

Healthy People, Strong Communities

Connection to Supports



Connection to Supports focuses on strengthening people's ability to access and navigate community resources, while also developing the social connections, like friendship, that provide support.

Who it affects:



30%

The difference in the employment rate for those with and without a disability.¹

1 in 5

Canadian residents are foreign born. Almost **10%** of newcomers speak neither official language.²

8% of adults receive help at home due to a disability, health condition or condition related to aging.³

Why it matters:



INCREASED ISOLATION AND VULNERABILITY

Relocation, discrimination, and limited opportunities to connect with others cause small social circles.⁴



MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

Limited supports increases the risk of loneliness, depression and other mental health concerns.⁵

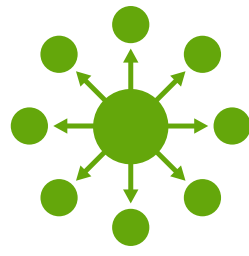


RISK OF FINANCIAL INSTABILITY

Barriers to employment place individuals at a higher risk of experiencing low income.⁶

How we help:

With over 100 locations, United Ways Centraides are working to make a measurable impact connecting individuals to supports in communities across Canada.



Increase access to programs and services through increased service coordination.

Influence policy to reduce barriers for vulnerable individuals.



Strengthen the ability of programs to deliver services in neighbourhood settings.

The impact we want:



- Individuals and families are connected to and able to **access services and supports** they need.
- Community services work together to help individuals and families **navigate support systems**.
- Individuals and families create and maintain supportive **relationships and connections**.



**United Way
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Canada**

Change starts here.
unitedway.ca

1) Statistics Canada. 2013. *Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada: National Household Survey, 2011*. Ottawa: Minister of Industry, p. 4, 7.
2) Collin, C., Lafontaine-Émond, I., and Pang, M. 2013. *Persons with Disabilities in the Canadian Labour Market: An Overlooked Talent Pool*. Ottawa: Library of Parliament, p. 2.
3) Turcotte, M. 2014. *Canadians with Unmet Home Care Needs*. Ottawa: Minister of Industry, p. 2.
4) Mancini, J.A. and Bower, G. L. 2013. "Families and Communities: A Social Organization Theory of Action and Change" in G.W. Peterson and K.R. Bush (eds.), *Handbook of Marriage and the Family*. United States: Springer, p. 798.
5) World Health Organization and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. 2014. *Social Determinants of Mental Health*. Geneva: World Health Organization, p. 16-17.
6) Collin, C. and Jensen, H. 2009. *A Statistical Profile of Poverty in Canada*. Ottawa: Library of Parliament.