

Group Members: Nicole Castillo, Jadyne Houle, Andrea Moclair, Pamela Nash, Ashley Sukhdeo, and Ishi Wang

### Introduction

Universities often collaborate with neighbouring communities and organizations that focus with low-income or high crime rates to provide support and events for local community members. There are often donations made to these community groups through projects and other resources to achieve this goal. However, universities are not always aware of how their donations are being spent, or if it helped to support those communities.

### YUFA Community Projects

YUFA-CP is a professional association committed to social justice and advocates for a broader political agenda that is responsive to the needs of the community in which the university is located. YUFA-CP has three mandates, which are: community outreach, advocacy development, and access to post-secondary education; community outreach creates alliance on social justice issues with initiatives that bring York faculty and students into the community as a support network, advocacy development enhances the effectiveness of YUFA-CP community partnerships, and access to postsecondary education supports place-based programs that increase the participation of underrepresented population in post-secondary education.

### Research Objective

To find out how many community projects did YUFA-CP fund over the last 6 years up to the sum of \$1500, and what kinds of organizations and neighbourhoods received that funding with aims of documenting those efforts of supporting YUFA-CP's overall committee goal.

### Research Question

How are the YUFA-CP funds being used to facilitate University community relationships between York University and the neighbouring Jane-Finch community, and have those funds increased community access to University resources?

### Methods

#### Procedure & Data Analysis

We sorted and organized those community projects that were funded under \$1500 from year 2010 to 2017 from past annual reports given to us from YUFA-CP coordinators; Natalie Coulter and Ray Rogers. Then, created an table that listed a column for each category; organization/person/event, an amount of funding, project item category and neighbourhood.

#### Participants/Interviewees

Eight agencies were selected by co-chairs of the YUFA-CP committee for our sample survey out of 29 organizations; 3 persons and 4 events. These agencies included: Black History Month, Black Daddies Club, Jane and Finch Community Ministry,

Regenesys York, The Real Sun, Walk for Excellence, Aboriginal Students Association and Mothers in Motion. These organizations were emailed and surveyed for their feedback about their past events and the funding procedure.

### Results

Between the years 2010 to 2017, YUFA-CP has funded many organizations and community projects both internal and external to York University.

Figure 1: Shows the percentage of what kinds of projects that YUFA-CP invested in from 2010 - 2017 with funding, thus resulting the majority percentage of projects funded were for outreach initiatives.

