



Addictions &  
Mental Health  
Ontario

Dépendances &  
santé mentale  
d'Ontario



**WHERE  
CHANGE  
HAPPENS**

### **Our members know a thing or two about change.**

They see how lives can move in any direction because they work where change happens.

Addictions and Mental Health Ontario represents the organizations that provide front line care in our communities. Over the last eight years, community mental health and addiction providers have continued to stretch resources and struggle with budgets in an unbalanced system. And as a result, Ontarians are unable to access the mental health and addiction care they need, when and where they need it.

These services save lives and help people live a better quality of life. We must redress the historical funding inequalities that have made it challenging for people and families to access help for addiction and mental health problems.

The following outlines AMHO's four priorities to improve Ontario's community mental health and addiction sector, and make change happen.

- 1. Improve access to services by keeping good people.**
- 2. Plan better services by collecting better data.**
- 3. Help more people by hiring more people.**
- 4. Enable more recovery by building more safe places.**

# Addictions and Mental Health Ontario

## 2018 PRIORITIES



### 1. Improve access to services by keeping good people.

We must increase operational funding by 3.75% for the next four years, and match operational funding to CPI in the years following to ensure the long-term sustainability of community programs while better serving clients who are accessing services across the sector.



### 2. Plan better services by collecting better data.

We need to establish a data system with a robust technology network and the staff to support it. We recommend the government invest an initial \$24 million in start-up costs over the first three years, followed by an annual \$8 million for yearly operating costs.



### 3. Help more people in the community by hiring more people.

We need to hire more front-line mental health and addiction professionals. According to available data, hiring a minimum of 550 full-time employees a year for the next four years (such as community treatment staff, case managers, counsellors, social workers and assertive community treatment staff) would mean that each year, 28,000 more Ontarians could access the services they need. This would significantly help address the issues of wait times, and effectively serve those who are trying to access care at the right time and right place.



### 4. Enable more recovery by providing more safe places.

We need a minimum of 30,000 mental health and addiction units. This is the number cited in the 2015 Mental Health Leadership Advisory Council's report. Ontario's Homelessness Strategy aims to end homelessness in 10 years. We could reach both targets within 10 years if Ontario increased its funding commitment to supportive housing for mental health and addiction by a minimum of 20% or approximately 200 units per LHIN, per year.

#### Contact us

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