

2003 Year in Review

The Opportunities Waterloo Region (OWR) initiative has faced major transition in the last year including staff turnover, the challenge of securing stable multi-year funding and locating new facilities, incorporating as legal entity as well as changing its relationship with its sponsoring organization.

OWR's leadership group still remains, however, and they continue to focus on two key target groups in the community (i.e. working poor and at-risk youth) and a series of related strategies (e.g. living wage, high school graduation rates, etc.).

The project has had some high profile success stories recently, including a significant outcome in their GIS initiative.

The GIS Initiative was developed with a goal to increase the uptake of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) among low-income seniors in Waterloo Region.

The initiative has proven successful beyond OWR's expectations. 636 seniors were approved for the GIS between May 2002 and June 2003, representing \$2.6 million dollars coming directly into the Region's community economy.

Related links:

- [Read more about OWR's GIS Initiative by downloading their report!](#)
- [Putting People First: Exploring the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach in Waterloo Region](#)

