

United Way Simcoe Muskoka – Urgent Needs Fund Overview

Over 60,000 people in Simcoe Muskoka are living in low-income.
We believe that poverty is **#UNIGNORABLE** and no one should face it alone.

Simcoe Muskoka Urgent Needs Fund - Overview

At UWSM's regional consultations held this spring, community partners identified challenges assisting clients experiencing the negative impacts of poverty. They identified a financial gap in existing supports and expressed a desire for flexible discretionary funding. To address this need, UWSM has partnered with 211 Community Connection to pilot a six-month **Urgent Needs Fund (UNF)** in each of our (6) sub-regions to run October 2019 – March 2020. Based on the pilot's success, UWSM hopes to continue this program and build its sustainability in future years by attracting other sources of funding to extend its reach.

The Fund will be available to individuals in Simcoe Muskoka experiencing or at-risk of poverty and will offer emergency financial assistance with modest one-time grants to address basic needs (e.g. groceries, clothing, transportation, housing start up costs, health and wellness, personal identification). UNF cannot address housing payments or arrears. Please visit our '[Get Help Now](#)' page for more information on how to access services for housing or utility related expenses

The **District Municipality of Muskoka** will act as the first point of contact for **all** individual/agency referrals and is the **Regional Agency Lead** that will provide the grant for Muskoka residents (Town of Bracebridge, Township of Georgian Bay, Town of Gravenhurst, Town of Huntsville, Lake of Bays, Township of Muskoka Lakes).

211 Community Connection will act as the first point of contact for **all** Simcoe County individuals/agency referrals and five Regional Agency Leads will provide the grant for Simcoe County residents:

- **Independent Living Services of Simcoe County** (Barrie and Area - City of Barrie, Town of Innisfil, Township of Springwater)
- **CHIGAMIK Community Health Centre** (North Simcoe – Town of Midland, Town of Penetanguishene, Township of Tay, Township of Tiny)
- **The Lighthouse Soup Kitchen and Shelter** (Orillia and Area – City of Orillia, Township of Oro-Medonte, Township of Ramara, Township of Severn)
- **South Georgian Bay Community Health Centre** (South Georgian Bay – Town of Collingwood, Township of Clearview, Town of Wasaga Beach, Town of Blue Mountains)
- **CONTACT Community Services** (South Simcoe - Township of Adjala-Tosorontio Township, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Township of Essa, Town of New Tecumseth)

Expectations of First Point of Contact Agencies

District Municipality of Muskoka and 211 Community Connection will conduct screening and intake activities for referrals to the Urgent Needs Funds by **connecting individuals with all existing community services and programs as a first step**. Once all those options have been explored, eligibility will then be considered for the Urgent Needs Fund. District Municipality of Muskoka and 211 Community Connection will also perform additional follow up and outcome measurement reporting.

Expectations of Simcoe County Regional Agency Leads

- Complete required reporting and liaise with 211 Community Connection on all client requests
- Manage delivery of funding to client (method of money transfer is at the discretion of the Regional Agency Leads)
- Provide in-kind administration to manage the fund
- Actively promote the pilot to community partners and regional tables
- Participate in monthly conference calls with UWSM and 211 Community Connection

Applicant financial need and qualification to be determined by:

- Proof of household income (e.g. 30-day bank statement, previous Tax Return, Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support slip, last pay stub, Financial Trustee).
- Personal Identification (birth certificate, health card, SIN, driver's license) to confirm residency in sub-region. If individual doesn't have a fixed address and is staying in a temporary shelter, a referral from the shelter will suffice.

For additional information, please contact:

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