during the year.

The program received 36 referrals, including 11 for Black youth from probation, two from justice or police sources, and 13 through community agencies, social services, families, peers, Fred Victor, Yorktown, For Youth Initiative, and Children's Aid Society. Lower referral volumes and negative institutional experiences made trusted relationships and accessible follow-up essential.

Youth strengthened accountability, emotional regulation, coping, goal setting, decision-making, life skills, well-being, relationships, community connection, cultural knowledge, and Black history awareness. Four re-engaged with education, including three who resumed secondary-school requirements and one who entered a post-secondary pathway. Caregivers of 12 Black youth participated, and one caregiver shared, "I feel like I know my son again."

The Youth Justice Coordinator engaged probation agencies, York Memorial Collegiate Institute, community groups, police, partners, town halls, and Youth Justice Community of Practice meetings. Workshops covered legal rights, stress management, and coping. The Pathways Forward Youth Justice Conference on March 28, 2026 brought together youth, practitioners, and partners through keynote remarks, panels, a youth panel, breakout sessions, and networking.

The program responded to mental-health, housing, family, and financial needs through advocacy, referrals, flexible scheduling, and in-person, phone, or virtual sessions. Limited devices, inconsistent participation, and capacity constraints affected continuity. Staff also provided home visits, family de-escalation, systems navigation, and community healing support after the Martha Eaton Way shooting, reinforcing the need for accessible services, stronger evaluation, and culturally responsive mental-health support.

Looking ahead, the program will integrate Law Lantis into case management, expand mobile programming partnerships in Jane and Lawrence, and strengthen culturally responsive mental-health access, data collection, evaluation, and youth-led activities.

EmpowerMENt Program

EmpowerMENt provided culturally responsive prevention and intervention programming for Black and African-Canadian male youth ages 12 to 20. The program continued to receive support through Ontario's Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. The 12-week curriculum was delivered through biweekly sessions at Dixon Grove Junior Middle School, Greenholme Junior Middle School, Kipling Collegiate Institute, Turning Point, and Terry Fox House.

Programming combined group programming with individualized case management and direct counselling from a trauma-informed clinician. Sessions addressed healthy relationships, consent, power dynamics, positive masculinity, accountability, emotional regulation, and anger and stress management. Age-appropriate content, educational videos, and discussions of online red-pill trends helped youth examine harmful messages about masculinity, relationships, and women. Food support reduced participation barriers.
Referrals increasingly came from parents, schools, probation, and community partners, reflecting growing interest in early prevention. However, stigma and limited youth self-referrals remained challenges. Teachers responded positively to the tailored curriculum, and staff observed improvements in communication, empathy, accountability, and emotional regulation. One participant recognized how jokes at peers' expense could cause harm after experiencing similar treatment, leading to greater awareness of boundaries and respect. Another demonstrated more thoughtful communication by gradually reducing harsh language.

Pre- and post-program surveys were revised using clearer, age-appropriate language, improving completion. Challenges included limited team capacity, scheduling conflicts, neighbourhood safety concerns, long waits for specialized mental-health services, and distrust of mainstream supports. The clinician helped address these gaps through counselling, case management, and warm referrals.

Partnerships included the Canadian Training Institute, Women's Support Network of York Region, Etobicoke North Probation and Parole, North York Community House, Cota Health, Interval House of Hamilton, Turning Point, Terry Fox House, and school staff. Staff also participated in Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Centre meetings and the Collaborative Responses to Gender-Based Violence conference.

Future priorities include developing trauma-informed facilitator training with the Canadian Training Institute for a fall 2026 staff rollout, launching social media awareness and youth-led outreach, continuing open-custody programming, and expanding into Everett House and West Humber Junior Middle School. On April 10, 2026, youth visited the Ontario Court of Justice, observed two plea court sessions, discussed legal concepts, and explored careers in law and justice.

Mending a Crack In The Sky

Throughout the 2025-2026 fiscal year, MCIS focused on community safety, family wellness, legal education, leadership development, and violence prevention. Through workshops, Healing Circles, community safety meetings, and partnerships, MCIS supported mothers, caregivers, youth, and families in accessing resources, strengthening advocacy skills, and building safer, more connected neighbourhoods.



