

## About Early Help

### What is the Early Help Strategy?

- Early intervention to prevent an escalation of emerging risk factors or crisis for a family
- A non-investigative approach to address the needs of the families we serve
- A targeted approach to address over representation of certain marginalized groups
- Widespread evidence that positive outcomes are achieved when problems are identified and dealt with early rather than responding when difficulties escalate.

### Why is Peel CAS moving to an Early Help model?

- Our community has spoken, and we have listened – less surveillance and more universal supports
- To provide families with safeguarding early help supports so that children and youth can achieve their highest potential
- Changing the landscape of child welfare
- Honouring our Peel CAS Mission, Vision, Values – “Every Child Cherished”
- Collaborating with our community partners to provide relevant, appropriate, and timely supports
- Decreasing the number of children and youth entering the child welfare system

### How do I know if I should call CAS with an Early Help case?

- The normal duty to report remains the same; our Intake Teams are available to assist
- The Intake teams determine if the file falls within our mandate either as an Investigation, Early Help, Community Link service or Intake closure
- Early Help cases are less severe files that would traditionally require an investigation, but will be served first through a less intrusive means

### What is the role of the Early Help worker?

- Provide options that families can use to enhance their capacity
- Connections to community supports (ethno-specific, education, mental health)
- Advocacy to address disproportionality and systemic barriers
- Ambassadors at community tables