

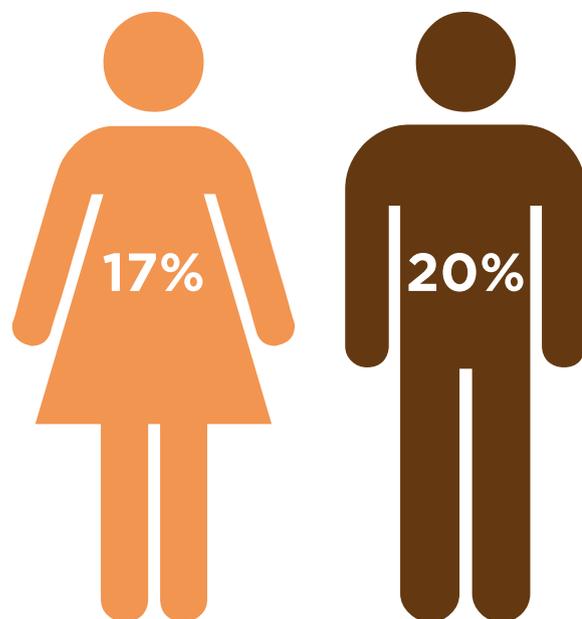
# BRIDGING THE EQUITY GAP

“The precarious class—the shrinking middle class due to growing income disparity, underemployment and the rising cost of living—is at the greatest risk of falling into poverty.”

– Michael Shaen, Director of Community Development,  
Halton Poverty Roundtable

A 2013 report on the growth of precarious employment in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (e.g. insecure work through temp agencies, contracts or freelance) found that employment insecurity affects household well-being mainly in low and middle-income households and has a stronger impact on people in low-income households.<sup>17</sup>

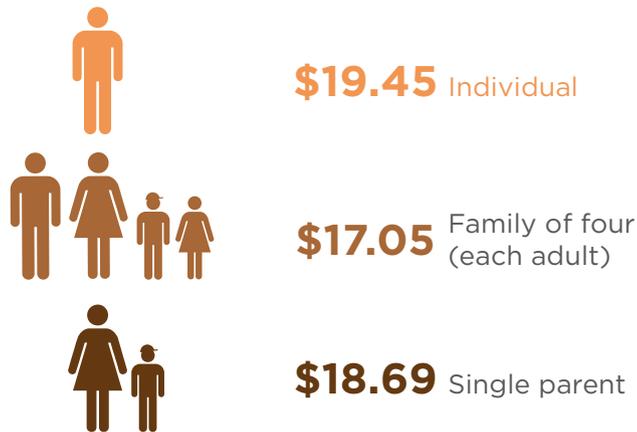
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NEEDED FOR THOSE GETTING STARTED**



Halton youth (15-24) unemployment rate in 2011<sup>19</sup>

In 2010, 11.4 per cent of Oakville households (families of two or more) earned less than \$30,000—higher than the provincial average of 10.9 per cent and almost double the national average of 6.0 per cent. The largest income bracket (30.7 per cent of family households) earned \$150,000 and over.<sup>16</sup>

## ADEQUATE WAGES AND FULL TIME WORK WOULD INCREASE SECURITY



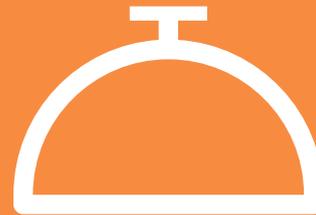
Estimated hourly living wage for full-time, full-year work<sup>18</sup>

According to the Halton Newcomers Strategy, immigrants have higher unemployment rates than the Canadian-born population, are less likely to find jobs in their chosen field and are more likely to be low-income. To improve employment opportunities, Halton Multicultural Council, Sheridan College and The Centre for Skills Development and Training offer free programs to help internationally-trained workers. These programs include: language training, workplace culture, essential skills, job search and employment preparation.

## FOOD SECURITY

Food For Life distributes fresh produce, dairy and meat to 23 sites in Oakville, including the Kerr Street Mission. The number of clients served in Oakville in 2014 increased by 29 per cent over the previous year due to more demand and the addition of three new distribution sites. Of the clients served, 25 per cent were fully employed and 5 per cent owned their own home; 40 per cent of clients were children.

Food For Life provides the equivalent of more than 46,500 meals per month in Oakville.<sup>20</sup> An average of 800 people per month use the food bank at Kerr Street Mission and Food4Kids provides weekend backpacks full of nutritious food to 131 food-insecure children at 19 Oakville elementary schools.<sup>21</sup>



**46,500**

**Meals distributed  
by Food For Life  
each month**



**EMPIRE**