MCIS delivered workshops on legal rights, criminal record suspensions, human rights, self-advocacy, financial literacy, nutrition, medication safety, and youth justice. Weekly Healing Circles provided trauma-informed support through storytelling, arts-based activities, cultural dancing, peer support, and wellness programming. Community Safety Meetings, prayer walks, and police division meetings strengthened relationships between residents, community partners, and Toronto Police Service representatives. MCIS also supported housing advocacy, community activities, and food assistance through Midaynta's Food Bank.

A significant milestone was the release of the Mother and Son Report on February 27, 2026, during the annual Community Iftar Dinner hosted by MCIS and Midaynta. The event brought together approximately 300 community members, elected officials, community leaders, Toronto Police Service Board representatives, police representatives, and Mayor Olivia Chow. The report highlighted the experiences and concerns of mothers affected by violence and reinforced the importance of listening to families, recognizing their lived experiences, and strengthening community-led approaches to safety and violence prevention. The event created space for dialogue and strengthened collaboration among families, community organizations, and public institutions.

MCIS also celebrated International Women's Day in March, bringing together approximately 100 mothers for cultural dancing, storytelling, healing, and networking. Additional initiatives included emergency response training, youth violence prevention workshops, and police-community dialogue sessions. Throughout the year, MCIS advocated for stronger youth supports, affordable housing, accessible community programs, and sustained collaboration with service providers and public institutions. These efforts strengthened community leadership, improved awareness of available resources, and supported families in contributing to safer, healthier, and more resilient neighbourhoods.

New Roads Program

In 2026, the New Roads Youth Violence Prevention (YVP) Program continued to provide meaningful opportunities for MVP (Most Vulnerable Population) Black youth ages 12 to 29 in Zone 2. Through culturally relevant, trauma-informed programming, the program focused on violence prevention, mental health, mentorship, leadership, recreation, and positive community engagement.

A key highlight was the Youth & Frontline Workers Session, which brought together 100 youth, frontline workers, and community stakeholders for an important conversation on mental health, community safety, and the lived experiences impacting young people. Participants shared perspectives, identified emerging concerns, and explored ways to strengthen collaboration and community-based supports. The session emphasized the importance of listening to lived experience and working together to improve youth well-being and safety.

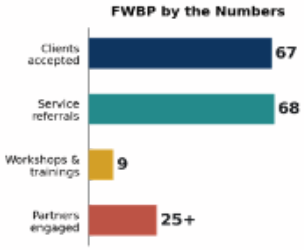
Youth also participated in educational and recreational activities designed to build knowledge, confidence, and positive relationships. A Black History presentation helped 23 students explore influential leaders, significant events, Black excellence, identity, equity, and inclusion, encouraging youth to reflect on the contributions and ongoing impact of Black communities in Canada and around the world. As part of the program's justice-system education, 32 students visited the Ontario Court to learn about court proceedings, the role of legal professionals, and the Canadian justice system. The visit was followed by a recreational outing where participants enjoyed games and a shared meal, creating additional opportunities for relationship-building and positive social interaction.

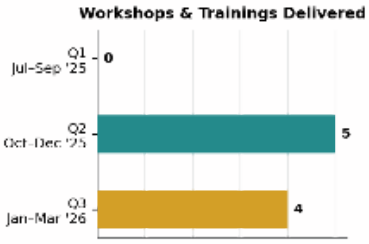
Recreation remained an important engagement strategy, with community activities providing safe spaces for youth to connect, build teamwork, and develop positive peer relationships. Individualized counselling, mentorship, case management, and referrals also continued to support youth experiencing mental health, trauma, and socio-economic challenges. 24 youth participated in an interactive volunteering workshop designed to highlight the value of community involvement and civic engagement. The session explored different volunteer opportunities, the benefits of volunteering. The Youth Violence Prevention staff also engaged one-on-one with 52 students, providing individualized guidance, encouragement, and support as they worked toward their educational and employment goals.

