

The Critical Backbone: Collaboration for Systems Change

Presentation for Oxford County Council

November 30, 2022



Social Planning Council Oxford

www.spcoxford.ca



Who We Are

- Community-based non-profit
- Exist to build and strengthen our community: “Every resident experiences wellbeing and a sense of belonging”
- Our Mission:

SPCO illuminates the realities of poverty and marginalization to **shift understanding** and **inspire collaborative action** for positive change.



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What We Do

- Social Research
- Policy Analysis and Development
- Community Awareness and Education
- Service Development (Coordination and Evaluation)
- Community Development
- Convening and Facilitating
- Partnership and Collaboration



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Backbone/Behind the Scenes

“The expectation that collaboration can occur without a supporting infrastructure is one of the most frequent reasons why it fails. The backbone organization requires a dedicated staff separate from the participating organizations who can plan, manage, and support the initiative through ongoing facilitation, technology and communications support, data collection and reporting, and handling the myriad logistical and administrative details needed for the initiative to function smoothly.”

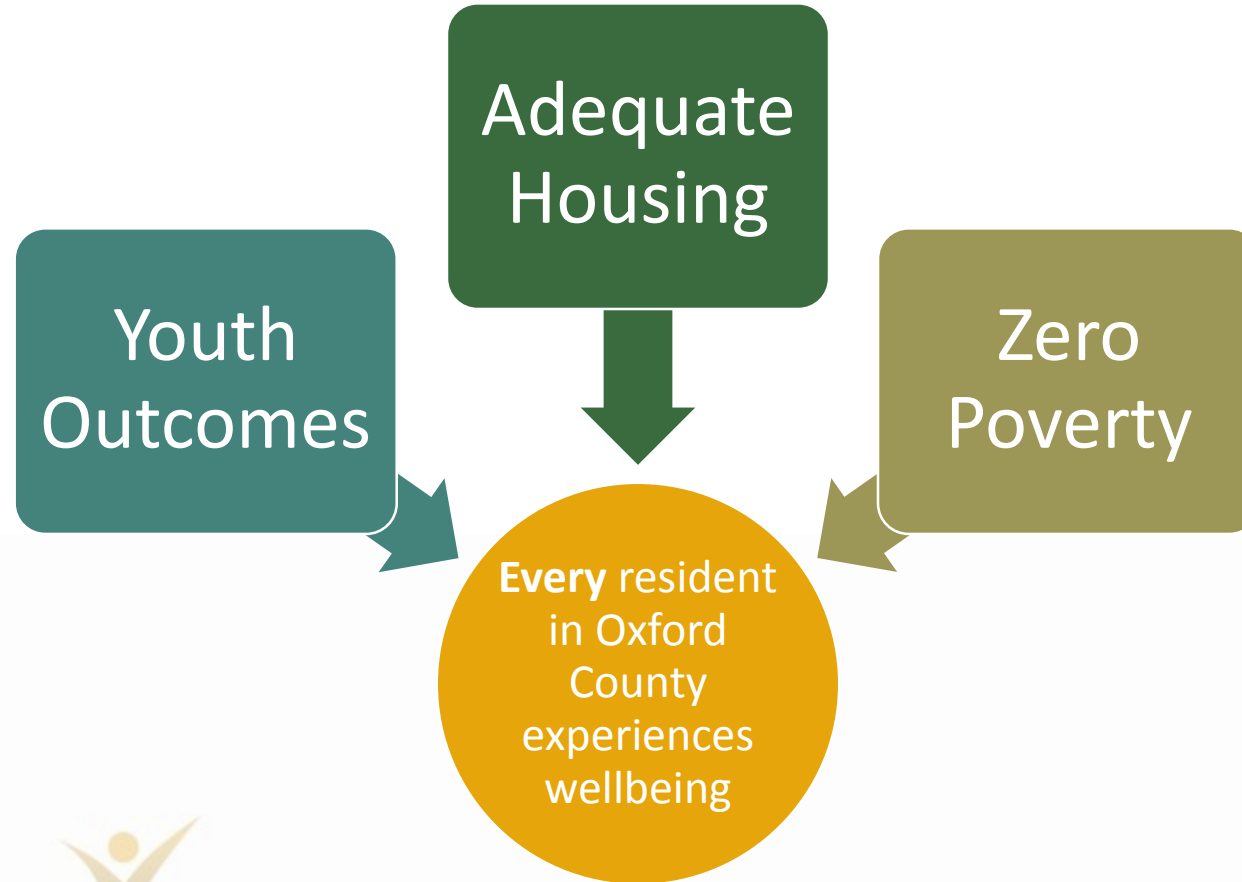
– Kania and Kramer, 2011 “Collective Impact”



