



## Sunbeam's 2026 Pre-Budget Submission to the Ontario Government

### ***Recommendation 1***

Sunbeam, as a member of Community Living Ontario (CLO) supports CLO's pre-budget submission recommendation to increase annualized developmental services base funding by 3% for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, and by 2% in each of the subsequent five years.

### ***Recommendation 2***

Sunbeam supports the recommendations of the Ontario Ombudsman's Report "Lost in Transition" including calling for investments to support capital planning and funding in order to develop adequate and appropriate community infrastructure to accommodate the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with more complex needs. In Waterloo Region alone, the waitlist (registry) for DS supportive housing options comprises 130% of filled system capacity.

### ***Recommendation 3***

Sunbeam supports investments to expand and better resource system capacity within the developmental services in areas such as overnight respite for adults (to enable people to continue living in community longer, keep families together, reduce caregiver burnout, alleviate pressure on group living waitlists and avoid crises), passport funding allocations, and digital transformation of the sector to enable data/information sharing within and across sectors (DS, Health, Community).

### ***Summary***

Transfer payment agencies (TPA) in the developmental services (DS) sector provide essential services and supports to an extremely vulnerable and equity-deserving population. Demand for services far outweighs capacity in this sector, such as all forms of supportive housing (group living, supported independent living, etc), community participation supports, overnight respite, and more. Planful investments to sustain, strengthen and grow TPAs in this sector will in the long-term provide high quality, essential supports and services for persons living with developmental disabilities rather than continuing to pay a premium for additional capacity (Outside Paid Resources).

Reliable, annual base funding increases to the DS sector will help stabilize and sustain – through fair competitive compensation to attract/retain a skilled workforce and ensuring that innovation allows us to continue to offer quality, individualized programs and services to meet the increasingly complex needs of the people we support.

With the long registries (waitlists) in our sector, new capital and operating investments are needed to expand system capacity - whether in areas of supportive housing, or community participation supports, or overnight respite. The DS sector provides tailored supports and services to individuals living with developmental disabilities which not only provide excellent quality of life, inclusion and belonging to individuals, but also avoids individuals and families experiencing crises that then put great pressures on healthcare (hospitals, long-term care) and other social services (shelters, addictions and mental health, and more).