



## Community Data Information Sheet 2020/21

<http://communitydata.ca/>

### What is the Community Data Program?<sup>1</sup>

The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) established the Community Data Program (CDP) in the mid-1990s as a gateway for municipalities and community sector organizations to access customized tables from Statistics Canada and other providers to monitor and report on social and economic development trends within their communities. Relying on a Community Data Consortium model, the CDP reduces the cost of acquiring community data, builds community data analysis capacity and connects a cross - Canada network of data users. Community Data programs host organization is Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET).

### How does the Consortium Model Work?

Community Data Consortia are a grouping of organizations operating at a municipal level and “focused on the implementation of a public service goal”. The boundaries of the Consortium correspond to the Consortium member with the largest sub-provincial service catchment area, typically a municipality. Organizational membership in a Consortium includes some combination of municipal governments, Social Planning Councils, United Ways, library, school and police boards, public health/regional health authorities, community health centres, non-profit housing corporations, economic development agencies, and a variety of other community sector Agencies.

Each Community Data Consortium is led by an organization that assumes responsibility for entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with CCEDNET and maintaining communication with the Consortium membership. In the City and County of Peterborough that organization is the City of Peterborough. Consortium Leads are typically municipal governments but can be voluntary sector organizations.

### What do Member Organizations get for their Membership Fee?

- 1) Data members are given direct access through a secure website to all of the data for their consortium as well as the data for all the other consortia across the country. The Program also connects members to free online data products.
- 2) Training – member organizations receive training to orient them to the data packages, ensuring an understanding of how to access data tables and analytical tools, and are provided with responsive technical support by the Community Data Program Team.
- 3) Networking – Consortium Lead Organizations from across Canada meet on a trimesterly basis by teleconference and at annual face-to-face events. Members have contact information for all local consortium members so that they can exchange information and peer support with colleagues across the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Full details available at [www.communitydata.ca/resources](http://www.communitydata.ca/resources)

## **What unique Community Data products will be available through the Program?**

The Community Data Program works closely with over twenty public and private data providers in order to negotiate preferential pricing and licensing arrangements to be able to provide over 60 customized data products involving special orders, cross-tabulations, and unique geographic boundaries, especially those corresponding to neighbourhoods.

The CDP concentrates on acquiring national data sets at the smallest geographic levels available including Dissemination Area and six-digit postal code where possible. These include Census and National Household Survey tables, Taxfiler data and Credit Report Characteristics including credit risk and bankruptcy risk.

The CDP also works with Statistics Canada to make available custom geography data products, reflecting the unique boundaries of each Consortium. Data acquisition also includes products available at the scale of municipal boundaries (Census Division and Census subdivision), such as Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, Population Projections, and inter-censal population estimates, and data tables on income, housing, immigration and labour force statistics.

In addition to data tables, the Program acquires analytical tools with the capacity to generate neighbourhood profiles, create community atlases and convert postal code geographies into Census geographies.

Finally, the Community Data Program offers a portal to facilitate access to free online data. Under the terms of the Government of Canada's Open Data initiative, increasing numbers of standard data products are being made available online at no cost by various Federal Government Departments. The CDP strongly supports this policy shift and facilitates members' access to and use of these free online data sets. The scope and sequence of data acquisition is subject to the following conditions:

- Acquisition priorities established by CDP and the Consortium Lead organizations
- The Community Data Program budget
- Availability of data products from data providers

## **How is the Community Data Program used by Members?**

Data tables acquired through the CDP cover an incredibly wide array of issues and themes. The most popular uses of CDP data by Consortium members respond to local issues in the areas of poverty, children and families, aging populations, immigration and affordable housing. CDP data have also been used by community practitioners in the areas of planning and development, local economic development, social planning, public health, and education, to name but a few examples. Members make good use of the data tables and tools, enhancing their own data products such as neighbourhood profiles and fact sheets, printed and interactive online mapping, thematic reports, presentations, briefing notes & media releases.

## **How much does Membership cost?**

The annual cost of Membership is based on two components: a flat Consortium Fee that is determined by the size of the municipality. Currently, the City of Peterborough, as

Consolidated Service System Manager, is paying for the cost of the data. The second fee is an annual Program Membership fee in the amount of \$125.00 plus HST and paid by every member agency. In 2020 the annual program membership fee will not be due until after the AGM in May.

**Responsibilities of Members:**

**Purpose of the Application**

Members shall adhere to the Data sharing and end use license agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to allow Authorized Users to use data available from the Community Data Catalogue and to permit the dissemination of any resulting data products or publications, while restricting Authorized Users from transferring raw data from the Community Data Catalogue to those who are not members of the Community Data Program.

**Summary of Do's and Don'ts**

| Do's  | Don'ts   |
|---|--|
| Use the data for your organizations in-house analysis, research, and policy-making  | Lend, rent, sell, or give away downloaded data products to non-members                           |
| Use the data for educational purposes, e.g. to publish indicators or community profiles                                       | Share your communitydata.ca password or provide access to the catalogue to a non-registered user |
| Share reasonable amounts of data for the purposes of ad hoc public information requests                                       |  |
| Share findings and supporting data  |  |
| Acknowledge the Community Data Program and associated data sources  |  |
| Notify information@communitydata.ca when you discover any missing or incorrect CDP data                                       |  |
| Let us know when you are planning to publish CDP data   |  |
| Contact information@communitydata.ca if you have questions about data sharing, or releasing a publication that uses CDP data. |  |