

Connecting our Community





- Information and Referral centre
- Not-for-profit organization
- Since 1970



Visit our product sites

- foodaccessguide.ca
- ypresourcetool.ca
- hamiltonimmigration.ca
- seniorshamilton.ca
- ypcp.ca
- infospot.ca/dundas



Information & Referral organizations exist across North America to <u>connect</u> <u>people to services</u> like financial assistance, food, shelter, child care, jobs, and health supports.

We provide service by phone, in person, by email, by creating directories and online resources





- Database of community information
- Online and print
- 4,500 profiles of services and programs
- Online, print, by phone, in person



There is no other complete source of community information in Hamilton

- Started as index cards in the 70s
- Purchased by dozens of organizations
- Online in the 90s
- Trusted
- Reliable
- "The Red Book is my bible"





Complete and Comprehensive

4,500 profiles include:



- Contact information
- Description of service
- Eligibility
- Map and bus routes
- Hours of operation
- Indexing and taxonomy for searchability



Community Asset

The Red Book is a directory of all community and government services in Hamilton.

It is a book for everyone.

Provides details on services and programs that people may need, use, and enjoy throughout their lives in Hamilton.





Community Asset

Exploring options in The Red Book will empower people to make informed decisions, which will improve their likelihood of accessing appropriate services.

Encouraging its use and widespread availability will foster greater civic engagement and social participation.





The Red Book



redbookhamilton.ca

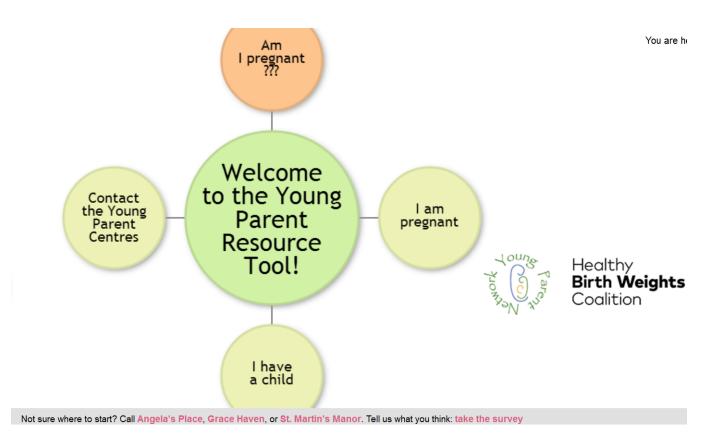


Our Leading-Edge Software

- Software developed for information and referral
- Allows us to link our information to other systems
- Embed Red Book data into other's websites and applications
- Leverage the accurate and up-to-date data



The Young Parent Resource Tool



Young Parent Resource Tool





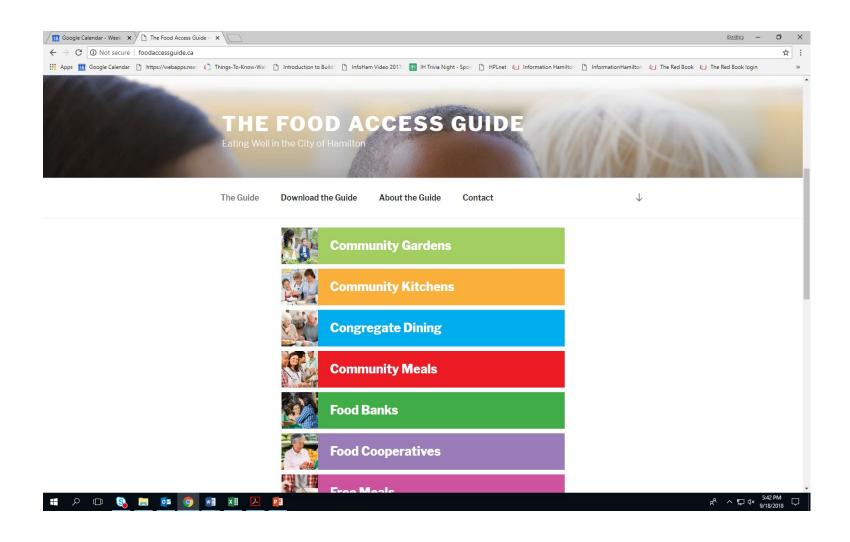














Associations and industry-standards







- Standards, training, certification, accreditation
- Public policy the right to accurate, comprehensive, unbiased information and referral

