**York Region Homelessness Community Board (YRHCB):**

**A Local Organizing/Planning Body to Address Homelessness in York Region**

**About YRHCB**

Established in January 2015, the YRHCB provides a venue for community leaders from multiple sectors to work collaboratively, using a systems approach, to ensure continuous improvement in our collective efforts to end homelessness in communities across the region. The United Way of Greater Toronto in its role as the Community Entity ([CE](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/find-community/on.html)) for the federally funded [Reaching Home Strategy](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html) convenes and provides secretariat support for the YRHCB.

Between 2015-2017, the YRHCB provided strategic advice on the implementation of [Housing First](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/resources/housing-first.html) initiatives in York Region and the first-ever Point-in-Time Count. From 2017-2019, YRHCB put priority on enhancing the broader community understanding of homelessness in York Region through public awareness and education activities. In 2019, York Region became a [Built For Zero](https://bfzcanada.ca/getting-to-zero/) Designated Community, which means that we are committed to ending chronic homelessness. The YRHCAB continued to advise and support the evolution of homelessness response within York Region as it embraced this new national strategy. The 2020 I-Count (formerly Point-in-Time) was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. Since this time, the YRHCB increased its support and guidance to York Region and local agencies by establishing the COVID Cluster Response Working Group, which ensured that crucial services were re-envisioned and adequately funded to meet the unique needs of community members who have been experiencing homelessness during the time of COVID.

**To know more about the background and mandate of the YRHCB, please find attached its Terms of Reference.**

**About the Volunteer Role**

The YRHCB currently has an opening and is seeking up to 5 community volunteers to serve on the YRHCB from May 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024 with a possible extension of one-year more.

Meetings occur at least four times a year. However, during COVID, we have been meeting monthly for 2 hours.

**As a member of the YRHCB, you will**

* Work collaboratively to end homelessness in communities across the region.
* Actively participate in scheduled meetings to share ideas, discuss issues, brainstorm solutions and strategize actions.
* Participate on committees, working groups and network tables as required and appropriate.
* Support and promote the activities and work of the YRHCB.

**Who can Apply**

You live or work in York Region and have:

* Knowledge and/or experience about homelessness issues in York Region.
* Knowledge about responses to and effective practices in addressing homelessness.
* Experience being homeless or being directly impacted by homelessness or working with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
* Ability and willingness to work collaboratively and participate regularly and actively in meetings.
* Ability and willingness to commit from May 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024.

**Why Volunteer for the YRHCB**

As a member of the YRHCB, you will:

* Make a difference to our community by contributing to preventing, reducing, and ending homelessness in our region.
* Assist in informing the implementation of a Coordinated Access System.
* Network and learn with a diverse group of community leaders and professionals.

**Application Instructions:**

Application is attached [**YRHCB Application**](https://forms.office.com/r/knWmTJGqZ8)

(If you are not able to complete the application online, please use the word copy or if you need it in another format, please contact ReachingHome@uwgt.org)

Send your complete volunteer application to Suman Hota, Associate Manager, Housing and Homeless Services Partnership at **ReachingHome@uwgt.org** by March 31, 2022**.** A resume is welcomed but not required.