







## New Initiative – Community Paramedicine

**NI 2022-12**

### DESCRIPTION

Implementation of a Community Paramedic Program to provide in home support for individuals with complex chronic health issues while waiting for long term care home placement.

#### Strategic Plan

					
<b>WORKS WELL TOGETHER</b>	<b>WELL CONNECTED</b>	<b>SHAPES THE FUTURE</b>	<b>INFORMS &amp; ENGAGES</b>	<b>PERFORMS &amp; DELIVERS</b>	<b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b>
1.i.		3.iii.		5.i. 5.ii.	

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

Integrating Community Paramedicine into the healthcare system is cost efficient, uses resources wisely and meets community needs. They allow communities to take advantage of the needed healthcare skills of paramedics to solve local challenges, and the evidence shows they are working:

- Patients diverted from emergency rooms: decreasing admission rates, length of stay and health system costs.
- Individuals staying at home longer: the cost-effectiveness of providing care in the home or in the community is indisputable. Staying at home is the preferred choice of virtually every patient.
- Access to needed primary community or home healthcare increases: relieving the burden on hospitals in communities where individuals use hospitals to meet their primary care needs.
- Inherent health equity issues are addressed.
- Critical gaps in service related to seasonal surge and influenza are filled.

The Ontario government is making investments to launch the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care Program in more municipalities across the province. This program will help seniors on the long-term care waitlists stay safe in the comfort of their own homes and communities for longer periods of time. The initial funding rounds for this program targeted municipalities with established, provincially funded Community Paramedicine Programs. A November 2021 funding announcement was made by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (LTC) expanding Community Paramedicine Program funding other interested municipalities including Oxford County to commence as early as Q4 2021.

## Comments

- In May 2020, Paramedic Services established a community paramedic Palliative Care Outreach Team (PCOT) to provide in home comprehensive assessments and treatments for palliative patients with urgent and emergency pain and symptom management needs. Under the direction of the Oxford PCOT physicians, paramedics administer medications and treatments to resolve symptoms and prevent a visit to the emergency department during the pandemic.
- This program has evolved over the last 18 months into one of the most comprehensive palliative care community partnerships in the province of Ontario.
- The Oxford County Community Paramedicine Program has expanded to include supporting patients with high-intensity healthcare needs to stay in their home longer through a partnership with Ontario Health (West).

## CP LTC

This new long-term care focused Community Paramedicine Program will leverage the skills of Paramedicine practitioners to help reduce hallway healthcare and provide additional and appropriate care for seniors. This program will delay the need for long-term care for our seniors by providing them with enhanced at-home supports. The program will be fully funded by the provincial government and operated in partnership with local paramedic services.

These programs will provide:

- Access to health services 24-7, through in-home and remote methods, such as online or virtual supports;
- Home visits and in-home testing procedures;
- Ongoing monitoring of changing or escalating conditions to prevent or reduce emergency incidents;
- Additional education about healthy living or managing chronic diseases; and
- Connections for participants and their families to home care and community supports

## Conclusions

This round of CP LTC funding begins October 1, 2021 and will fully fund the Oxford County Community Paramedicine Program until March 31, 2024 (2.5 years). Oxford County Paramedic Services had undertaken substantial preparation work in anticipation of this provincial funding being approved and as such is prepared to immediately enhance our program to meet this need.

## BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

	One-time	Base	Total Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
Ministry of Long Term Care - CPLTC	477,900	1,916,425	2,394,325
Ontario Health - HISH	94,500	-	94,500
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>572,400</b>	<b>1,916,425</b>	<b>2,488,825</b>

	One-time	Base	Total Budget
<b>Salaries and benefits</b>	\$-	\$1,555,131	\$1,555,131
<b>Operating expenses</b>			
Vehicle Costs – Operating	-	34,872	34,872
Medical Costs – Medical Supplies	-	55,928	55,928
Equipment – Uniforms, Medical Equipment	26,000	21,910	47,910
Technology Costs –Telephones, Connectivity, Remote Monitoring	2,000	94,900	96,900
Training	134,000	50,960	184,960
Administrative Costs – Reporting and Program Coordination, Office Supplies <sup>1</sup>	1,830	102,724	104,554
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>163,830</b>	<b>361,294</b>	<b>525,124</b>
<b>Capital</b>			
Capital – Technology – Laptops, iPads	15,000	-	15,000
Capital – Medical Equipment	124,570	-	124,570
Capital – Office Furniture – Desks/Chairs, Meeting Table	14,000	-	14,000
Capital – Vehicle Purchase - 3	255,000	-	255,000
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>408,570</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>408,570</b>
<b>County Levy</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>

<sup>1</sup> \$91,174 in interdepartmental charges from the 911 Services allocated to this program resulting in a general levy reduction for the Paramedic Services division.

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Staff Requirements (FTE)	One-time	Base
Superintendent - Full-time	0.0	1.0
Acting Superintendent - Full-time	0.0	1.0
Community Paramedic - Full-time	0.0	8.0
Education Staff - Full-time	0.0	1.0
Administration Coordinator - Full-time	0.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>