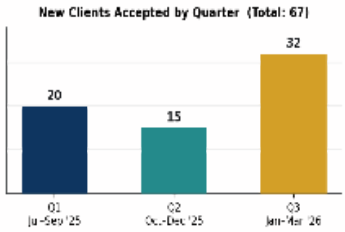
Looking ahead, New Roads will continue strengthening partnerships with schools, community agencies, and civic partners while expanding opportunities in mental health, career development, leadership, and violence prevention. Through consistent youth-centered support, the YVP Program remains committed to helping young people build resilience, strengthen connections, and create positive pathways for their future.

Family Wellbeing Program

The Family Well-Being Program supports parents, guardians, and caregivers in York South–Weston with youth ages 10–29 who may be vulnerable to violence or crime. Using a prevention-focused, family-centered approach, the program strengthens resilience through one-on-one system navigation, educational workshops, and community engagement that builds connections and reduces isolation.







Clients received support at the point where systems were difficult to understand or access. Staff accompanied clients to appointments, contacted agencies, interpreted across language barriers, and maintained follow-up until progress was made — from resolving a housing dispute alongside a client at a YWCA Toronto meeting, to helping families navigate Ontario Works, ODSP, child benefits and legal matters. School and employment-centre outreach generated new interest and potential collaborations, including from TDSB contacts, and consistent check-ins strengthened client trust across the program.

Success Story — Safe Passage Through a Housing Crisis

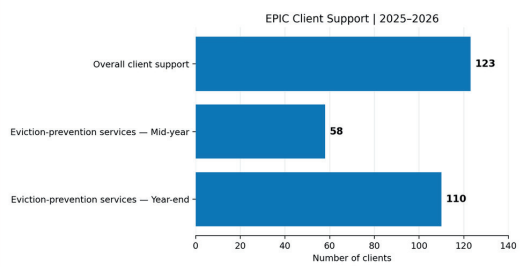
A pregnant mother with young children was experiencing homelessness and faced a significant language barrier while trying to access support. The Family Wellbeing team referred her to Unison and provided interpretation so she could understand the process, available resources and expectations — then stayed engaged after the referral, responding whenever the receiving caseworker needed further interpretation or assistance. The case succeeded because support did not end at the referral. Continued communication, interpretation and coordination with the caseworker helped the client move through the system safely, demonstrating the value of culturally responsive navigation and persistent follow-up for families facing several urgent barriers at once.





EPIC Program

In 2025–2026, EPIC provided overall support to **123 clients**. Of these, **110** received eviction-prevention services. The program supported 58 clients at the mid-year reporting point and 110 by year-end.



The Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC) Program helps individuals and families in Toronto who are experiencing housing instability or are at risk of eviction. The program primarily serves Black community members, while also supporting other marginalized communities. Through culturally responsive, trauma-informed support, EPIC works with tenants to address housing concerns early, understand their options, and take practical steps to maintain safe and stable housing. During the year, EPIC supported tenants to address housing concerns through advocacy, landlord communication, mediation, and referrals to community resources. Staff strengthened relationships with some landlords, creating opportunities for earlier referrals and intervention before issues escalated. Clients also received support to better understand their housing options and navigate available services.

Challenges We Continue to See

Housing affordability remains a major barrier to stability, with rising rents, low vacancy rates, and limited affordable options widening the gap between income and housing costs. Clients often face overlapping challenges, including rent arrears, food insecurity, mental health concerns, discrimination, and safety-related issues, requiring coordinated support. Delays in accessing financial, income-support, and legal assistance due to limited resources, eligibility requirements, and service capacity can further limit tenants' options and increase eviction risks.

Success Story — Supporting a Family at Risk of Eviction

A family was facing eviction following significant rent arrears and a Sheriff's Order. EPIC helped coordinate financial assistance, landlord advocacy, and connection to legal support. Through these combined efforts, the eviction process was stopped and the family remained housed. Follow-up support focused on budgeting, employment, and accessing available benefits.

Looking Ahead

The year's experience highlights the importance of early intervention, affordable housing, accessible financial and legal supports, and strong community partnerships. Midaynta will continue working with tenants, landlords, and service providers to strengthen housing stability and help individuals and families remain housed with dignity.

