



The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness

Social Connectedness Fellowship Application

Research Project #11 - City of Toronto

The Social Connectedness Fellowship provides students and recent graduates with the opportunity to carry out research, writing, analysis, and outreach related to overcoming social isolation and building social connectedness. Fellows are paired with partner organizations that work to build belonging and social inclusion across a variety of thematic areas—climate change, disability and older people’s rights, refugee integration, inclusive education, placemaking and urban design, and much more.

Project Details:

Partner: [Social Development, Finance & Administration](#), a division of the City of Toronto that provides leadership and support to the Deputy City Manager, the Citizen Centred Services “A” Cluster and City Council to:

- Develop and implement a social inclusion and community safety agenda for the city;
- Foster safe and strong neighbourhoods and communities;
- Promote community engagement;
- Advance life skill opportunities for youth.

Location of Fellow: Remote, with a preference for someone in or from Toronto

Project Description:

Are you interested in documenting best practices and building models that combine community-led mental health and violence reduction initiatives?

Building on last year’s Fellowship, the Fellow will conduct research, and engage grassroots groups, residents and local agencies to create a set of community-



based and policy recommendations that will help address community trauma and reduce community violence in Toronto.

By researching and documenting the connection between community trauma, community violence, and belonging, the Fellow will engage many communities and stakeholders to ensure their voices are at the centre of any innovative systemic responses in these areas.

The findings from the research and consultations, along with the final recommendations, will contribute to the development of the City of Toronto's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

Background Information

Safe TO is a Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Plan currently under development that aims to shift from a focus on emergency response to a culture of prevention. The plan will prioritize four areas of risk: Community Trauma, Community Violence, Harm and Victimization, and Community Justice to help bring about a safer Toronto.

Safe TO aims to transform Toronto to become a trauma informed, responsive and specific City, to address the consistent exposure to events that can cause physical, emotional and psychological harm that can have a negative impact on community wellbeing, health and safety. There is growing evidence that the experience of trauma, including multi-generational and intergenerational trauma and early trauma as a result of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can cause life-long harm and perpetuate violence. Material deprivation, exposure to violence in the home, and repeated exposure to community violence are considered ACEs. The City and its partners are mobilizing to respond proactively to Community Trauma to prevent Community Violence and other adverse life experiences.



Key Deliverables:

1. Facilitation of 2 Community Consultations/Community Events (Design of outreach/engagement materials).
2. Conducting Community Outreach to local organizations, grassroots groups and residents.
3. 2 blog articles.
4. Policy Brief and position statement on Community Violence and Trauma.
5. Final Report with visual summary.

Key Skills/Competencies Required:

- Academic background in social sciences (e.g., social work; community development; community psychology; health promotion; public health, community nursing), or equivalent work/life experience.
- Strong research, writing, computer and group facilitation skills.
- Knowledge of anti-oppression frameworks and the social determinants of health.
- Experience working in the mental health sector and/or communications.
- Toolkit development, curriculum development, website development are assets.
- Lived experience in Jane Finch and/or Downtown East is an asset.

How to Apply:

All applicants must fill out the [Google Form application](#) by March 7, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST. Applicants can apply for 1 or 2 projects. In addition to answering the standardized questions, applicants must also answer a specific question or two for each project that they are interested in. Specific questions for Research Project #11 - City of Toronto:

- 1) a) What is your understanding of the terms violence and trauma?
b) Why do you think the City of Toronto should acknowledge and respond to trauma in the community to support violence reduction?



(Max 250 words for both parts)

- 2) a) Resident-led processes in the community require a special type of staff support. Please outline your understanding and or experience of what this support looks like.
- b) How would you approach partnership and capacity building to help residents respond to community trauma?

(Max 250 words for both parts)