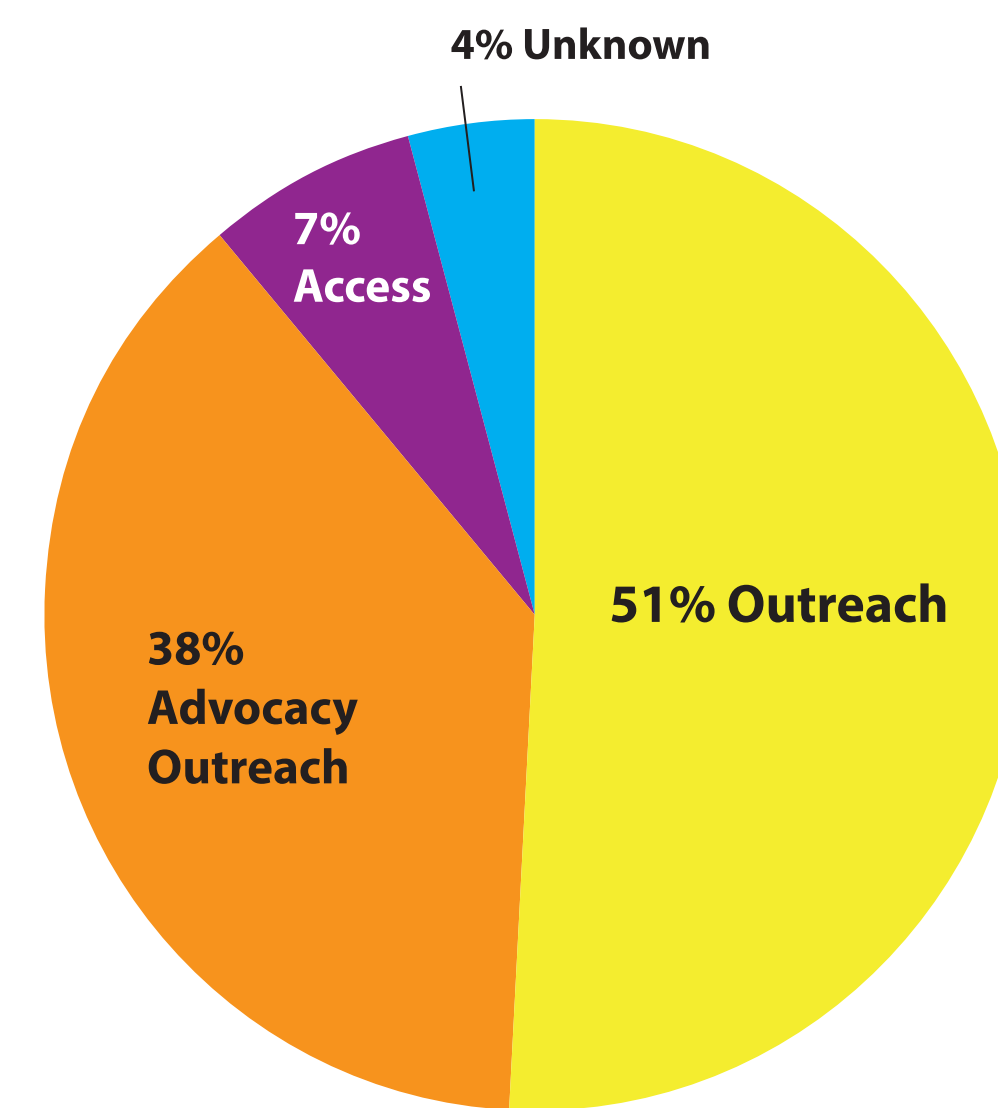


Figure 2: Demonstrates the amount of money invested in the three YUFA-CP mandates from 2010 - 2017; community outreach, advocacy development, and access. The results show that the most amount of money being consistently spent is with outreach projects.

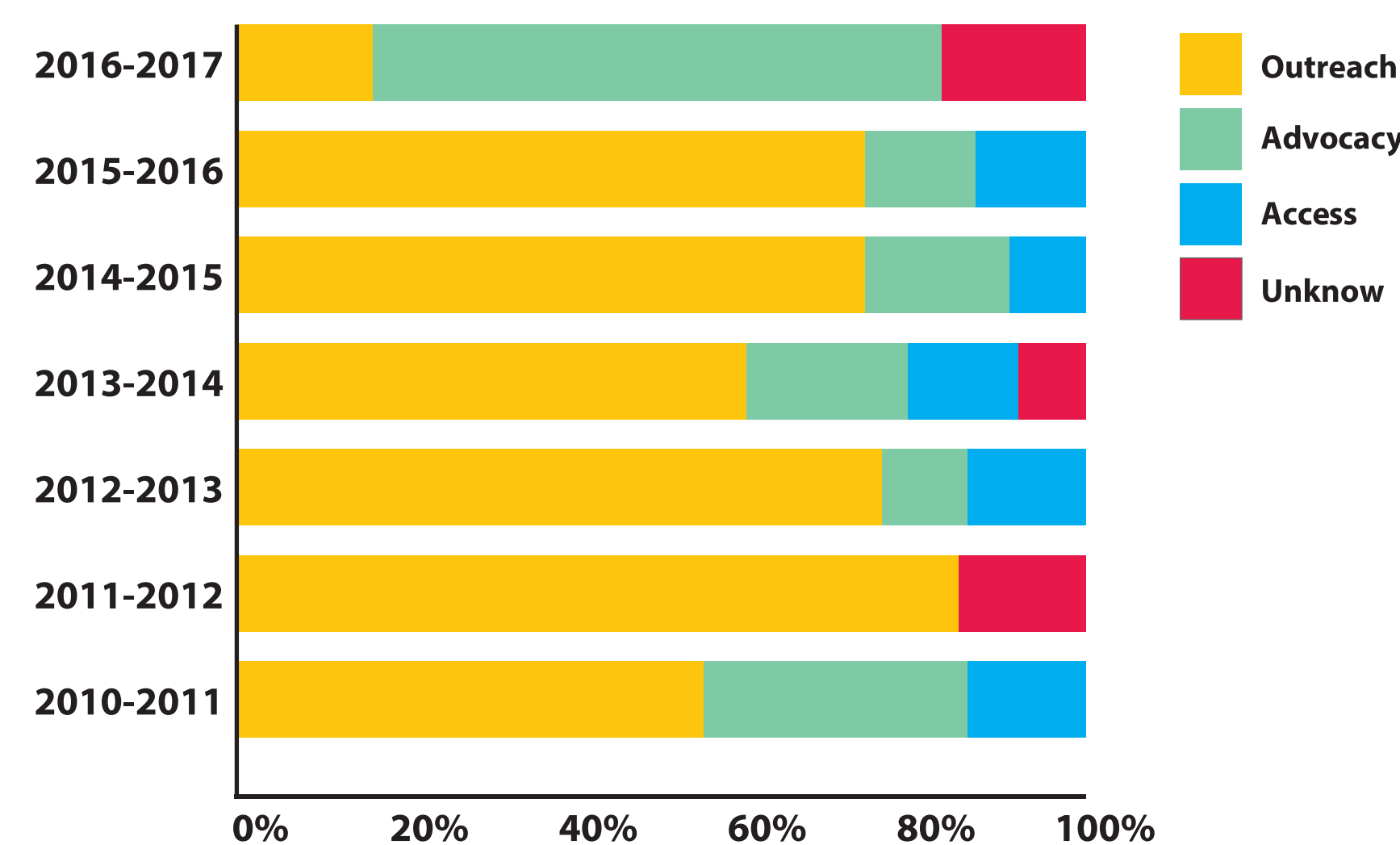
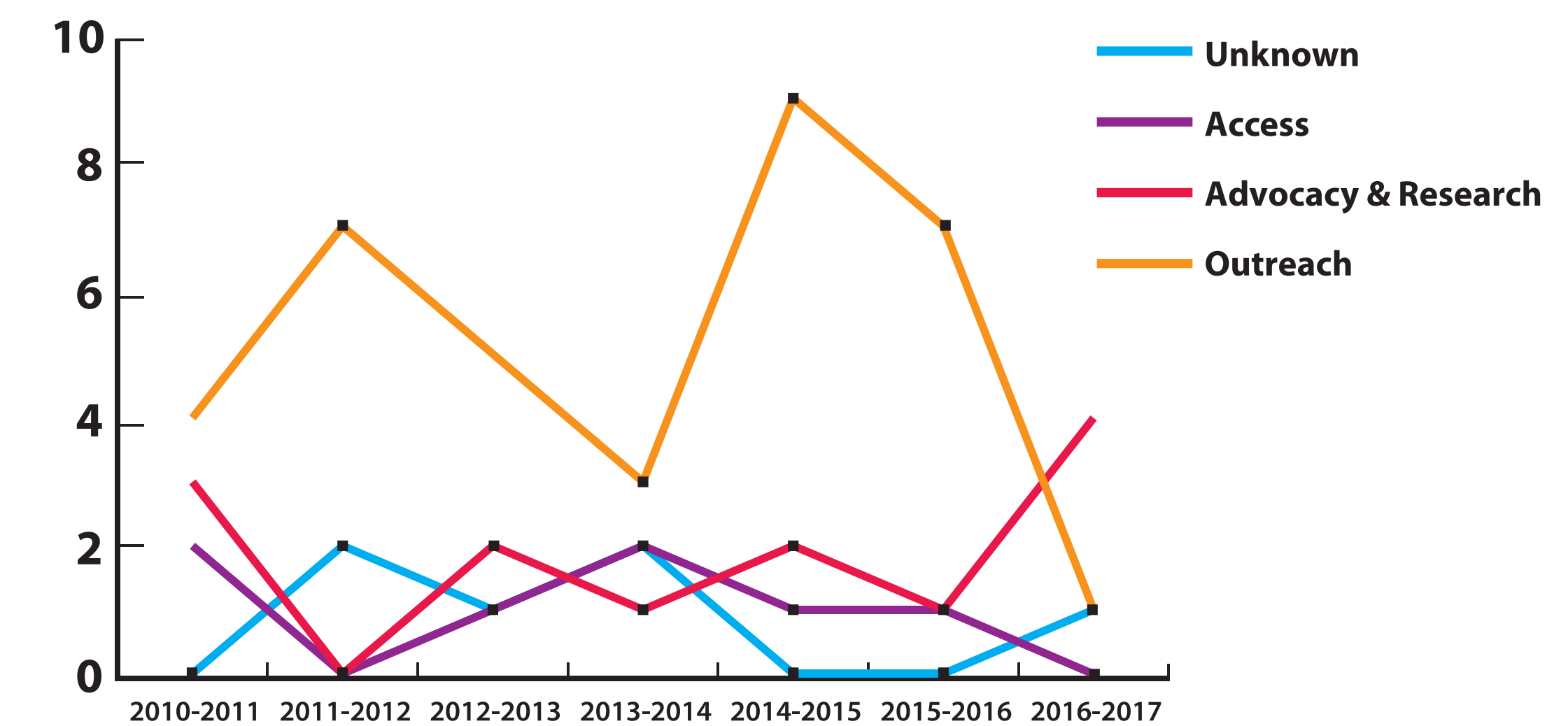


