

# COMMUNITY FUND

Collective giving for Hamilton's greater good

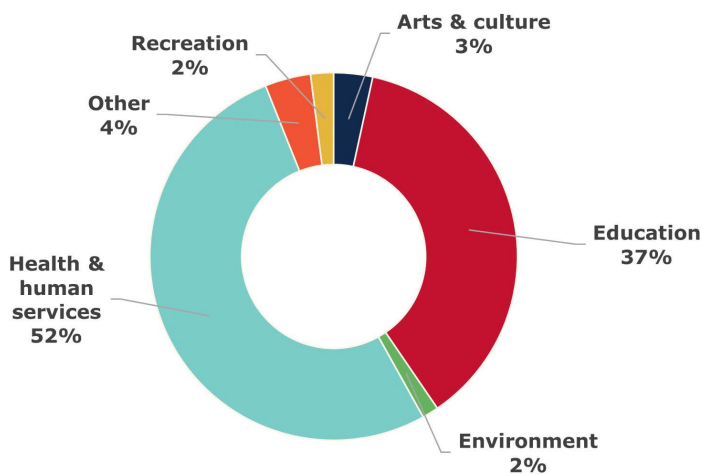
## 2024/2025 UPDATE



Thank you for supporting the Community Fund at HCF! As a Community Fund donor, you are part of a dedicated group committed to building community in Hamilton.

This annual Community Fund update gives you a glimpse into the work you are helping to make possible. As you know, the Community Fund at HCF is focused on supporting critical areas like housing, education and equity alongside immediate needs and community leadership on longer-term initiatives.

Community Fund



Here's a snapshot of how \$2.5 million was granted to 46 organizations from the Community Fund last fiscal year (2024-25). Read on for some examples of the impact it is having across Hamilton communities.



## Community Fund highlights:

### Joining forces on affordable housing

HCF has launched a partnership with *The Hamilton Spectator* to bring greater awareness and understanding of the causes, impact and potential solutions to homelessness and the housing crisis in our city. This project is part of SCAFFOLD, HCF's commitment to support affordable housing efforts.

Through this year-long pilot, HCF is funding a reporter dedicated to the housing and homelessness beat, providing expanded and more in-depth coverage. Access to the articles is free to the public, with or without a subscription.

This strategy, known as "philanthrojournalism," follows the examples of some 40 Canadian private and community foundations and many more in the U.S. In keeping with best practices, the Spec has full editorial independence — HCF does not assign, edit, vet or endorse editorial content.

## ABACUS

### ABACUS: The next decade

In 2024-25, HCF's Board approved a 10-year extension for ABACUS, the Foundation's education initiative focused on increasing the likelihood that young Hamiltonians will graduate high school and pursue post-secondary education. This extension allows HCF to reach a cohort of students who were in kindergarten when the COVID-19 pandemic began and see them through to high school graduation. This extension followed a third-party evaluation that highlighted how ABACUS serves as a magnet for students to attend school and the benefits of Indigenous programming.

## At home in Hamilton

Hamilton is Home is a coalition of non-profit organizations committed to creating 3,000 units of affordable housing locally over the next three years. The coalition's plan includes procuring resources and land and leveraging its members' expertise to plan and manage housing projects.



The Community Fund has supported a number of projects by Hamilton is Home including a research grant last year to inform the coalition's goal. As part of its \$50 million SCAFFOLD affordable housing impact investing commitment, HCF also works closely with Hamilton is Home to streamline and prioritize affordable and supportive housing projects.

## The flow of things

When you think of innovation, data analytics, workflows and statistics may not be top of mind, but for Sacajawea Non-profit Housing Inc., they are vital elements in its services to connect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals and families with affordable and adequate housing.

Last year, a Community Fund grant helped support Sacajawea to automate workflows that handle everyday tasks, such as tenant inquiries, maintenance requests and housing application processing. Automation enables staff to focus on more strategic and impact-focused work, such as improving services and addressing the specific needs of Indigenous communities.

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## Knowledge is power

Last year, a Community Fund grant supported an ACORN Hamilton project focused on outreach and workshops in three low-income communities. The project develops leaders who are living in low-income communities and builds people's confidence to exercise their tenant rights. It also provides training in civic skills, including how to delegate to government and how to deal with bylaw enforcement.

Since 2018, ACORN has been bringing tenant education to neighbourhoods across Hamilton. It uses a proven model developed in previous projects — knocking on doors — to reach communities that have higher rates of poverty, newcomers, racialized people, persons with disabilities, single parents and isolated seniors.

## Protecting the Greenbelt

If you've ever wondered how we can measure the value of nature, Greenbelt Foundation has an answer. It brings our natural spaces into an asset management system that puts nature-based solutions into practice across the Greenbelt and southern Ontario. The project's first phase brought 65,000 hectares of land under local municipal asset inventories, adding an extra layer of protection for the area's natural assets.

A recent Community Fund grant further develops the project and helps bring it to other municipalities seeking action on climate emergencies such as flood prevention, heat mitigation and improved air quality.

If you would like to learn more about our work or impact, please contact us at [philanthropicservices@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca](mailto:philanthropicservices@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca) or 905.523.5600, ext. 253.

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