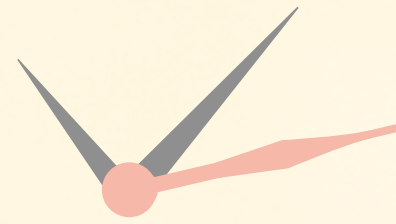


# It's Time To Act



At AMHO, we believe that all Ontarians deserve access to high-quality, publicly funded, mental health and addictions care - whenever and wherever they need it.

Last year, over 500,000 Ontarians sought support for their mental health and/or addictions (MHA) challenge from a community-based service provider. Despite a growing demand for services, decades of underinvestment have forced community MHA agencies to close programs, accelerated staff burnout, and increased the overcrowding of Ontario's emergency rooms.

In order to stabilize services and provide Ontarians with the level of care they deserve, the community MHA sector requires immediate investment. If we do not address these challenges, the quality of life for millions of Ontarians will continue to suffer.

## AMHO's 2024 pre-budget submission is calling upon the Ontario government to:

- 1** Invest **\$115 million** in the community mental health and addictions workforce to address wage parity gaps, and the implementation of a long-term Health Human Resources Strategy, inclusive of the mental health and addictions sector, to address turnover and vacancy rates, and tackle long waitlists;
- 2** Invest **\$85 million** to address operational shortfalls, stabilize services, and support community mental health and addictions providers;
- 3** Support the construction and operation of 40,000 new supportive housing units over 10 years. This equates to an annual investment of approximately **\$1 billion** in capital costs from the federal and provincial governments; and an additional **\$100 million** per year for the operation, upkeep, and staffing of supportive housing and wraparound services.

**1 in 5**

community mental health and addictions staff left their jobs in 2022/23.

Community MHA workers earn

**20-56%**

less than their peers in education and acute care

It is estimated that

**25-50%**

of people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity in Ontario live with a mental health condition.

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) represents over 150 organizations that provide front line substance use, addiction, and mental health support and services.

AMHO members support Ontarians through their mental health and substance use health challenges by providing community-based treatment, including counselling, structured psychotherapy, case management, withdrawal management, live-in addictions treatment, peer support, harm reduction supports, and supportive housing.