Region of Waterloo
Upstream Fund

Community-led approach to improving safety and wellbeing in Waterloo Region

What is Upstream?

Upstream initiatives are focused on harm prevention and getting to the root causes of issues in order to improve community safety and wellbeing

An upstream approach to community funding means that we can combine our efforts with financial and other resources to improve our community from the ground up and to create lasting systemic change

Community-Led

The Upstream Fund gives money directly to community-led groups and organizations. Who gets funding is decided by a Community Change Committee - this means that the process is BY the community FOR the community. To reduce barriers to applying, the Region hosted 13 Community Collaborative Events with 124 participants. These brought community members together to discuss big ideas and get support on writing their applications

A diverse 12 person Community Change Committee deliberated for 5 weeks with the support of a facilitator to allocate the 2022 funds

$2.1 Million Upstream Fund
$2 Million Equity Community Capacity Fund
41 Organizations
Improving the health and wellbeing of: Indigenous, Black, racialized and other communities facing discrimination

Ongoing Change

This approach directly responds to the calls to action from the community as part of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan

The Upstream Fund is an ongoing annual funding process with 2022 being its inaugural year. Some initiatives will be funded for multiple years, and some just for a short time

Every year funds will open to include new projects and to bring in more community members

This is about long lasting, effective change for the better

In order to ensure the success of the community, Regional staff will provide ongoing support to the projects

As a community-led process, accountability is essential to the success of this project
Follow along to learn about the projects and be part of transforming our community
engagewr.ca/communitysafetywellbeing

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