YORK REGION
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

Through the York Region Community Investment Fund (CIF), Midaynta is delivering a range of projects that strengthen our organization and expand supports for York Region residents. These investments help us build internal capacity, remove practical barriers, support housing stability, and address the mental wellness needs that are closely connected to housing.

Organizational Development & Capacity Building

Building Stronger Systems for Sustainable Community Impact

This project is strengthening Midaynta's governance, financial systems, risk management and leadership capacity to ensure we can continue to deliver high-quality, accountable and sustainable services for our community.



2025 AT A GLANCE

- **7** External consultants approached
- **2** Specialized consuitants selected
- **21** Board, leadership and program staff engaged in introductory workshop
- **100%** of pre-assessment respondents reported confidence in applying updated policies with appropriate training

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

Governance	Board roles, policies, committees, succession planning
Financial Systems	Internal controls, oversight, fraud prevention
Risk Management	Risk identification and response frameworks
Leadership Capacity	Training and tools for staff and board development

Transportation & Assistance Support Program

Removing Transportation Barriers. Connecting Residents to Essential Supports.

TASP provided transit assistance to York Region residents experiencing financial hardship or housing instability, helping them access critical appointments and services when transportation costs would otherwise be a barrier.



2025 AT A GLANCE

- **94** Unique residents supported
- **113%** of original target (83) achieved
- **600** Transit tickets received
- **600** Transit tickets distributed

SUPPORTED ACCESS TO:

- Housing viewings & appointments
- Health care & mental health services
- Employment interviews & training
- Case management, settlement services & community supports

"I really appreciate the bus tickets I received to help me get around. It's been quite the struggle nowadays and any help I can get I'm very grateful for. The bus tickets helped me attend viewings that were scheduled for me." TASP Participant

YORK REGION
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

"Building stronger systems, removing barriers, and creating pathways to stability."

HomeSafe York
Housing for All

HomeSafe York provides culturally responsive, trauma-informed housing support to York Region residents, including newcomers, Black and racialized residents, women, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. We help residents prevent homelessness, navigate the rental market, understand their rights, and maintain stable, safe and affordable housing.



2025 AT A GLANCE

- **211** Case management clients
- **52** Individuals obtained housing
- **78** Individuals remained stably housed
- **304** Attended information sessions & skill-building workshops
- **377** Warm community referrals made
- **6** New partnerships established

"They're *one of my best tenants.. I hope that programs like this will continue and grow because I've had the best experience. This program really is amazing." - Local Landlord*

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026

Mental Wellness for Housing Stability

Stronger Minds. More Stable Futures.

Mental Wellness for Housing Stability (MWHS) will integrate mental-health counselling and intensive case management to support York Region residents whose housing challenges are closely connected to mental health, trauma, violence or other complex circumstances.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **120** Unique residents to be served
- **60** Individual counselling & case management
- **60** Participants in group wellness programs
- **6** Group wellness session

KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT

- **Housing Stability** — Individualized case management, housing stabilization planning and referrals.
- **Mental Wellness** — One-to-one counselling and therapeutic support, and group wellness programming.
- **Coordinated Support** — Connection to housing, health, legal, income and community services.

"By addressing both housing and mental wellness together, we can better support residents to move from crisis to stability and thrive in their communities."- Midaynta Team

Food for Home Initiative

'Food security is an important part of housing stability.'

Midaynta Community Services received a generous $10,000 donation from CN Rail to support households experiencing financial and housing instability through the Food for Home Initiative. The initiative provided direct grocery assistance to 100 households, helping individuals and families meet essential food needs while managing the increasing costs of rent, utilities, transportation and other household expenses.

100
Households Supported

$10,000
In Food Assistance From CN Rail

Food Security Supports Housing Stability



Food security is an important part of housing stability. For households living on limited incomes, unexpected expenses or rising grocery costs can place additional pressure on already stretched budgets.

Through Food for Home, households were able to access grocery support based on their own family needs, dietary requirements and cultural preferences. This flexible approach provided immediate relief while maintaining choice and dignity for the people receiving support.