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Our Current Priorities



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Year In Review: Collaborative Successes

Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF)

- Accessed funds (\$485,000 for our community over 1.25 years) and provide backbone support to CBYF initiative
- Initiative goals:
 - increase high school graduation rates
 - improve youth outcomes beyond high school
- Funder (Tamarack Institute/ESDC) requires that a collective impact approach be used (community determined priorities, etc.) and that it be youth-led
- Completed engagement to determine priorities and action areas:
 - Surveys, focus groups with service providers and youth, review of previous reports, youth conference (80 in attendance)



Year In Review: Collaborative Successes Communities Building Youth Futures (CBYF)

- CBYF Priorities Selected: mental health and addictions, youth inclusion, youth futures and employment, rural challenges and access to information
- CBYF Projects To Date:
 - Youth Employment and Education Fund launch and distribution of funds including funds for access to psycho social assessments
 - Mental Health Training for youth and adults (9 sessions across Oxford)
 - Youth Engagement Grants participatory model to 6 local groups
 - Beginning work on pilot of social spaces in a rural community



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2022-23* Projected Financials

Expenses

Payroll	206,500
Programming	11,900
Professional Fees	1,500
Memberships	250
Website	800
Insurance	2,000
Board Expenses	750
Equipment/Supplies	4,000
Telephone/Rent	2,000
Mileage	1,500
Training	2,800
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	234,000

Income

County	65,000 (54,167)
Tamarack/ESDC Grant	160,000
CMHC Grant	21,200
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	235,367



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*fiscal year is Apr 1 to Mar 31

Budget Request for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

2023-24 PROPOSED BUDGET

Expenses

Payroll	91,500
Programming/Admin	15,000
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	106,500

Income

County	80,000-90,000
Grants	
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	Remaining
	106,500



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*fiscal year is Apr 1 to Mar 31



Goals for 2023-Collaborative Work

- Youth
 - Work with local organizations, municipalities, school boards to share calls of action from this work and discuss possible ways to incorporate
 - Provide support to groups that are implementing the youth engagement grants
 - Launch social space pilot in partnership
- Poverty
 - Continue to be a leader at the Reducing Poverty Together Committee as we tackle issues such as food insecurity and access to information
- Housing
 - Continue to work to shift mindsets through awareness campaign/calls to action
 - Work with tenants to hear their stories and help them understand their rights



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Your Return on Investment

- Arms length, independent organization with valuable community expertise including board member knowledge
- Quality research, responsive to emerging trends, information that assists with planning
- Facilitation, advance local issues and turn research to action
- Ability to leverage the County dollar further by applying and receiving other grants
- A strong, reliable partner that helps to realize outcomes of Future Oxford and the County Strategic Plan



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Quotations from Community Partners

“As a Social Worker working in Oxford County, I support many individuals struggling to overcome barriers to things like food security, housing and health care. The research the Social Planning Council has done really helped inform my work and advocate for people in a meaningful way. As we head into a recession this work will only become more important, which is why I hope that it not only continues, but grows.”

“I am really grateful for the work SPCO is doing to drive our Oxford Housing Action Collaborative and help our community work together to ensure real housing solutions for Oxford County residents.”



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