



# Supports for Success

*Healthy Lives from  
Birth to Employment*

Supports for Success is an initiative focused on developing an integrated framework of community-based supports, in collaboration with community members, to ensure healthy lives of children and youth from birth to employment.

Supports for Success wants to harness the power of communities to reimagine the way we organize our collective resources to increase opportunity and promote positive health outcomes for children and youth at critical stages of their life journey. At the heart of this model are the wrap around supports that ensure personal networks are embedded and engage with children and parents to bridge the gaps along each key transition from birth to employment to become productive, self-sustaining adults.

# Making the Case for Change

*Inequitable access to opportunities results in inequitable opportunities to be healthy.*  
- Toronto Public Health, 2015

*The rising income inequality in Toronto at neighbourhood and individual levels, and the concomitant increase in families living in poverty has an impact on access to opportunity at neighbourhood, family and individual levels - United Way, 2015*

While there are many organizations doing exemplary work to address inequities in housing, education and poverty, the services and supports are often fragmented. What's exciting and unique about this approach is its focus on harnessing the power of services and networks in communities to bridge existing gaps. Working together we can change how we capitalize on the wealth of our current resources and networks in the Greater Toronto Area.

Supports for Success is excited about the possibility of working together to reshape the way we support children, youth and families from different socio-economic groups. We want to engage with communities to identify critical success factors that have made it possible for some children in marginalized populations to realize their full potential despite barriers and challenges. The foundations of this model will be rooted in identifying and bridging gaps with innovative solutions that provide a full range of supports at every stage of their life journey from birth to employment. Working together we can build bridges that connect communities to foster the development of networks and supports for children and families from diverse communities and socio-economic backgrounds. This will create successful pathways from birth to employment.

Supports for Success will be connecting with stakeholders from different communities to participate in this exciting initiative that is focused on driving integration of community services and networks for children and parents who need them the most.

## Our Goals



To identify factors that contribute to successful transitions of children and youth through critical stages of development.



To develop a framework for supports and services that leverages successful models from various sectors to create a continuum of services that will address the social determinants of health.



To demonstrate the potential impact of targeted, comprehensive, and fully integrated services spanning the continuum of health, social and education sectors on health outcomes.



*Want to know more?*

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Supports for Success is a project of Wellesley Institute. Wellesley Institute works in research and policy to improve health and health equity through action on the social determinants of health in the Greater Toronto Area.

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