CN Rail's contribution allowed Midaynta to respond to an immediate need identified among the households we serve. The initiative complemented our broader housing stability supports by helping families direct more of their limited resources toward maintaining their housing and other essential expenses.

Thank you to CN Rail for helping 100 households put food on the table in 2025.

Midaynta Food Bank

During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Midaynta continued to operate its food bank at 7 Capri Road, supporting individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. This year, the food bank served 4,745 households. Each week, community members accessed food and connected with staff and volunteers. The food bank is open to anyone in need of food support and remains an important resource for the surrounding community.





Our food bank operates in partnership with Daily Bread Food Bank and Toronto Community Housing, alongside support from community partners, volunteers, and donors. Staff worked throughout the year to coordinate food deliveries, organize distributions, support volunteers, monitor food supplies, and respond to community needs.
The food bank has also become an important point of connection to Midaynta's other services. When appropriate, staff provide information and referrals to programs and supports that may benefit individuals and families.

As food insecurity continues to affect many families, Midaynta is exploring ways to strengthen and expand its food security work. This includes connecting community members to additional services, providing culturally relevant food and nutrition information, and creating more opportunities for community involvement. Midaynta is also working toward opening a food bank at 5 Bellevue Crescent, where the organization previously operated, to provide food support to community members in the area.

We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and community members whose continued support makes this work possible.

Youthful Connections

Youthful Connections is a youth engagement initiative at the Keele Community Hub that supports young people, particularly youth of African descent, through welcoming community spaces, skill-building opportunities, resources, and youth-serving services. Led by Midaynta Community Services in collaboration with the City of Toronto and community partners, the initiative promotes youth participation, leadership, personal development, and community connections.

3 Trainings for **30+** Youth

22
WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS



351+
Youth Participants

Throughout the year, Youthful Connections activated the Keele Community Hub through creative workshops, cultural programming, wellness activities, practical learning, and youth-led initiatives. Creative activities included Legacy on Canvas for Black History Month, Paint the Hub, pottery, ribbon flower bouquet making, pumpkin carving, and fashion and drama workshops. Cooking and baking sessions, along with braiding, crochet, and candle-making workshops, gave youth opportunities to develop practical skills, explore interests, and express their creativity. Wellness and social programming also played an important role. The Girls Code Hygiene and Self-Care Café provided a supportive space to discuss hygiene, relationships, and self-confidence, while dance classes, game nights, and movie nights encouraged friendship, relaxation, and positive social connections. Youth Ambassadors supported activities and helped shape programming around participants' interests. Youth-led workshops strengthened leadership, communication, and facilitation skills. In her testimonial, Jada Masters highlighted how the role improved her confidence, presentation, and workshop organization skills while providing valuable experience for her future career working with youth.

Overall, the initiative helped create a welcoming space where youth could build skills, confidence, relationships, and a sense of belonging. Challenges included inconsistent attendance and scheduling due to school, work, and family commitments. These experiences reinforced the importance of consistent programming, continued outreach, and activities that reflect youth interests. Moving forward, Youthful Connections will continue expanding youth-led opportunities and providing accessible programming that supports wellness, leadership, skill development, and community engagement.

Wardlaw Residences

Permanent homes, connected support

A City of Toronto investment and Made in Rexdale partnership are bringing 51 affordable, supportive homes to 9 Wardlaw Crescent. The project is led by YWS, in partnership with Midaynta Community Services and Delta Family Resource Centre, bringing together housing and community-based supports for youth, newcomers and seniors.

TORONTO → YWS DELTA FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE → WARDLAW RESIDENCES

As part of the partnership, Midaynta will head lease 16 studio units and provide culturally responsive supports that promote housing stability, independence and connection to community.







51 Studio Units

16 Head Lease Units

30% Income cap for rent

MATCH Assess housing and support fit

MOVE IN Coordinate transition

SETTLE Connect to ongoing supports

1 → 2 → 3

Building

By June, roofing was substantially complete; stairs, suites and building systems advanced.

Operating model

YWS, Midaynta and Delta Family developed budgets, staffing, policies, procedures and service plans.

Resident access

Referral, selection and support matching processes are being developed before move-in.