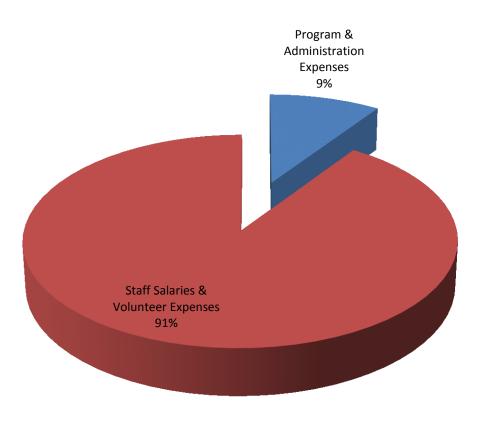


Information & Referral organizations' databases:

- Collect and organize community services information.
- Records are indexed with a North Americanrecognized taxonomy.
- Certified Resource Specialists ensure accuracy and consistency
- Indexing ensures correct search results of various queries.



Information Hamilton Staff



- Rigorous process of collecting information
- Accuracy
- Ensuring the integrity of the database
- All day, every day

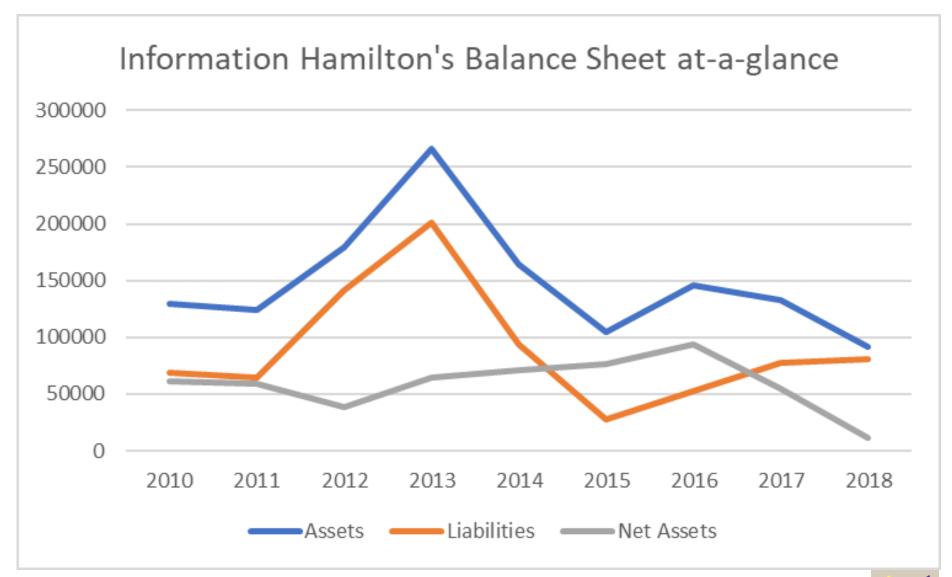


Our valuable and fundamental community asset needs:

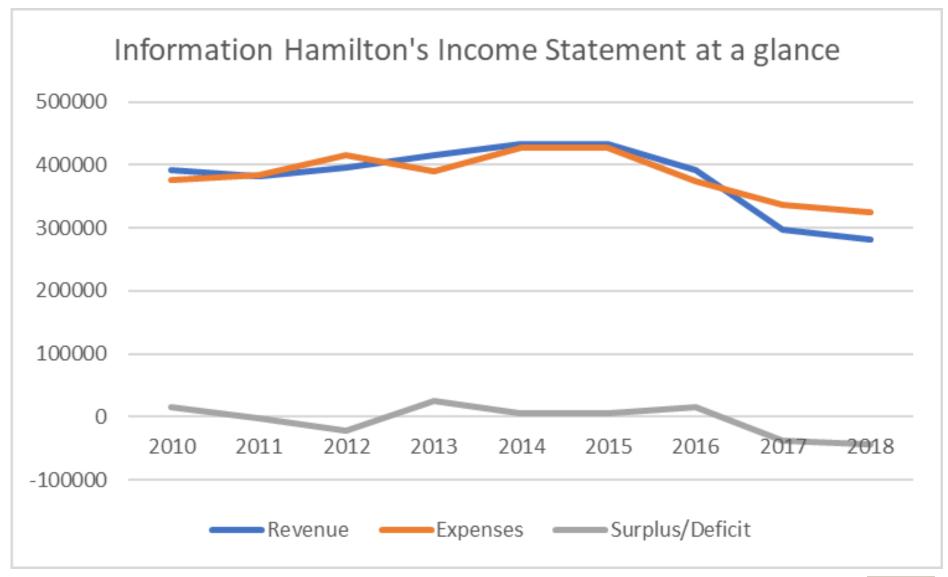
- The capacity to endure
- Stability
- Continuous improvement
- Greater effectiveness of our information
- Creative outcomes
- The ability to influence change