Figure 3: Outlines the number of projects funded by YUFA-CP based on their mandated categories of Outreach, Advocacy & Research, and Access from 2010 - 2017. Results show that funding under \$1500 has gone towards outreach, and advocacy and research the most.



### Conclusion

In this study, we set out to document past efforts from YUFA Community Projects, 2010 to 2017, with community partnerships and neighbourhoods that were granted funding \$1500 or less from the committee, and how those funds were used, and how they contributed towards YUFA-CP's mandated mission of outreach, advocacy and research, and access. Our results showed that YUFA-CP's mission mandate of improving access to those groups underrepresented in post-secondary education was funded the least amount of times. Possible reasons are that agencies who are looking for access to education are looking for funding higher than \$1500, as well, YUFA-CP gave funds higher than \$1500 to access programs; Success Beyond Limits and Transition Year Program and could not be included in our research.

From our survey, we found some responses of suggestions that the funding amount should be increased, while the application for funding was very straightforward and uncomplicated. Other responses shared their gratitude and appreciation for the need for funding grassroots' causes and events as being important for community relations. Finally, it was also suggested from our interviewed participants that surveys and evaluations of funding is important and should be conducted more.

### Reference

The Community Projects Committee (YUFA-CP). (2017). Community Projects | YUFA. Retrieved from <http://www.yufa.ca/about-2/committees-2/community-projects-02/>