Community Voice

Two public consultations in March 2025 recorded questions about design, green space, access, traffic, safety and tenant supports. The City's summary reports both support and concerns. The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) continues dialogue with neighbours.

Board of Directors

Mahad Nur – Chair
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Vivian Mante – Secretary
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Zainab Osman - EPIC Case Manager
Testimony Adimula - EPIC Case Manager
Juliet Umenwosu - EPIC Case Manager
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Faduma Abdulle - HomeSafe York Coordinator
Yasmine Aul - HomeSafe York Caseworker
Ahmed Mohdhar - HomeSafe York Caseworker
Yasmin Yusuf - Clinical Counsellor MWHS
Sabrin Ahmed - Clinical Counsellor MWHS
Shirwa Shuriye - New Roads Coordinator
Mowlid Kulmiye - New Roads Facilitator
Ruweida Hassan - YMP & Food Bank Coordinator
Amiira Yusuf - YMP Intake Worker
Muna Ali - Student and Family Advocate Coordinator
Hajjra Abdulle - Student and Family Advocate Caseworker
Shakir Ali - Enhanced YOW
Mohamed Mohomud - YOW
Maryam Jumale - YOW
Sabrin Hassan - Youth Justice Coordinator
Ebyan Gele - GPIP Coordinator
Abdishakur Hassan - GBV / EmpowerMENt Coordinator
Ubah Farah - Family Support Counsellor
Abdul.Hamed Mohamed - GBV Clinical Caseworker
Farhia Abdi - MCIS Coordinator
Timiro Aganeh - Family Wellbeing Coordinator
Aaliyah Anshoor - Family Wellbeing Ambassador
Anab Sabriye - Family Wellbeing Ambassador
Edwin Wobenu - Family Wellbeing Ambassador

Summer Students

Amun Mohamed
Ayub Dahir
Dahir Abas
Hanad Abdi
Idil Muhiadin
Sabir Amir
Suhaib Abdullahi
yaqub Ahmed

Our Partners

- FOCUS (Furthering Our Communities Uniting Services) Toronto
- Diversity Institute
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- The Canadian Council of Muslim Women
- The Canadian Council of Imams
- Strides Toronto
- Colour of Poverty-Color of Change
- African Canadian Community Organizations
- African Canadian Social Development Council
- of Ontario
- Black Action Defense Committee
- Caribbean African Canadian Social Services
- Somali Immigrant Aid Organization
- MOSAIC Institute
- YWS (Youth Without Shelter)
- Delta Family Resource Centre
- Kids Upfront Toronto
- University of Toronto
- U.S Consulate
- The Centre for Research & Innovations for Black
- Survivors of Homicide Victims
- Toronto Police Services Board
- Tropicana Community Services
- Progress Place
- Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Situation Tables
- York Region Centre for Community Safety
- Muslim Legal Support Centre (MLSC)
- SomaliREN
- Welcome Centre Immigrant Services (York Region)
- Catholic Community Services of York Region (CCSYR)

Acknowledging Our Funders

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Canada
Ontario
Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services
Ontario Trillium Foundation / Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario
An agency of the Government of Ontario / Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario
Toronto
York Region
Jumpstart Bon départ
MLSE Foundation
Tropicana Community Services
Black Opportunity Fund
Daily Bread Food Bank
CN






Pan-African history




SOMALI GAMES NIGHT







SOMALIA
ZAKARIA


ARTSCAPE
WESTON COMMON



WEST







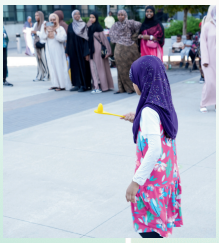




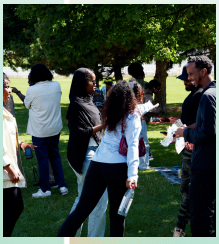
Midaynta
Community Services








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416-544-1992
info@midaynta.com

@midayntayouth
MidayntaMidaynta
@midayntayouth
@midayntayouth

2150 Islington Ave #209, Toronto, ON M9P 3V4
WWW. MIDAYNTA.COM

ONE PEOPLE | ONE VOICE | ONE COMMUNITY

