



Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative Growing Up Great

Homework Club
Community of Practice



Our Vision

All children and youth in Ottawa have the opportunity to reach their full potential

Our Mission

Work together to foster the healthy development of all children and youth through research, advocacy and program development.

Our Mandate

Foster a community where all children and youth grow up great because:

- they live in safe and caring environments;
- their fundamental needs are met;
- they benefit from opportunities to develop their competencies;
- and they prosper in stable and nurturing relationships.

Our Membership

- OCYI is a collaboration of over 80 member organizations with a shared commitment to seeing all children and youth in Ottawa grow up great.
- We recognize the power of a collective voice and provide a platform to work collectively to guide and influence practice, policy, and systems aimed at children and youth.
- OCYI member organizations include large institutions, government departments, city-wide-organizations, networks and issue-specific coalitions, and smaller neighbourhood-based agencies.
- OCYI members have the opportunity to influence practice, policy and systems in Ottawa, share common challenges, and network with professionals dedicated to improving the healthy development of children and youth in Ottawa.

Our Structure

Our structure and governance is comprised of:

Council of Partners: Senior executive leaders from the public and voluntary sector who provide leadership and strategic direction for OCYI

Research and Evaluation: Researchers, volunteers, and members who support access to and appropriate use of quality data and information

Coordinating Committee: Co-chairs representing the different structures of OCYI and the organizations that contribute to the secretariat support. The committee is responsible for ensuring integration across the full initiative

Growing Up Great Network: Open to all professionals and individuals that agree with the OCYI mandate and strategic priorities. This large group provides oversight and accountability for all action plans and OCYI task groups



2015 Strategic Priorities

Critical Hours	School Readiness	Collective Voice for Child and Youth Sector	Research into Action
<p>Working together to ensure children and youth have safe, positive, and enriching opportunities during out-of-school time</p>	<p>Enabling organizations to successfully support young children and families</p>	<p>Engaging community and decision-makers on issues that impact children, youth and their families</p>	<p>Supporting and promoting the use of research and data to inform and guide program, policy and systems</p>
<p>Implement outcome evaluation pilot for after-school programs</p> <p>Support program-to-program practices and training</p> <p>Launch and oversee implementation of tools to support literacy skills of vulnerable children during summer</p> <p>Facilitate Ottawa Homework Club Community of Practice</p>	<p>Support agencies to implementation of tools for the early identification of developmental concerns</p> <p>Facilitate a community response to strengthen self-regulation skills and promote attachment in young children and their families</p> <p>Increase capacity of organizations to serve children with developmental concerns</p>	<p>Leverage member networks to promote communications and key messages</p> <p>Promote 5 Numbers You Need to Know about Children and Youth in Ottawa</p> <p>Launch and support the Ottawa Collaborative for Parenting Support</p>	<p>Improve access to and sharing of available data through the facilitation data sharing among partners</p> <p>Identify common indicators for child and youth health and development and community action</p> <p>Support knowledge mobilization</p>

Homework Club Community of Practice

What is it?

Brings together almost 30 after-school and homework club programs from across the city to:

- share tools
- share practices and ideas
- identify and make available training opportunities
- work together to ensure homework club programs across the city offer high quality, accessible programs for children and youth

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How did it start?

- Critical hours programs for children and youth is one of the major strategic priorities for OCYI.
- In 2012, OCYI completed a mapping process to understand the issues, community gaps and identify ways to make programs more available and accessible.
- OCYI Critical Hours Task Group created the CoP to better understand the existing programs, identify local best practices, share tools and resources, and work towards outcome measures.

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Why is it important?

- There are many high quality homework club programs across the city.
- There are large disparities between programs in terms of resources and funding.
- There is limited knowledge and measurement on the impacts and outcomes these programs are having on the children and youth who attend.

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What is happening now?

- Annual Homework Club 101 workshop taking place October 1, 2015
- Developing common evaluation tools with the Effective Measures team from SPC.
- Update mapping tool annually to get a snapshot of the programs, their locations and the key best practices within each program.



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Catholic Centre for Immigrants
Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre
Centretown CHC
Somali Centre for Family Services
Debra Dynes Family House
Pathways to Education
Pinecrest Queensway CHC
Osgoode Youth Association
Western Ottawa CRC
Somerset West CHC
Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa
Caldwell Family Centre
Social Planning Council
Pinecrest Terrace Community House
Lowertown Good Neighbours Community House
Lowertown CRC
Carlington CHC

South East Ottawa CHC
Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Winthrop Court Community House
Confederation Court Community House
Christie Lake Kids
Russell Heights Community House
Blair Court Community House
Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre