

From Pressure to Prevention: An Upstream Plan for Seniors' Care

2026-27 Pre-Budget Recommendations



AdvantAge
Ontario

Advancing Senior Care

Ontario's health system must adapt quickly to our changing demographic realities. There is now a major mismatch between the growing pressures of an aging population and a system structured to support acute, not chronic, care needs.

We need a new playbook: build capacity where it prevents crises, not only where it receives them.

The time for change is now. We recommend the government focus its 2026-27 budget on the following upstream investments that will ease pressure on hospitals and ensure LTC homes have the resources required to support our changing population.



Recommendation 1

Dramatically expand supports for seniors' supportive housing, and home and community care.

1 Expand Affordable Seniors' Supportive Housing Supply

Create a dedicated capital and operating funding stream to increase the availability of supportive housing for seniors, including specialized supportive housing units for seniors with complex mental health and addiction issues.

2 Stabilize Existing Programs

Increase operational funding for current providers of seniors' supportive housing to address chronic underfunding.

3 Strengthen Community-Based Models

Provide ongoing, permanent funding to support the pilot Nursing Homes Without Walls sites in the province.

4 Grow Capacity in Home Care and Community Support Services

Invest \$605 million to continue to build capacity in the home care system, Community Supports Services, and Independent Living.

Recommendation 2

Enhance supports for residents with rising acuity.

1 Provide Supports for Mental Health and Addictions (MH&A)

- > Provide dedicated funding to LTC homes to enhance care for residents with complex mental health and substance use needs.
- > Invest in community-based supports for seniors with MH&A diagnosis to ensure people are getting the appropriate care in the appropriate place.

2 Increase Base Operational Funding

- > Provide an increase in level-of-care (LOC) funding for LTC homes to keep pace with rising costs and ensure homes can continue to deliver high-quality care:
 - Nursing and Personal Care - 5.8%
 - Program and Support Services - 5.3%
 - Nutritional Support - 4%
 - Other Accommodation - 6%
 - Global Per Diem - 4.8%
- > Provide a 6.1% funding increase for nurses, PSWs, and allied health professionals in each home to keep pace with rising costs and negotiated wage settlements.

By 2040

2M more Ontarians living with chronic conditions and 65+ population doubling¹

1 in 5

LTC residents have complex care needs²

79%

LTC residents have some form of cognitive impairment³

¹ Rosella LC, Buajitti E, Daniel I, Alexander M, Brown A. Projected patterns of illness in Ontario. Toronto, ON: Dalla Lana School of Public Health; 2024.

² How to Support Our Frail Elderly: Suggested Action Plan. Prepared by Ontario Caregiver Organization, OHA, OLTC, AdvantAge Ontario, OCFP, CMHA Ontario, OCSA, and Home Care Ontario. November 2023

³ Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)