



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES APPROVES \$150,000
CAPITAL PLANNING GRANT FUNDING FOR PROPOSED DUAL DIAGNOSIS /
ALTERNATE LEVEL OF CARE PROJECT**

The funding will provide Sunbeam with support for a specially designed, safe and inclusive environment for individuals in need and will alleviate significant pressures on local healthcare systems.

KITCHENER, ON | MARCH 12, 2024 – Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is pleased to announce it is receiving \$150,000 in capital planning funds from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to support its Dual Diagnosis / Alternate Level of Care (DD-ALC) initiative.

Dual Diagnosis (DD) refers to individuals living with both a developmental disability and a psychiatric disorder, necessitating tailored treatment and supports. Alternate Level of Care (ALC) refers to patients occupying hospital beds whose ongoing treatment complexity poses a barrier to safe discharge, despite not requiring the full spectrum of hospital services provided.

The DD-ALC program aims to provide appropriate wrap-around care and permanent supported living to individuals living with Dual Diagnosis, ensuring they can be safely discharged from hospitals while continuing to receive the treatment and support they need to live full and enriching lives.

“Due to limitations on tailored, wrap-around support services for individuals living with DD upon discharge from hospitals, the local healthcare system remains strained,” says Sunbeam CEO Brian Swainson. “The funding will help to alleviate pressures on the local healthcare system by enabling the discharge of a patient from the hospital after a multi-year stay and will support the expansion of Sunbeam’s intensive support programming for future planned capacity growth.”

The DD-ALC capital development proposal envisions an expansion of Sunbeam’s existing intensive support program at its Cambridge site. The \$150,000 will be used to continue with planning and site preparation efforts in advance of the proposed expansion.

“With the generous support of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, the enhancement of Sunbeam’s Cambridge campus is a win-win for the local community,” says Swainson. “The individuals served receive expert clinical, developmental and behavioural supports tailored to their unique needs and abilities, enabling them to live their best lives possible in a safe, welcoming and customized environment.”

In recent years, just four persons living with developmental disabilities experienced ALC hospital stays locally exceeding 16 years in total which incurred healthcare system costs estimated at \$12

million. Swainson shared that the developmental services sector with community and healthcare partners can typically provide tailored wrap-around supports and enhanced quality of life for such individuals having complex needs at a fraction of that cost.

Through collaborative efforts between the developmental services, community and health sectors, permanent placements of persons with developmental disabilities at Sunbeam and other local developmental services providers have helped to free up much-needed hospital resources in an already strained healthcare system.

With letters of support from Cambridge Mayor Jan Liggett and MPP Brian Riddell of Cambridge, Sunbeam thoughtfully waits for further updates on its overall \$2 million capital funding request from the Province in the coming year to help bring this project to completion.

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ABOUT SUNBEAM COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services creates inclusive communities where people of all abilities are valued. Sunbeam has been operating for more than 67 years, serving more than 14,000 individuals and families across Waterloo Region, Wellington County, Dufferin County, Peel Region, Halton Region, York Region and Simcoe County. The organization offers inclusive living, overnight respite, day program, clinical services and therapeutic amenities, as well as professional services and other supports through Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre and is also the host agency for Developmental Services Ontario-Central West Region.

Website: sunbeamcommunity.ca

Facebook: [Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services](#)

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