

## Economically Disenfranchised Youth in Burlington

### **Vision:**

To find ways to improve outcomes for youth (ages 15 – 24) in Burlington who are over represented in poverty. While there are many factors that affect outcomes, we would like to focus on education/training, as higher education/training generally translates to better employment outcomes.

### **Implications:**

Youth are over-represented in poverty in Burlington.

Poverty negatively impacts health, well-being and social inclusion.

Being poor in an affluent community is complicated by the lack of resources/supports. People assume there is no problem.

The following information was taken from a Community Development Halton report entitled “Our Halton 2018 Children and Youth”

- Youth with a higher educational attainment are more likely to be employed than those with less. Those with apprenticeship or trade certificates or diplomas have the highest employment rate.

### **Learning and Understanding:**

What is currently in place in Burlington to support youth living in poverty? (i.e. affordable education/training, access to food and shelter etc.)

Public perception v. reality

Look at contributing factors: lone parent families, blended families, mental health and addiction issues etc.)

Review City of Burlington policies and City specific programs

Review outcomes and available data

Talk to youth

Glean information from guest speakers, specifically:

Community Development Halton

<https://cdhalton.ca/>

Centre for Skills Development

<http://centreforskills.ca/About-Us/Overview>

Our Kids Network

<https://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/Home.aspx>

### **Going Forward:**

We understand that no single policy or approach will be enough to reverse poverty; however focused attention by the City on the issue might help, including:

(a) Building relationships/programs with stakeholders including:

- Centre for Skills
- Mohawk College
- Sheridan College
- McMaster University
- Local business owners who employ skilled trade workers or may provide apprenticeships.

(b) Find ways to assist youth acquire Asset-Building skills so they can move out of poverty

(c) Create youth to youth mentoring programs