DOORS NEXTSTEP

KINGSTON COMMUNITY IMPACT & CASE FOR SUPPORT

2025–2026 reported activity | DOORS NextStep proposed learning initiative | L.E.A.F. 2026

A stronger Kingston starts with belonging

Arriving in Canada is only the beginning of rebuilding a life. Refugees and newcomers may need support understanding unfamiliar systems, connecting with local services, and pursuing education and employment opportunities. The Diocese of Ontario Refugee Support (DOORS) helps privately sponsored refugees and their sponsors move from arrival logistics toward stability, confidence, and participation in community life.

For more than 30 years, DOORS, a ministry of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ontario, has supported refugee sponsorship. As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, its work includes sponsor preparation, pre-arrival coordination, settlement guidance, monitoring, and practical referrals. This experience informs the proposed DOORS NextStep learning initiative in Kingston.

Our reach and practical contribution

Reported activity	What it demonstrates
70+ people served by DOORS	Organizational reach reported by DOORS; reporting period and Kingston-area count require verification.
At least five active sponsorship applications in the 2026 tracker	Ongoing pipeline of sponsorship coordination and pre-arrival work.
17 individuals in those five applications	Pending applicants, not the total number served.
15+ principal-applicant/family records in the 2026 arrivals monitoring summary	Ongoing settlement follow-up; unit of counting requires confirmation.

What DOORS makes possible locally

- Prepared sponsors: guidance on responsibilities, settlement planning, and arrival readiness.
- Continuity through the first year: structured check-ins that help identify emerging settlement barriers.
- Connections to Kingston services: orientation and referrals to language learning, employment, housing-related, and community resources.
- Responsive coordination: follow-up with newcomers and sponsors when plans or needs change.

The challenge: access does not always mean inclusion

Information about education and employment is not always easy to navigate. Language barriers, unfamiliar application processes, limited Canadian work experience, discrimination, and the

undervaluation of qualifications gained abroad can restrict access to opportunity. DOORS recognizes newcomers as people with experience, strengths, and aspirations, not only immediate needs. The proposed project will address a defined learning gap without duplicating existing specialist services.

DOORS NextStep: From Arrival to Opportunity

DOORS proposes a free, community-based learning initiative for refugee and newcomer young adults in Kingston. The project will offer 16 workshops and 12 guided-practice sessions, reaching a target of 40 distinct learners, with approximately 12 attendances per core workshop. Topics include post-secondary and apprenticeship pathways, digital tools, online applications and employment preparation. Delivery is proposed in accessible rented community space; Kingston Frontenac Public Library is a potential venue, not a confirmed host.

The proposed 18-month implementation schedule runs from June 2027 through November 2028, subject to timely funding confirmation: June–August 2027 for planning, facilitator recruitment and orientation, accessible learning resources, baseline measures, outreach and venue arrangements; September 2027–October 2028 for phased workshops and guided practice, with flexibility for fluctuations in newcomer arrivals; and November 2028 for results analysis, financial reconciliation and the final report. If funding is confirmed later than anticipated, the schedule will be reassessed against the December 31, 2028 completion requirement.

Proposed activities and measurable targets

Measure	Proposed target
Core learning workshops	16 across 2027–2028
Additional guided-practice sessions	12, subject to final approved budget
Typical workshop participation	Approximately 12 attendances per workshop
Distinct learners	At least 40
Learning confidence	80% of feedback respondents report increased knowledge and confidence
Demonstrated learning progress	70% of assessed learners demonstrate progress on practical learning tasks
Resource connections	At least 30 participants receive relevant information or referrals

How Kingston will benefit

NextStep is intended to help young adults understand their options, use essential digital tools, and approach education and employment pathways with greater confidence. Referrals to existing Kingston organizations will support continuity without replacing specialized settlement, education, or employment services. Reusable learning resources can continue supporting future participants beyond the funded workshops.

Inclusion, accessibility and responsible delivery

DOORS will seek accessible spaces and adapt plain-language materials to participants' needs. The project will be open to eligible community members regardless of faith or sponsorship relationship. DOORS' two-person team will coordinate recruitment, scheduling, records, and reporting; qualified sessional facilitators will deliver workshops. Venue availability, facilitator agreements, and costs must be confirmed before delivery.

Why this is a sound community investment

NextStep builds on DOORS' long-standing local sponsorship experience while focusing the proposed grant on a concrete public learning resource: practical workshops, guided learning, and reusable materials. Its modest participant target and use of existing facilities are designed to respect DOORS' limited staffing capacity and strengthen the wider Kingston community's ability to welcome and include newcomers.

Source note: Historical organizational activity is based on DOORS-reported information and requires baseline verification. NextStep activities and numerical outcomes are proposed planning targets, not prior achievements. KFPL has provided information about rental options but has not confirmed a 2027 booking.