

MEDIA RELEASE

February 26, 2021

Niagara Ontario Health Team Implementation Funding Priorities

The Niagara Ontario Health Team - Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara (NOHT-ESON) has met all Ministry of Health requirements and benchmarks to receive its one-time funding to support implementation plans up until March 31, 2022. The 45 partners have prioritized their start-up needs based on performance expectations and reporting requirements.

Receiving funding required Ontario Health Teams (OHT) to establish a collaborative decision-making arrangement based on Ministry of Health guidelines, identify an OHT member who would receive the implementation funding on behalf of the collective partners, and sign a Transfer of Payment Agreement which outlined specific outputs and reporting requirements – including spending reports and yearly audited financials.

In alignment with Ministry of Health directives, the NOHT-ESON will be dedicating \$375,000 (January 2021-March 31, 2021) implementation funding to:

- Create a patient, client, family, caregiver, and physician engagement, consultation, and partnership framework;
- Provide engagement training for all partners and supporting resources;
- Provide Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training;
- Purchase technology hardware and software (laptop, cell phone, software licensing), and;
- Create a public website.

The NOHT-ESON will receive an additional \$750,000 for the 2021-22 fiscal year to support:

- 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.

Quotes:

“The implementation funding is a critical resource in supporting the foundational objectives of our OHT. We have identified that there are gaps in disseminating information to the community on our successes and planning progress. In the next stage of our funding priorities, we will be recruiting support positions to assist in significant implementation activities such as website creation, and designing and implementing public relation strategies to support two-way communication.”

Carol Stewart-Kirkby & Linda Boich, NOHT-ESON Planning Table Co-Leads

“While still in its early stages, the NOHT-ESON is already breaking down barriers to better connect patients’ and clients’ of its partners to primary care. Our collective response to address challenges from the pandemic has emphasized the need for a better-coordinated healthcare system. This implementation funding will assist us in creating the foundation to do so.”

*Olga McNeill & Jori Warren, Patient, Client, Family & Caregiver Partners,
Darija Vujosevic, Lead Physician Garden City FHN*

“As part of the OHT’s full application submitted to the Ministry of Health in October 2019, the NOHT-ESON partners made a commitment to develop an engagement plan that aims at informing, consulting and empowering the Francophone community to achieve meaningful and robust engagement that leads to concrete, measurable outcomes. By applying the francophone lens to the allocation of the implementation funding, the NOHT-ESON is moving in the right direction to ultimately improve access to services for the francophone community of Niagara.”

*Sebastien Skrobos, Executive Director, French Language Health Planning Entity for Hamilton
Niagara Waterloo Wellington*

“This NOHT-ESON has prioritized strengthening its partnership with the Indigenous community by committing to Cultural Safety Training as a first step to further deepening understandings that will improve health care relations with Indigenous people when seeking care from mainstream providers. Each partner organization has identified the need to foster a climate where the unique history of Indigenous peoples is recognized and respected in order to provide appropriate care and services in a safe and equitable way, without discrimination for Indigenous people. This OHT has committed to ‘Self Reflection’ at every step and ultimately to taking action to make improvements.”

Wendy Sturgeon Past Co-Chair Indigenous Health Network; Executive Director, Niagara Chapter-Native Women Inc; Coach, NOHT-ESON

Quick Facts

- On July 23, 2020, the Minister of Health and Deputy Premier, Honourable Christine Elliott, announced that Niagara had received approval to move forward as an approved Ontario Health Team.
- For more information on Ontario Health Teams, [click here](#).
- For more information on the Collaborative Decision-Making Arrangements for a Connected Health Care System, [click here](#).
- For more information on the NOHT-ESON, [click here](#).

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