

Investing in Community Mental Health and Addictions Services **Ontario Connecting People With The Care They Need Closer to Home**

NEWS

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Ontario is investing in local mental health and addictions organizations across the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) to provide care closer to home for those who are experiencing mental health and addictions challenges. Ontario is also creating a province-wide registry of mental health beds to connect those experiencing a mental health crisis with the closest available bed.

With a LHIN-wide investment of over \$4.6 million in mental health and addictions community-based agencies in 2015/16, the Central East LHIN is investing \$2,640,000 in Durham Region for high priority services such as:

- Collaborative supportive housing models providing comprehensive “wrap around” services for people with mental health and addictions challenges so that they can be safely discharged from hospital settings and remain in their own homes;
- Expanded Peer Support Services so that mental health consumer survivors have increased access to safe environments providing social recreational programs to share their stories and support each other to reduce stigma;
- The development of an integrated Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy; and,
- The development of a new residential Community Crisis program.

The next phase of [Ontario’s Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy](#) includes \$138 million over three years for community agencies to support improvements to mental health and addictions services, through Local Health Integration Networks.

Supporting mental health and addictions services closer to home is also part of Ontario’s Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care.

QUOTES

“We have all been touched by mental health and addiction challenges – whether through a friend, a co-worker, a family member or our own experience. By continuing to invest in community services, we’re helping to connect people with the support they need closer to home through settings that are more culturally appropriate and personal. These investments will improve the lives of people experiencing mental illness and addictions challenges – and the families that help care for them.”

- Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“Investing in local mental health and addictions agencies will make it easier to access services here in Ajax-Pickering and across Durham Region. Helping people early and when they need it most will improve the lives of many residents and families.”

- Joe Dickson, MPP Ajax-Pickering

“The Central East LHIN had set a goal in its 2013/16 Integrated Health Service Plan of strengthening the system of supports for people with Mental Health and Addictions issues so they spend 15,000 more days at home in their communities by 2016. With the support of the government of Ontario and through the outstanding collaboration between so many partners demonstrated by the investments announced today, we will reach and in fact exceed that goal.”

- Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is also creating a province-wide registry of mental health beds to connect those experiencing a mental health crisis with the closest available bed. This will mean shorter wait times for care, providing doctors, first responders and emergency departments with up-to-date information about available inpatient beds across the province. Currently, there are 4,700 inpatient mental health beds in more than 80 facilities across Ontario.
- Approximately 30 per cent of Ontarians will experience a mental health and/or substance abuse problem at some point in their lifetime, with one out of 40 Ontarians having a serious mental illness.
- By 2017, the government will have increased annual funding for mental health and addictions by a total of \$172 million since it launched the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in 2011.

LEARN MORE

- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care.](#)
- The [next phase](#) of Ontario’s comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy.
- [Open Minds, Healthy Minds: Ontario’s comprehensive mental health and addictions strategy.](#)
- [Find help for people experiencing problems with alcohol, drugs, mental health or gambling.](#)

For more information:

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BACKGROUNDER

In 2014/15 Ontario invested \$28 million in local mental health and addiction organizations to provide care closer to home for people who are experiencing mental health and addictions challenges. In the Central East LHIN that resulted in a \$1.4 million investment in 2014/15 that has now increased to \$4.6 million in 2015/16.

With an overarching aim of Community First - *to enable Central East LHIN residents to spend more time in their homes and their communities* - the Central East LHIN is making new investments in mental health and addictions services in order to *strengthen the system of supports for people with Mental Health and Addictions issues so they spend 15,000 more days at home in their communities by 2016*.

Project	Service Provider	Project Description	2015/16 Funding
Child and Youth Mental Health Strategy	Oshawa Community Health Centre/The Youth Centre	To better meet the mental health needs of children and youth in South Durham, this investment will support the development and implementation of an integrated strategy to serve this vulnerable population.	\$400,000
Housing, Housing Co-ordination and Housing Now: Durham Housing Coordinators	Durham Mental Health Services	An innovative model, aligned and connected with Health Links partners and local municipalities, this investment will create stronger partnerships between Durham Region housing providers and community-based mental health and addictions agencies to support clients to obtain and maintain safe, accessible and secure housing within their communities.	\$90,000

<p>Housing, Housing Co-ordination and Housing Now: Scott Hub</p>	<p>Durham Mental Health Services/Pinewood Centre/Rouge Valley Health System/Community Care Durham/Ajax Municipal Housing/Region of Durham</p>	<p>Building on existing housing models that support clients to obtain and maintain safe, accessible and secure housing within their communities, this collaborative supportive housing model will provide holistic and comprehensive “wrap around” services and “hub” support for individuals with mental health and addictions issues, including seniors, living in four municipal housing buildings. A multi-disciplinary team approach, that includes nursing, personal support, seniors’ peer support, recreational activation therapy, addiction support, concurrent case management, on site emergency support and home making, will be located in each of the four hubs and will provide direct and indirect support to over 425 people.</p>	<p>\$826,500</p>
<p>Housing, Housing Co-ordination and Housing Now: Ajax High Support</p>	<p>Durham Mental Health Services/Ontario Shores</p>	<p>Building on existing housing models that support clients to obtain and maintain safe, accessible and secure housing within their communities, this collaborative supportive</p>	<p>\$483,500</p>

		housing model will provide high support “wrap around” services to four long term residents of Ontario Shores who are ready to return to the community.	
Community Crisis Services	Durham Mental Health Services	As DMHS develops an Operational Plan, Business Case and a capital plan, this investment will ensure that the DMHS Board has the funds to expand its existing Community Crisis Services program to Oshawa in the future.	\$600,000
Peer Support Hub Implementation – New Leaf Peer Support	Durham Mental Health Services/Rouge Valley Health System/Community Care Durham/Region of Durham	An existing program, aligned with the Hospital to Home program at Rouge Valley Health System, this investment will support the program to extend its hours to a five day per week schedule resulting in an additional 122 people per year in West Durham receiving Peer Support Services.	\$240,000
Total			\$2,640,000