

Backgrounder: Hospice Residences Bed Expansion

In Ontario, end-of life care is provided in several types of care settings including an individual's home, hospice residences, Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH), retirement homes and hospitals. Hospice residences deliver services that are aimed at the relief of suffering and improving the quality of life for persons who are living with serious illnesses.

The Ontario government is expanding palliative care services in local communities by adding up to 84 new adult hospice residence beds and 12 pediatric hospice residence beds, bringing the total to over 750 funded beds across the province. This will provide people with comfort and dignity closer to their communities and loved ones as they are nearing the end of life.

To support the expansion of hospice residence beds across the province, the Ontario government has allocated funds for operational costs and capital grants associated with these new beds. To date, five adult hospice residence beds and 12 pediatric hospice residence beds have been allocated. The Ministry of Health is now seeking proposals to allocate the remaining 79 adult hospice residence beds.

This is a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to:

1. Identify 79 adult hospice residence beds that can become operational within the next three years (by March 31, 2027).
2. Identify longer-term bed expansion opportunities for net new adult hospice residence beds in Ontario, that could become operational within eight years (by 2032), in order to inform future capacity planning.

Applications may come from existing hospice residences or other applicants who wish to develop new hospice residence beds.

Factors such as the following will be considered in evaluating applications for the 79 new adult hospice residence beds:

- regional demand for end-of-life care;
- geographic gaps in services;
- Indigenous communities;
- equity deserving communities (e.g., culturally specific communities, vulnerably housed);
- existing bed capacity and occupancy rates; and

- organizational readiness

The information gathered through this EOI process will not only inform the allocation of the 79 adult hospice residence beds but will also be used to inform future consideration of additional adult hospice residence capacity in Ontario over the next eight years. Applicants with an interest in hospice residence bed expansion who can operationalize in the next three to eight years are encouraged to submit an EOI application (see below for minimum eligibility criteria).

The government's funding for the 79 hospice residence beds includes a contribution to support operational costs and capital costs, as follows:

- Operational funding will support the provision of nursing services, personal support services, and other approved home and community care services in accordance with Ontario Regulation 187/22: Home and Community Care Services made under the *Connecting Care Act, 2019*. The current operational funding rate for approved hospice residence beds is \$152,300/bed/year for adult beds and up to \$226,800/bed/year for approved specialized beds. Small hospice residences with an approved maximum capacity of less than or equal to six beds may be eligible for a rate of up to \$175,100/bed/year for adult beds and \$260,700/bed/year for approved specialized beds.
- Provincial capital grants of up to \$250,000 per Ministry of Health approved bed are also available for eligible hospice residence organizations that have been approved to develop new physical hospice spaces. Capital grants are approved on a per bed rate and intended to support a portion of the total project costs.

Application Requirements and Evaluation

To be considered for this funding opportunity, each interested applicant must submit a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) application to their respective Ontario Health region, by 5:00pm ET (Eastern Time) on Friday, October 18th, 2024.

Ontario Health will assess submissions using established evaluation criteria for factors such as demand, current state capacity, and organizational readiness. Based on assessments, Ontario Health will make recommendations for allocation of the 79 new hospice residence beds to the Ontario government for approval and funding decisions. Other submissions will inform future capacity considerations.

Submissions made by all applicants are for assessment purposes only and do not constitute a commitment or approval for new funding or hospice residence expansion. A standardized evaluation will be undertaken, including consideration of capacity in relation to demand for hospice residence beds. The evaluation will utilize evidence-based capacity planning to determine the number of adult hospice residence beds required in Ontario to support current and future needs. This evidence-informed approach will be used in the evaluation to quantify the evolving need for hospice residence beds and identify gaps.

For the allocation of the 79 adult hospice residence beds, priority will be given to those applications that demonstrate need and readiness to have their beds fully operational in a three-year time period (by March 31, 2027).

Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by:

- Existing hospices residences seeking to expand beds in existing facilities or undertake new builds.
- Organizations or groups that are seeking to become a hospice residence and plan to build and/or operate new hospice residence beds.

Applicants must:

- Be a registered not-for-profit entity in Ontario with Articles of Incorporation or have plans to become a not-for-profit entity, per above.
- Have a funding source sufficient for startup costs for the proposed expansion project once the project is ready to implement.
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of hospice residences, the home and community care services they are approved to deliver under Ontario Regulation 187/22: Home and Community Care Services made under the *Connecting Care Act, 2019*, and how they function.
- Demonstrate collaboration with local health system partners, such as local Ontario Health Team(s).
- For new builds, identify purchase of land or leasing arrangement, or the plan to do so in the future.
- For existing hospice residences, demonstrate the need for expansion utilizing capacity and occupancy data in the past six months.
- As a condition for capital grant eligibility, if required: Comply with the Ministry of Health's Hospice Capital Program (HCP) Design Standards and meet the Ministry of Health's risk assessment requirements, as outlined in the HCP Policy.

Resources for Applicants

Please email the Ontario Health Provincial Palliative Care Program or your Ontario Health Regional contact to receive an EOI application by email, to get answers to your questions or to request assistance to prepare your application.

- Ontario Health Provincial Palliative Care Program: OPCN-funding@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health Central Region: Aliya Mamdeen, aliya.mamdeen@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health East Region: OH East Palliative EOI, palliativeEOI_East@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health North East Region: Jennifer Osesky, jenn.osesky@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health North West Region: Wendy McAllister, Wendy.McAllister@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health West Region: Lacie Hampson, lacie.hampson@ontariohealth.ca
- Ontario Health Toronto Region: fundingsubmission-toronto@ontariohealth.ca

Submit your Application

If you are interested in applying for this funding, please reach out your respective Ontario Health regional contact (listed above) to request an EOI application form. Completed EOI application forms must be submitted by email to the Ontario Health Provincial Palliative Care Program or your Ontario Health regional contact by 5:00pm ET (Eastern Time) on Friday, October 18th, 2024.

Need this information in an accessible format? 1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@ontariohealth.ca.
Document disponible en français en contactant info@ontariohealth.ca