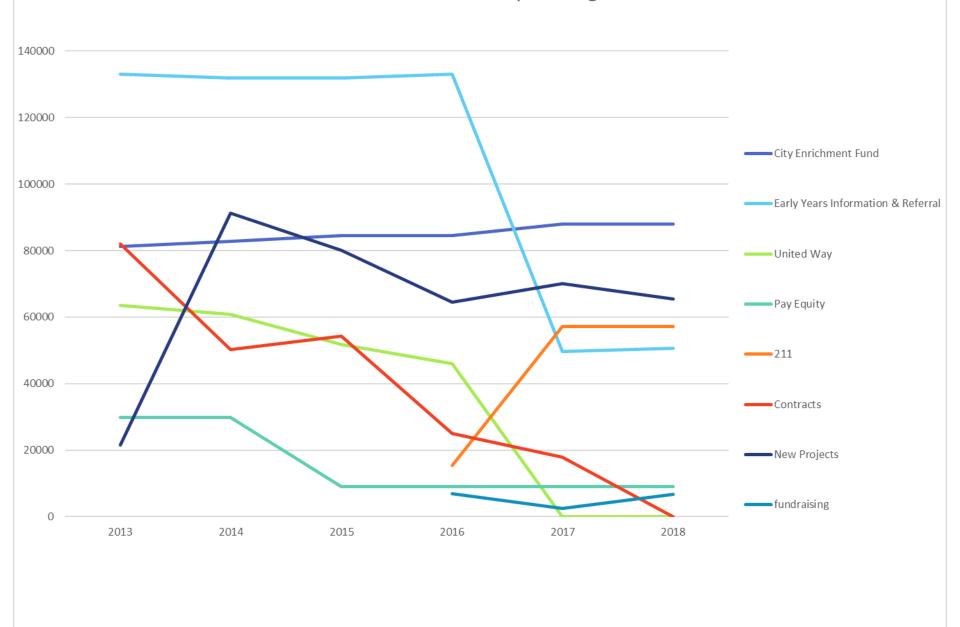


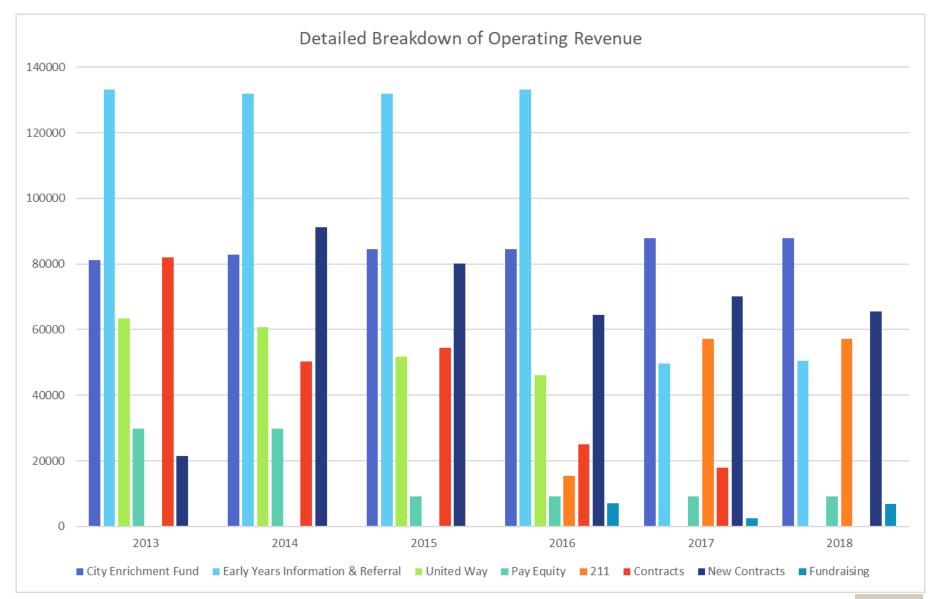






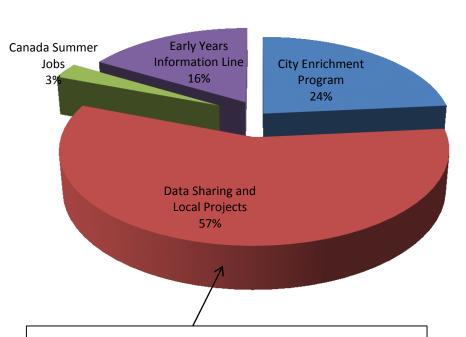








Heavy reliance on earned income



Our income-generating activities account for **57% of revenues**

58 to 77% of charities engage in earned income-generating activities and the monies account for, on average, 31% of total revenues



Who uses our data and design?

- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
- Public Health Services
- Age Friendly Hamilton
- Bed Bug Action Group
- Sexual Assault Centre (SACHA)
- Aging in Community and Health Research Unit, McMaster University



Who's using us?

- 800 inquiries plus 450 early years inquiries
- 2244 Twitter followers
- 916 Facebook likes
- 345 Instagram followers
- 554 subscribers to Flash announcements
- Caller since 1979 says she's never had a bad experience and is grateful that we go above and beyond



Request

- Our Annual Budget is \$350,000
- In 2014, we were receiving \$217,000 from the city with decades-old contracts. This was cut to \$136,000
- We request base (not CEF) funding of \$250,000 (\$88,000 + \$162,00) each year for 2-4 years, starting 2019
- This request assumes sustained early years I&R funding
- We request a comparative report on Information & Referral organizations in other Ontario cities - structure and funding and per capita comparison, in consultation with Information Hamilton
- We hope this report will inform future directions for the organization in its service to Hamilton

Why now?

- Lost provincial funding in mid 90s
- Hamilton's focus moved to developing a province-wide database software
- Sought funding for database developments rather than core operations which were supported by city and United Way



Value to the City

- Our accountability to the city, rather than feefor-service partners will ensure sustainability
- Reduce duplication of community information
- Reliable data for use in other systems
- Growth for community engagement, front door or concierge for service delivery, improved data management



Value to the City

- Ease of access to service
- Extra help for those who need it
- Support to service providers in Hamilton
- More cohesive network of service
- Values-based, people-oriented approach
- Ready for changes within the I&R sector



Value to the City

- Showcase Hamilton's local, innovative I&R service and database software
- Standards-driven Information & Referral
- Certified I&R Specialists
- Certified Resource Database Specialists
- Accreditation in 2020





INFORMATION HAMILTON



Thank You

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