

Central LHIN expands Aging at Home programs

McGuinty Government helping more seniors get health care at home

NEWS

August 31, 2010

The Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is expanding the successful Aging at Home strategy. Ontario is providing the Central LHIN over \$52 million to ensure more seniors get health care at home or in the community.

As part of the successful Aging at Home strategy, Central LHIN will use the funding for local programs that provide health services to seniors in the comfort and dignity of their own home. This permits Ontario seniors to lead healthy and independent lives while avoiding unnecessary visits to hospitals, which can ultimately reduce emergency department wait times.

The Aging at Home program allows LHINs to provide health care services that are tailor-made to meet local seniors' needs. This year, along with continued funding for 59 Aging at Home year one and year two initiatives, the program is expanding to include new community-based services such as:

- Transitional Care Bed Program
- Transitional Care/Reactivation
- Home Ventilation Assessment Program
- Preventing Falls in the Community

(More details on these programs are included in the accompanying background).

In addition, Central LHIN is funding the expansion of the Home First program across the LHIN, which was first piloted at North York General Hospital in partnership with the Central Community Care Access Centre beginning in September 2009. To date, 65 patients have been enrolled in Home First, and none have been readmitted to the hospital due to an inability to cope at home.

Investing in better local community supports will help improve Ontario's alternate level of care rate. Alternate level of care patients are individuals in hospital beds who would be better cared for in an alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. By giving seniors the support they need to avoid hospitalization in the first place and helping those who do get admitted return home faster, access to health care will be improved for all Ontarians.

QUOTES

Central LHIN and its health service providers are achieving very positive outcomes for our residents through the many successful collaborative Aging at Home-funded initiatives that have been implemented. I commend Central LHIN, its hospitals and its community partners for their work to plan and fund programs that are helping to deliver on the provincial government's commitment to reduce emergency department and alternate level of care wait times and to create a more coordinated and integrated health system.

~ David Caplan, MPP, Don Valley East

Increasing access to care in the community benefits the entire health system by reducing pressures on hospital emergency departments and providing patients with more options outside of the hospital setting. This funding will enable Central LHIN and its health service providers to continue to build on the foundation we have established through Aging at Home to enhance the availability of timely, high-quality care and services throughout our LHIN.

~ Ken Morrison, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Central LHIN

More than 16,000 additional seniors in our LHIN are receiving services at home or in other appropriate care settings thanks to Aging at Home initiatives such as Home First. We thank the provincial government for its continued support of the Aging at Home strategy, and for the opportunity to continue building on our accomplishments and strengthening the partnerships between the CCAC, and the hospital, community care and primary care sectors.

~ Kim Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Central LHIN

On behalf of the Central CCAC, I am pleased to see this expansion of the Home First program. Together with our community partners we have demonstrated over the last year that health care to clients with complex needs can effectively be offered in the community. My special thanks to all of the caregivers and family members who are working in partnership with us to help clients return to health and independence in the community after a hospital stay.

~ Cathy Szabo, Chief Executive Officer, Central Community Care Access Centre

Elderly patients often arrive at the hospital believing that they will never see their home again. We begin discussing the discharge process as soon as they are admitted. We stress that with Home First they will be able to make life-altering decisions about where to spend the rest of their lives in the comfort of their own home and not in the hectic acute-care setting.

~ Bonnie Adamson, President and Chief Executive Officer, North York General Hospital

QUICK FACTS

- Assisting seniors to live independently at home helps to shorten wait times at hospitals and improve patient flow in emergency rooms.
- Ontario is investing \$330.6 million for Aging at Home programs this year.
- By 2017, for the first time, seniors will account for a larger share of population than children aged 0-14.

LEARN MORE

- Read more about [Aging at Home](#) in Central LHIN on our website at www.centrollhin.on.ca

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Download Central LHIN's new Integrated Health Service Plan 2010-2013:

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Aging at Home Strategy

August 31, 2010

Ontario is investing \$1.1 billion over four years in the Aging at Home Strategy in sectors such as community support services; hospitals; Community Care Access Centre; long-term care homes and other sectors. Aging at Home, as initially announced in 2007, is a program that provides a continuum of community-based services for seniors and their caregivers to allow them to stay healthy and live independently and with dignity in their homes.

The strategy also aims to decrease the number of alternate level of care patients in Ontario hospitals. These patients are individuals who are occupying acute care beds in hospitals, but would be better cared for in another setting — whether it be their own homes or long-term care homes.

