

NEWS RELEASE

Community Task Force on Programming for At-Risk Youth To Develop Programming Proposal by September

**For Immediate Release
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Guelph, ON - The Community Task Force on Programming for At-Risk Youth continues to complete tasks necessary to develop programming proposals for at-risk youth who live in Guelph and Wellington County.

"We are planning to have our recommendations ready to present to the community by September," says Roya Rabbani, Chair of the Task Force.

The Community Task Force was created by the United Way of Guelph & Wellington to present a program framework for youth at -risk living in Guelph and Wellington County. This Framework will provide a range of recommendations which will address the immediate needs as well as preventive and proactive programming needs. The recommendations will identify immediate, short, and long term priorities that can be used by community groups along with current and potential funders to determine how the needs should be met.

The committee has completed several steps in the development of the proposal including a review of the examples of best-practices in programming for youth at risk and a gap analysis of the existing services in Guelph and Wellington County. The committee has also completed three successful community forums where community members, including service providers and youth, shared with the committee their suggestions and ideas on how the needs of at-risk youth should be met.

The committee is currently in the process of developing a program framework which will capture various necessary elements of programming for at-risk youth. This framework will include immediate, short and long term elements of

comprehensive programming and will also suggest necessary criteria such as sustainability, community/youth participation, a strong participatory governance model, history of community partnership and collaboration, strong accountability, and evaluation components.

The committee's timeline is to finish these tasks by August 27th and to have a youth feedback shortly afterwards. After the youth feedback forum the program framework will be presented to the community and the funders, specifically the United Way of Guelph & Wellington and Wellington County Social Services. The funders will then develop a request for proposal to address necessary elements of this framework and ask for proposals from community agencies. -30-

For more information, please contact Roya Rabbani, Community Task Force on Programming for At-Risk Youth Chair, on Mondays from 12-1 at 519-821-0571 ext. 32. or through info@unitedwayguelph.com.