

TO: The Regional Chair and members of Regional Council

RE: Support for Homeless Health Peel Funding and Designation Requests

DATE: January 11, 2022

The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) is providing this letter of support for Homeless Health Peel's request for funding to create a centre for seniors and medically fragile individuals experiencing homelessness and to receive official designation as the primary healthcare provider for homeless services in Peel.

PAEH, a community collaborative of agencies from across the Region of Peel working together to end homelessness in our communities; want to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-reoccurring.

Homeless Health Peel exists to provide primary care and specialist healthcare services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Region of Peel. Prior to the pandemic, Peel Region did not have a dedicated health team to serve the homeless within the community. As the second largest Region in the province with a chronic homeless population of over 500, the need exists.

The current system creates barriers for these individuals to access care and thus housing. When placed in housing, these individuals are not medically stable enough to look after themselves and often lose their housing because of it. A dedicated health team could provide a more cost effective continuity of care for all individuals moving within the homelessness system and help reduce backlogs in hospital emergency departments, which are currently at or beyond capacity.

We ask that the Regional Chair and Council Members support Homeless Health Peel with the following:

1. Designate Homeless Health Peel as the official primary healthcare provider for homeless service providers, recognized by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long-Term Care. The City of Brampton has advocated to the Region of Peel and the Provincial Government that the innovative best practices demonstrated by Homeless Health Peel be maintained and financially sustained as an ongoing solution to help address chronic homelessness, faced particularly by seniors and medically fragile individuals.
2. Allocate funds to Homeless Health Peel to cover capital costs, medical and nursing services and Housing First dollars to ensure housing sustainability.
3. Partner with the Region of Peel to run the long-term care site and provide resources for staffing.

By creating a dedicated medical transitioning space, individuals experiencing homelessness with high medical needs can be stabilized prior to placement into permanent housing with wraparound care services to ensure they remain housed. We believe these approaches will not only fill a much-needed gap in the system, but also create dignity for individuals with high needs in order to improve quality of life and stability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____

PAEH Community Partners:

Centre Du Francophone

Elizabeth Fry

Embrace

Indwell

Indigenous Network

John Howard Society

Open Window Hub

Our Place Peel

MOYO

Newcomer Centre of Peel

Peel Regional Police

Regeneration

REST Centres

Salvation Army

St. Leonard's Place

Volunteer MBC

Wellfort Community Health Services