This year, the Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) is receiving over \$52 million to fund local programs that provide health services to seniors in the comfort and dignity of their own home, allowing them to lead healthy and independent lives while avoiding unnecessary visits to hospitals. These include:

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
In-home Palliative and End of Life Care Enhancement	Southlake Regional Health Centre	Comprehensive outreach teams for in-home multi-disciplinary palliative care in York Region	\$757,133
Geriatric Emergency Management Expansion	Humber River Regional Hospital	Specialized Geriatric Emergency Medicine nurses in all Central LHIN Emergency Departments	\$1,310,924
Specialized Geriatric Services: Outreach services to homebound seniors	North York General Hospital	Multi-disciplinary geriatric outreach teams supporting frail and vulnerable seniors in-home throughout Central LHIN	\$1,782,000
Integrated Psychogeriatric Outreach Program	Regional Municipality of York (York Region Newmarket Health Centre)	Multi-disciplinary in-home assessment and care planning teams for seniors living in the community with mental illness	\$421,687
Transportation North	Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)	Provides additional rides to medical appointments for seniors living in the northern part of Central LHIN	\$125,000
Transportation South	Circle of Home Care Services (Toronto)	Provides additional rides to medical appointments for seniors living in the southern part of Central LHIN	\$125,000
Community Services as an Alternative to LTC Placement	Central Community Care Access Centre	Provides additional supports in the community to frail seniors on the CCAC wait list to delay or prevent Long-term care home admission	\$5,375,856
Living Well in Weston	St. Clair West Services for Seniors, Inc.	Supportive housing services to low income, culturally diverse seniors living in social housing buildings.	\$559,000
50 New Supportive Housing Units	Loft Community Services	Supportive housing program in the University Heights area.	\$1,850,000
New Supportive Housing - Supports	Central Community Care Access Centre	Nursing services for New Supportive Housing and Community Integration Program at LOFT	\$70,000

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
Medication Management	Central Community Care Access Centre	Central LHIN-wide medication management program supporting seniors taking a minimum of four medications or who have recently had a health-related event (e.g. surgery or stroke)	\$1,781,787
Hearing Care Counselor	Canadian Hearing Society	Enhanced hearing support to new Mandarin/Cantonese speaking clients	\$139,108
Reducing Language Barriers	Aphasia Institute	Provides of training and resources for community health providers to clients with aphasia	\$148,500
Support for Aging Caregivers	Community Head Injury Resource Services of Toronto	Provides personal care, day programs, education, respite and case management services to families and clients living with Acquired Brain Injury.	\$244,789
Extreme Cleaning	The Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch	Intensive cleaning services to vulnerable and isolated seniors living with mental health issues who are at risk of eviction in Markham, Richmond Hill and North York	\$120,000
Integrating Wellness and Prevention	Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)	Provides health promotion wellness programs to underserved immigrant seniors, predominantly South Asian.	\$110,399
Family Caregiver Connections	Circle of Home Care Services (Toronto)	Comprehensive caregiver support for culturally diverse seniors	\$200,795
Care Ambassador	Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care	Caregiver support services for East Asian community for clients with Alzheimer's, other dementia or stroke	\$160,000
Home at Last	Downsview Services to Seniors Inc.	Transportation escort services and personal support assistance to discharged patients requiring assistance	\$615,279
Home at Last	Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)	Transportation escort services and personal support assistance to discharged patients requiring assistance	\$615,279
Convalescent Care	Unionville Home Society	Short-stay convalescent care beds in the three LTC homes to facilities discharge of ALC patients from hospital to more appropriate setting	\$621,177
Convalescent Care	Regional Municipality of York (Maple Health Centre)	Short-stay convalescent care beds in the three LTC homes to facilities discharge of ALC patients from hospital to more appropriate setting	\$615,702
Convalescent Care	Central Community Care Access Centre	Placement coordination of 30 beds at Unionville Home Society and Maple Health Centre	\$189,951
Alternative Community Living Program – Water Street Non-Profit Homes Inc.	Regional Municipality of York (York Region Newmarket Health Centre)	Supportive housing program for vulnerable seniors in the Markham area.	\$660,000
Supporting Housing at Seneca Tower	Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care	Supportive housing services to the seniors of Seneca Towers, targeting all seniors with support service needs.	\$597,053
Supportive Housing Program	North York Seniors Centre	Supportive housing services to the seniors, targeting	\$804,221

