



**Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies**  
*servicing infants, children and young parents - together*

**l'Association Ontarienne des Agences pour Jeunes Parents**  
*servir nourrissons, enfants et jeunes parents - ensemble*



Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies

# Strategic Plan

**2024 - 2027**

# About OAYPA

The Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies (OAYPA) represents 20 Young Parent and Infant Agencies (YPIAs). Our members offer evidence-based programs and services that are reflective and responsive to the voice, wishes and needs of pregnant/parenting youth with a focus on:

- Attachment-based parenting
- Psychosocial needs
- Healthy relationships
- Children's development/infant and early mental health
- Physical health, mental health and well-being
- Assessment and case management
- System navigation and referral

Additionally, they work with young families to address the underlying social determinants of health such as employment, education, and housing, stigma, discrimination and racism, to improve the overall well-being of young parents and their children.

## About Our Plan

Our 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is centered on building a comprehensive system of prevention, early intervention, and treatment services. This plan was developed in consultation with our members, the young families they serve, system leaders, and government decision-makers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all these individuals, particularly the young parents who provided valuable feedback and input that helped shape this strategic plan.

Our new Strategic Plan will guide our priorities and will position us to advocate and work effectively with government and continue to lead change to ensure timely, equitable care, early identification and support for young parents and their infants/children at risk of poor mental health outcomes in Ontario.



# Mission

Ensure young parents and their infants/children have equitable access to the right services, at the right time, to reach their full potential.

# Vision

Optimal mental health and wellbeing for young parents and their infants/children.





# Values

## **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, & Intersectionality**

We have a strong commitment to equity and addressing the social and structural determinants of health. We believe that enabling everyone to contribute to their full potential is not only beneficial for society but also enhances the support of young families and the well-being of our member agencies.

## **Young Parent/Family Engagement**

We believe that meaningful family engagement is an essential driver of excellence across all aspects of our association. We believe we are most efficient and effective when we empower all young families and their infants/children as valuable partners in an authentic and meaningful way.

## **Integrity & Accountability**

We demonstrate excellence through evidence-based practices that are results-driven and quality-oriented.

## **Responsible Stewardship**

We are committed to careful stewardship of all human, natural, and financial resources.

## **Shared Leadership**

We are committed to being sector leaders and cultivating leadership among our members, staff, volunteers and participants.

## **Collaboration**

We engage in collaborative relationships with our partners, members, and young parents, guided by principles of honesty, respect, and trust.

# Strategic Directions

- 1 Strengthen the capacity of member agencies to deliver evidence-based health, mental health, and developmental services for young parents and their infants/children.**

**Objective:**

Enhance the ability of member agencies to provide high-quality, evidence-based health, mental health, and developmental services tailored to the needs of young parents and their infants/children.

**Key Actions:**

1. Capacity Assessment
2. Training and Professional Development
3. Resource Development and Dissemination
4. Quality Improvement Initiatives
5. Collaboration and Partnership Building
6. Support and Technical Assistance
7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 2 Grow and diversify our funding to sustain and strengthen the young parent and infant/child sector now and in the future.**

**Objective:**

Ensure the long-term sustainability and growth of services for young parents and their infants/children by expanding and diversifying funding sources.

**Key Actions:**

1. Develop a Comprehensive Fundraising Strategy
2. Strengthen Grant Writing and Proposal Development
3. Build and Nurture Relationships with Funders
4. Leverage Data and Impact Reporting
5. Enhance Community and Stakeholder Engagement
6. Explore Innovative Funding Models
7. Monitor and Evaluate Fundraising Efforts





3

### **Advocate for comprehensive policy reform and system enhancement for young parent and infant/child services.**

#### **Objective:**

Drive policy reform and system improvements to establish an integrated, comprehensive, and equitable network of services for young parents and their infants/children.

#### **Key Actions:**

1. Policy Advocacy
2. Stakeholder Collaboration
3. Public Awareness and Engagement
4. Data Collection and Analysis
5. Capacity Building

4

### **Forge and strengthen strategic partnerships to enhance outcomes for young parents and their infants/children.**

#### **Objective:**

Develop and sustain strategic collaborations with new and existing partners to improve the health, well-being, and developmental outcomes for young parents and their infants/children.

#### **Key Actions:**

1. Identify and Prioritize Partners
2. Develop Partnership Framework
3. Foster Collaborative Projects
4. Enhance Communication and Coordination
5. Capacity Building for Partners
6. Monitor and Evaluate Partnership Impact
7. Sustain and Expand Partnerships

5

## **Elevate the profile of the OAYPA through community engagement, knowledge exchange, and targeted outreach.**

### **Objective:**

Enhance the visibility and influence of the Ontario Association of Young Parent Agencies (OAYPA) by actively engaging with communities, facilitating knowledge exchange, and implementing targeted outreach strategies.

### **Key Actions:**

1. Community Engagement
2. Knowledge Exchange
3. Targeted Outreach
4. Media and Public Relations
5. Stakeholder Engagement
6. Evaluation and Feedback

6

## **Dismantle racism and social inequality to promote equitable access to services for young parents and their infants/children.**

### **Objective:**

Commit to reducing disparities and promoting equitable access to services by actively working to dismantle racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and social inequality affecting young parents and their infants/children.

### **Key Actions:**

1. Organizational Commitment and Training
2. Policy Advocacy and Reform
3. Community Engagement and Empowerment
4. Data Collection and Analysis
5. Inclusive Service Delivery
6. Communication and Awareness
7. Monitoring and Accountability

