

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the Niagara Ontario Health Team - Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara (NOHT-ESON)?

Ontario Health Teams is an initiative of the Government of Ontario to better connect and integrate healthcare providers across the province. The NOHT-ESON is comprised of 45 partners from a broad range of healthcare, community support sector and social services – which include primary care, home care, emergency services, public health, social services, mental health and addictions, rehab, acute care, as well as patients/clients, families and caregivers.

The NOHT-ESON works together as one team to create a coordinated approach to care that will make it easier for patients to access services, creating seamless transitions between providers, and overall improves patients' and clients' experience and health outcomes.

How much implementation funding did the NOHT-ESON receive from the Ministry of Health?

The NOHT-ESON has received \$375,000 to date. The NOHT-ESON is expected to receive \$750,000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

What is the implementation funding to be used for?

- Planning and implementing a population-health management approach to integrated and coordinated service delivery;
- Digital health, information management and virtual care implementation;
- Physician and other clinician leadership, engagement, and participation;
- Patient, client, family, and caregiver engagement and participation;
- Project management and leadership, practice facilitation to support change management, and other implementation activities; and
- Performance measurement and quality improvement.

Which NOHT-ESON member received the implementation funding?

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Niagara Branch will hold the implementation funds on behalf of the NOHT-ESON partners. Funds can only be used if all partners come to a consensus on allocation of dollars spent.

Do all the NOHT-ESON partner organizations share one budget now that you're approved?

- We have not heard specific details on timelines or implementation of the team having a single accountability agreement with Ontario Health.

What have been the NOHT-ESON successes?

- Developed stronger relationships between healthcare partners of the NOHT-ESON. Organizations have tangible outcomes on how working together has positively impacted the residents of Niagara.
- Stronger partnerships have given partners the ability to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The NOHT-ESON were able to leverage local and regional partnerships to streamline acquisition and distribution of pandemic supplies.
- Developed, approved and living by a consensus decision-making framework that is one of a kind amongst Ontario Health Teams.
- Strengthened partnerships with the Indigenous and Francophone communities.
- Hosted community information forum for health-care organizations across Niagara.

What are the outputs required by the Ministry of Health?

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| • A patient engagement, consultation, and partnership strategy or framework in place. | May 31, 2021 |
| • Communication protocols in place to connect all primary care providers in the OHT with other OHT members and partners. | May 31, 2021 |
| • Harmonized Information Plan | May 31, 2021 |
| • A Patient Declaration of Values, aligned in principle to the Patient Declaration of Values for Ontario, in place. | September 30, 2021 |
| • An OHT Expansion Plan in place on expanding the range and volume of services provided by OHT members in 2022-23, including by adding additional OHT members and/or partners. | March 31, 2022 |
| • A Collaborative Quality Improvement Plan (cQIP) in place in accordance with Ministry of Health direction and that includes indicators and targets specific to the Niagara Ontario Health Team's priority population(s) and broader system integration indicators and targets to be defined by the Ministry of Health. | March 31, 2022 |

Can other healthcare/community providers become part of the NOHT-ESON?

- There will be opportunity in Niagara for providers to get involved in the transformation of healthcare and implementation of the NOHT-ESON. We have an incremental plan and process in place to expand partnerships.