



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES APPROVES \$1.7M CAPITAL GRANT FOR SUNBEAM'S NEWEST SPECIALIZED INCLUSIVE LIVING HOME

Sunbeam is set to open its newest inclusive living home in Spring 2025.

KITCHENER, ON | December 19, 2024 – Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services is pleased to announce it is receiving a \$1.72 Million capital grant from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). This grant was made possible through the Dual Diagnosis-Alternate Level of Care (DD-ALC) initiative, which helps to transition individuals living with a developmental disability who also have a mental health diagnosis, out of extended hospital stays into a permanent home with appropriately tailored supports. Sunbeam is using this one-time investment to develop a new inclusive living home with programming focused on wrap-around services in Waterloo Region to accommodate and support 5 individuals. The home is anticipated to open in the Spring 2025.

The journey from an extended hospital stay to home can be a significant challenge for persons living with a Dual Diagnosis. Extended hospital stays often result because although an individual may no longer require hospital level of care, there can be barriers to discharge from hospital because of a lack of appropriate housing with specialized community services and support.

“Sunbeam is often relied upon to help transition persons with developmental disabilities from extended hospital stays to permanent supportive and inclusive living tailored to their specific needs – whether at a Sunbeam home or elsewhere in the community. Our homes create safe, welcoming spaces which encourage peer socialization and promote inclusion and belonging,” says Brian Swainson, Sunbeam CEO. *“We are deeply grateful to the Ministry for this capital investment. This project will be truly impactful to the community and amplify Sunbeam’s strategic commitment to inclusion, innovation, and community, always ensuring that we put our people first in the Sunbeam Community.”*

Located in Kitchener, Sunbeam's newest inclusive living home will create new capacity in the local developmental services system to help address growing demand, while at the same time alleviating pressures on an already stressed healthcare system. Designed to provide the comfort of home, the environment promotes belonging and inclusion, while providing appropriate levels of support for the people served. This location will continue Sunbeam's mission of providing innovative opportunities that enable the people we support to reach their goals and achieve recognition of their value in the community.

Since 2020, Sunbeam has increased its number of inclusive group living and overnight respite locations from 18 to 26, with plans for additional service expansion underway.

ABOUT SUNBEAM COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services creates inclusive communities where people of all abilities are valued. With its roots in Waterloo Region extending back to 1956, Sunbeam currently serves more than 15,000 individuals and families annually across Waterloo Region, Wellington County, Dufferin County, Peel Region, Halton Region, York Region and Simcoe County. The organization offers inclusive living, children's overnight and day respite, community participation supports and clinical services, as well as community and professional services, autism programming and other supports through Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre. Sunbeam is also the host agency for Developmental Services Ontario - Central West Region. The Sunbeam Community offers services and supports to individuals of all ages living with a developmental disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families.

Website: sunbeamcommunity.ca

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

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