



Rationale for need:

- Ontario generates 3.7 million tonnes of food and organic waste annually
- 60% of the wasted food could have been eaten or repurposed but was sent to landfills
- In Hamilton, 21% of all youth residing in Hamilton lived below the poverty line
- Youth unemployment rate in Hamilton is twice as high as the city unemployment rate
- SPRC suggests best practices for responding to youth employment needs include programs that offer life skills development, group work, meaningful opportunities to experience work, graduating to different stages of success, incentives and an opportunity to build social supports
- Social isolation and the financial stresses of living alone have been linked to worse health outcomes in seniors, including fractures and institutionalization

Program details

- 10-week program starting in the spring and ending in late summer.
- Each session will engage three youth apprentices with at-risk seniors
- Participants move throughout the stages of production of preserved food goods

Project impact

- Youth gain experience in managing a business operation, with weekly key learning objectives that will help youth learn business and management skills, while working in collaboration with senior community members.
- Engaging both youth and isolated seniors in the community will serve to enhance community life and strengthen the community's social fabric.
- As older adults interact in a social setting with youth and collaborate to create a social change will create new relationships and present a unified front within the Hamilton community.