

Settlement Services Working Group
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 18, 2017
Centre for Social Innovation
192 Spadina Avenue
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. LIP Work Plan
3. Settlement Pathways
4. Schools as community Hubs
5. Community Engagement
6. Community Update

Attendance

Present:

Wendy Rasmunair
Michelle Gordon
Tracy Cummins

Toronto Newcomer Council Member
CARE
George Brown

Staff:

Giovanni Rico

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Each member was welcomed by LIP staff and then provided with a copy of the Meeting Agenda. Members were then given an opportunity to introduce themselves

2. LIP Work Plan:

Members were updated on the new strategic plan for the 2017-2020 funding cycle. After being informed on the process of creating and selecting the strategic plan the final projects that the Settlement Services Working Group is going to lead were announced. They are as follows, Settlement Pathways tool, and the schools as community hubs idea. Members would now take these ideas and see how best to implement the projects.

3. Settlement Pathways

Members were presented with what the current Pathways to settlement tool looks like both on paper and digitally. After seeing its functions and limitations, members were asked on how to update and create a tool that would encompass a pathway for all types of immigration streams. So that all newcomers could see where they stood in the process and what's needed to reach their settlement goals.

Members came up with some ideas on how to make the pathway easier to read. One would be to devise a colour coding. Creating legend so that it would be easier to fully understand where in the pathway a newcomer is. Members suggested a Prezi style digital tool so that newcomers are not distracted by an overwhelming amount of information. There is also a need to update the services that are available to newcomers, for example a part for pre arrival services as this is a part of the sector that is relatively new and not a lot of information is needed.

Members were committed to look at the tools and see what information is needed. Then a google doc would be created to hold new information that needs to go in the new tool.

Here are the examples of the current and previous settlement pathway tools:

Documents available on Toronto South LIP website

5 documents filed under:

Torontolip.com>Publications>Resources>TorontoSouthLIPResources

1. Settlement Pathway for Economic Class Newcomers

<http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/Settlement%20Pathways%20-%20Economic%20Class%20immigrants.pdf?ver=2016-04-05-032300-000>

2. Settlement Pathway for Newcomers

<http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/Settlement%20Pathway%20for%20Newcomers.pdf?ver=2016-04-05-032300-000>

3. Settlement Pathway for Privately Sponsored Refugees

<http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/Settlement%20Pathway%20for%20Privately%20Sponsored%20Refugees2.pdf?ver=2016-04-05-032300-000>

4. Settlement Pathway for Refugee Claimant – Inland Claim

<http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/Refugee%20Pathway-Inland%20claim.pdf?ver=2016-04-05-032300-000>

5. Settlement Pathway for Refugee Claimant – Port of Entry

<http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/Refugee%20Pathway-%20Port%20of%20Entry%20claim.pdf?ver=2016-04-05-032300-000>

B. Interactive documents available on OCASI wiki site

1. Pathway for Economic Class Newcomers

http://wiki.settlementatwork.org/index.php?title=Pathway_for_Economic_Class_Newcomers

2. Pathway for Refugee Claimants

http://wiki.settlementatwork.org/index.php?title=Pathway_for_Refugee_Claimants

C. UNHCR Canada

1. Refugee Claim Process for Canada (Regular Entry, Irregular Entry, Inland claim)

http://www.torontolip.com/Portals/0/Resources/Settlement%20Services/UNHCR_Canada_The_Asylum_Process_Final_June_2017.pdf?ver=2017-07-13-061322-660

4. Schools as Community Hubs

Members were briefed on the idea of Schools as community hubs. This is one of the projects in partnership with the Social Inclusion working group. This project is part of the welcoming and inclusive community section of the Strategic Plan.

The first part of the conversation discussed on who should be at the table in order to create a well founded and obtainable project. All members agreed that there needed to be representation from the Toronto School boards. The members also expressed the need to invite community partners who already have partnership with school boards as well as students and family members of students so that we can have a full scope of what would be required to create a more welcoming environment in schools.

The members then brainstormed some ideas that could be done in a smaller scale to start the project. One would be to reach out to schoolboards to create activities in conjunction to Newcomer Day activities done by the city.

Another idea would be to create a mentorship program that would be bring settled students together with newcomer students. Members expressed the need to not leaving the program specific to immigrant and racialized students so not to segregate the newcomers. In addition, there is a need to bring different tools to the table so participants give and receive from the programs.

5. Community Engagement

Members were thanked for their continuous support of the Toronto South LIP working groups and commended for all they have been able to accomplish. Since this is the beginning of a new funding cycle and there are new strategic priorities, members were asked who the Toronto South Local Immigration Partnership should target to be more engaged and to help accomplish these goals.

Members all agreed that there needs to be more involvement from the education agencies, not only being school boards but also post-secondary institutions like university and other community colleges. Given the current environment, the members thought it to be important to have more involvement from the employment sector. Not to only target newcomer specific services but also general employment services, for example TESS. Although this group is not specific to Health members agreed that health is an important part of the settlement process and though it imperative to involve health institution specifically hospitals so to guarantee that no service gaps are present.

6. Next meeting

Doodle poll to be sent out on the general availability to be able to set a standard date for this working group for the remainder of the fiscal year.