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
in North York		all seniors with support service needs.	
Supportive Housing Program in North York - Nursing Support Services	Central Community Care Access Centre	Provide nursing services to seniors who are part of Supportive Housing program at Kempford Manor and Beecroft Manor.	\$4,080
Supportive Living for Seniors in East Markham	Cerebral Palsy Parent Council of Toronto o/a Participation House, Markham	Supportive housing services for seniors with cerebral palsy.	\$688,745
Cliffwood Manor Supportive Housing	City of Toronto, Long Term Care Homes and Services	Supportive Housing Program for frail seniors	\$458,498
Accessing Ethno-Cultural Senior communities in a Supportive Housing Model	Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)	Supportive Housing Program for frail seniors	\$145,651
Living Well at Roselawn Marlee – Supportive Housing with Mental Health Supports	St. Clair West Services for Seniors, Inc.	Supportive Housing Program for frail seniors	\$612,000
Living Well at Roselawn Marlee – Nursing Support Services	Central Community Care Access Centre	Provide nursing services to seniors who are part of Supportive Housing program at Roselawn Marlee	\$14,000
Supportive Housing Services at Casa Abruzzo	Villa Colombo Homes for the Aged Inc.	Supportive Housing Program for frail seniors	\$391,391
Supportive Housing Services at Nursing Support Services	Central Community Care Access Centre	Provide nursing services to seniors who are part of Supportive Housing program at Casa Abruzzo	\$64,428
Pathway to Care for Newcomer Elders	Toronto North Support Services	Improves access to mental health services for seniors from the Somali and Tamil communities in the southern planning region of the Central LHIN.	\$180,000
Central LHIN Jewish Adult Day Program for Seniors with Dementia	Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care	Provide nursing services to seniors who are part of adult day program	\$93,000
Central LHIN Jewish Adult Day Program for Seniors with Dementia	Circle of Home Care Services (Toronto)	Supports to seniors with dementia through adult day programming and caregiver respite	\$756,880
South Asian Adult Day Program	Unionville Home Society	Two day per week adult day program for cognitively impaired/frail South Asian seniors.	\$174,841
Unity in Diversity: Aging at Home	Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre	Mobile adult day program for seniors from the Asian, South Asian, Spanish, Caribbean and East African communities in York West.	\$405,559
An Interdisciplinary and Community Approach to Emergency Diversion through Stroke Prevention and Health Promotion	York Central Hospital	The development of a network of secondary stroke prevention clinics, located within the acute care hospitals that screens stroke patients for modifiable risk factors and offer a comprehensive toolkit of services and programs to assist in the prevention of a more disabling stroke or other cardiovascular event.	\$994,488

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
Increasing Community Support in Rural Areas	Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS)	Expansion of community-based support services to seniors in rural and underserved areas of the northern areas of the Central LHIN. Services include wellness programs, Alzheimer's Day Program, home help, home maintenance, caregiver support and education, meals on wheels, transportation, respite care, social visiting and safety.	\$1,513,000
Georgina Island Support for Independent Living	Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nations	Support program for independent living for the Elders on Georgina Island. Services include grocery shopping, assistance to medical appointments as well as home help.	\$158,000
Traditional Supports for Seniors of Aboriginal Descent Aging at Home	The Lance Krasman Memorial Centre for Community Mental Health	Support for seniors of Aboriginal descent aging at home in York Region. Services include access to traditional ceremonies, medicines, Elders, healing circles, and seasonal feasts.	\$115,860
Enhanced Independent Living for Seniors in our Community	Better Living Health and Community Services	Program for independent living for seniors living in the North York area. Services include light home maintenance and emergency snow removal program, an innovative grocery shopping program that partners with Grocery Gateway and community volunteers, and extended service hours to evenings and weekends to provide increased transportation services and Saturday Meals on Wheels.	\$607,427
Care to Imagine: A Customized, Multi-faceted Caregiver Support Program	PalCare Network for York Region	Comprehensive outreach teams for in-home multi-disciplinary palliative care in York Region	\$105,788
Bringing the D.A.Y. Centre to Parkview Village in Stouffville	Alzheimer Society of York Region	Two day per week caregiver respite program located in Stouffville, who are caring for seniors who are cognitively impaired.	\$169,720
Community Support Program (C.S.I.)	Mariann Nursing Home and Residence	Provides an adult day program for seniors with dementia/Alzheimer's as well as caregiver respite.	\$264,780
The Interlude Program - A joint overnight respite program	Downsview Services to Seniors Inc.	Overnight on-site respite program designed for clients and caregivers that are currently attending or wait listed for the Alzheimer adult day programs of Downsview Services to Seniors and St. Clair West Services for Seniors.	\$155,000
Psychogeriatric Outreach Team	Humber River Regional Hospital	Outreach teams dedicated to mental health/addiction services to LTC residents.	\$322,000
Nurse Led Long-Term Care Outreach Team	Southlake Regional Health Centre	Nurse led outreach teams to LTC home residents in Northern York and South Simcoe Regions	\$362,133
Nurse Led Outreach Team for LTC Facilities in Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham	York Central Hospital	Nurse led outreach teams to LTC home residents in Central/Southern York Region, Vaughan and Markham	\$392,511

