



*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **SUNBEAM RECEIVES \$400,000 WORKFORCE CAPACITY GRANT TO EXPAND AUTISM SERVICES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES**

*Provincial funding to help address the growing demand for clinical support services in Waterloo Region*

**WATERLOO, ON | JULY 14, 2025** – Sunbeam Community and Developmental Services is pleased to announce it has been awarded a **\$400,000 Workforce Capacity Grant** from Ontario's Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

This funding will help Sunbeam's Brightside ABA Services expand and enhance core clinical autism services, including applied behaviour analysis (ABA), speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and mental health supports, for children and youth across the Waterloo Region, ensuring families receive timely, high-quality care through an interdisciplinary model.

*"This funding could not have come at a better time," says Tracy Erb, Director. "We are proud to serve families across Waterloo Region as an integrated hub for autism clinical services and supports. This grant will help us extend our reach and ensure more children and youth get the care they deserve."*

The Workforce Capacity Grant is part of the Ontario Autism Program and supports service providers in building capacity to deliver essential clinical services. Sunbeam is a trusted community provider of these services and is well-positioned to grow its programs to reach more families.

*"Families in Waterloo Region deserve access to timely, high-quality support that reflects the complexity and uniqueness of every child," says Jess Dixon, MPP Kitchener South - Hespeler. "This investment through the Ontario Autism Program's Workforce Capacity Fund will help Sunbeam build and retain the skilled teams that children and youth rely on. I'm proud to support this important step toward strengthening local care and creating more stable pathways for families navigating autism services."*

The two-year grant will support the recruitment and retention of skilled clinicians, program enhancements, and continued development in person-centred care, supported by enhanced coordination of interdisciplinary services.

*“With this investment, we’re not just expanding services, we’re strengthening our commitment to every child and family waiting for services,” says Brian Swainson, CEO of Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services. “Autism affects each person differently, and families benefit greatly from participating in the development of the individualized support strategies best suited to their needs. This grant allows us to respond to those needs with greater timeliness, flexibility, and expertise.”*

To learn more about Sunbeam’s Brightside ABA Services, visit  
<https://brightsideabaservices.com/>

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### **ABOUT SUNBEAM'S BRIGHTSIDE ABA SERVICES**

Located at The Family Centre in Kitchener, Brightside is an integrated hub for clinical services and supports offering a collaborative, client-centred model delivering ABA services, as well as children’s psychiatry, occupational therapy, and speech-language services. Through its interdisciplinary approach, Brightside is committed to helping children, youth, and their families across Waterloo Region thrive through personalized, high-quality therapies and supports.

**Website:** [brightsideabaservices.com](https://brightsideabaservices.com)

### **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 68 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 and clinical services, as well as professional services and other supports through Sunbeam’s Developmental Resource Centre and Brightside ABA Services. Sunbeam is also the host agency for Developmental Services Ontario – Central West Region. Sunbeam serves and supports individuals of all ages living with a developmental disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Website:** [sunbeamcommunity.ca](https://sunbeamcommunity.ca)

**Facebook:** [Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services](https://www.facebook.com/SunbeamCommunity&DevelopmentalServices)

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