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
Rehabilitation Service Expansion	St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital	Rehab expansion to add weekend admissions and therapies as well as expand outpatient services.	\$4,026,843
Care of a Lifetime: Risk Management for Seniors at Home	Markham Stouffville Hospital	Cognitive assessment program for seniors at risk which includes the development and delivery of comprehensive care plans (utilizing primary care and community resources) which focus on supporting seniors in their own homes as long as possible.	\$227,576
Emergency Department Program for Mental Health Addiction	North York General Hospital	Mental health and additions programs which improve the coordination of care delivery between acute care and community based supports for mental health clients who present in the Emergency Department.	\$483,759
Interim Long-Term Care Beds at Southlake Residential Care Village (Expansion)	Southlake Regional Health Centre	32 Interim beds at Southlake Village	\$1,170,914
Interim Long-Term Care Beds at York Central Hospital (Expansion)	York Central Hospital	32 Interim beds at York Central Hospital	\$1,218,035
Community Alternatives to Long Term Care Placement (Expansion)	Central Community Care Access Centre	This initiative provides enhanced community based services to patients in acute care who have been identified as ALC and who are medically stable.	\$9,065,079
Extreme Cleaning (Expansion)	Canadian Mental Health Association of Toronto	Intensive cleaning services to vulnerable and isolated seniors living with mental health issues who are at risk of eviction in Markham, Richmond Hill and North York	\$54,041
Emergency Department Diversion Program for Mental Health and Addictions (Expansion)	North York General Hospital	Mental health and additions programs which improve the coordination of care delivery between acute care and community based supports for mental health clients who present in the Emergency Department.	\$849,939
Transitional Care Bed Program - Markham Stouffville Hospital	Markham Stouffville Hospital	Care will be based on best practices in rehabilitation and restorative care, and will develop a consistent and standardized approach for returning individuals to their highest level of functioning in the community.	\$2,955,290
In-Home Palliative Care Program (Expansion)	Southlake Regional Health Centre	Comprehensive outreach teams for in-home multi-disciplinary palliative care in York Region	\$500,000
Nurse Led Outreach Teams to LTC - Nursing Enhancement to LTC (Expansion)	Central Community Care Access Centre	Central LHIN currently funds the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto to manage three Nurse-Led Outreach Teams, whose purpose is to build clinical capacity within LTC homes to enable resident's timely access to care within the home, thus minimizing avoidable transfers to ED. The Central	\$400,000

Local Community-Based Program	Lead Organization	Description	Funding
		CCAC has identified 80 resident in Central LHIN LTC homes in need of augmented nursing support in order to be cared for in their home and avoid transfer to hospital	
Transitional Care/Reactivation	Yorkview Lifecare Centre	This initiative supports the implementation of 24 beds transitional care / reactivation.	\$542,682
Home Ventilation Assessment Program	West Park Healthcare Centre	To assess and provide specialized rehabilitation to enable patients to move from an invasive chronic ventilator to a less invasive method of respiratory support (including volume ventilation, pressure support, bi-level positive airway pressure, proportional-assist ventilation, or continuous positive airway pressures).	\$1,150,000
Preventing Falls in the Community	St. John's Rehab Hospital	St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital and Central CCAC have partnered to develop a Central-LHIN wide Falls Prevention program for high risk populations.	\$535,000
		Total	\$52,329,578
		Planned	\$606,468
		Total Funding Envelope	\$52,936,046

What is an alternate level of care patient and how do these patients impact emergency department wait times?

Alternate level of care patients are people in hospital beds who would be better cared for in an alternate setting, such as long-term care, rehab, or home. Having more home care and community services enables alternate level of care patients to leave hospital sooner, making more beds available to ER patients who are waiting to be admitted to hospital.

How does the Aging at Home strategy help reduce emergency department wait times?

Through its emergency department wait times strategy, the Government of Ontario is committed to reducing the time that patients wait from the moment they arrive at the emergency department to when they leave.

A small number of patients, approximately ten per cent, are admitted to the hospital for further tests and procedures. In order to reduce their time waiting for a bed, we need to decrease the number of patients that are waiting for discharge home with supports or space in a long term care home. Our Aging at Home and ALC strategies help to ensure that patients can transition out of the hospital safely to make room for ER patients waiting to be admitted.

For more information:

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