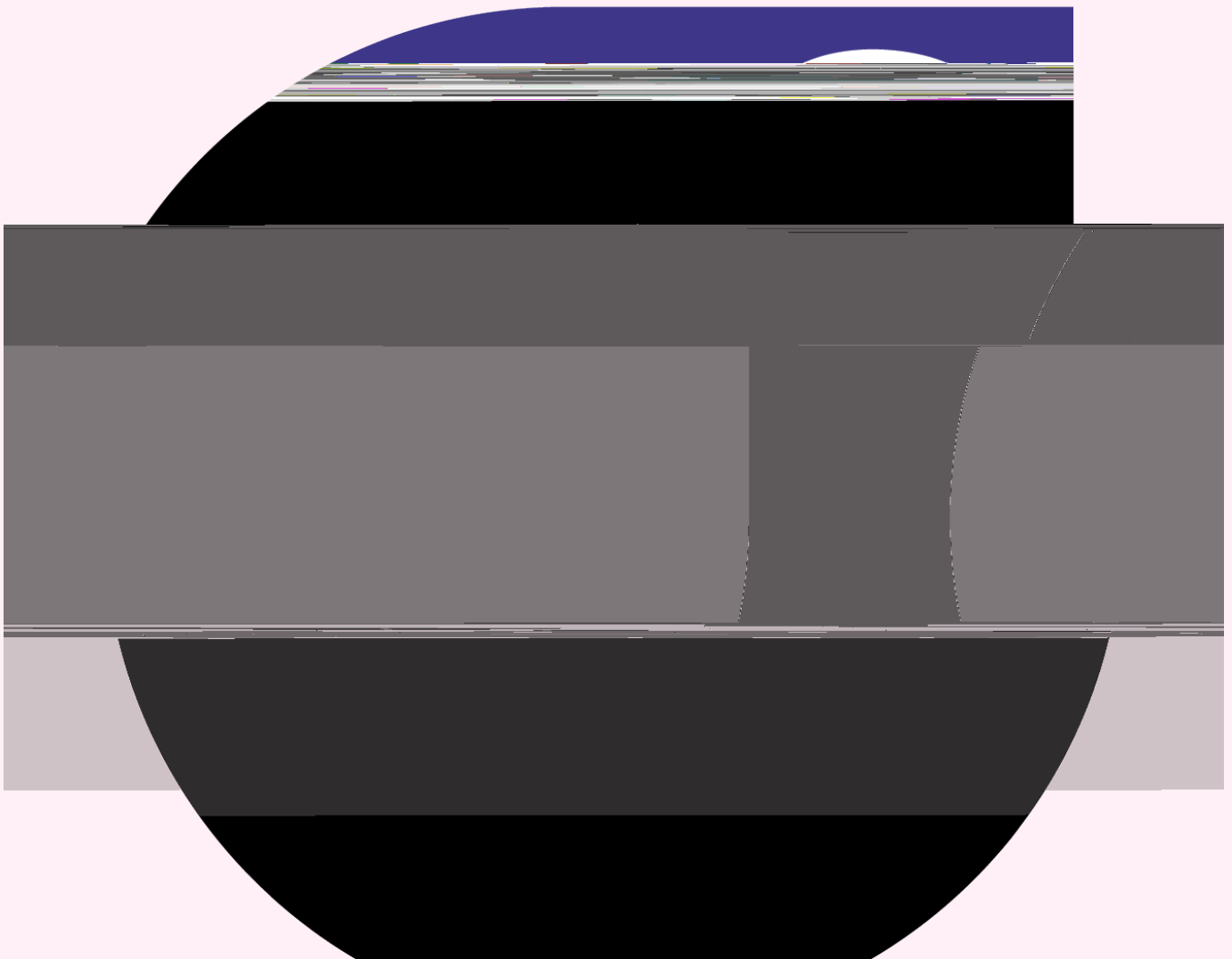


Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW) – Guide for Jurisdictions



About Healthcare Excellence Canada

Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) works with partners to spread innovation, build capability and


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Introduction

This guide was developed to support decisions about the potential fit of the Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW) program for provincial, territorial or regional-level implementation, and to provide guidance on how to get started.

The first section of this guide provides an overview of the NHWW program. It helps you assess whether the program is a good fit for your province, territory or region by considering the following:

- x Is NHWW in alignment with strategic and relative priorities?
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What is NHWW?

Considerations

- x What existing policies, government action plans or commitments align with this program and its intended benefits and outcomes?
- x Do any existing funding programs and initiatives align with this program's goals?
- x Are any initiatives already in place for this population? How does this program differ? Will the

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Are social, political and economic conditions favourable for NHWW?

Why is this important ?

Current political and economic conditions are critical factors in the success of this program, and they must be considered. Shifts in government priorities and economic conditions can impact funding levels, affecting both program investments and the sustainability of funding models needed to keep programs running.

When funding commitments fluctuate, it can place significant stress on programs, making it difficult to provide consistent, high-quality quality services and retain qualified staff.

Considerations

- x How does the scope of this program, its goals, intended benefits and impacts align with current political agendas?
- x Could any significant changes to provincial/territorial spending affect the sustainability of funding for this program?
- x Are any elections on the horizon that could impact the momentum for launching or sustaining this program?

Example scenarios

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Scenario #1:

Political and economic conditions are less than ideal for supporting the NHWW program. A new provincial government has been elected, and the lead is concerned that new initiatives may take priority, while existing programs that support health aging might be seen as sufficient.

The team reviewing this program engages policymakers and community leaders to understand their interests and priorities and to assess awareness of the value of programs that support aging in place. At the local level, some Members of the Legislative Assembly have highlighted support for older adults as key issues when seeking re-election, indicating a strategic opportunity to build support for this program.

To generate interest, the teams draft clear, compelling messages tailored to resonate with different audiences based on their knowledge and priorities. These messages are supported by specific recommendations, actionable steps and connections to current priorities. The timing of the program's introduction is carefully considered, aligning with budget cycles and upcoming provincial meetings.

Scenario #2:

The program is being considered in a jurisdiction with stability in the governing party. The government has built internal capacity to support a healthy aging strategy and has established strong partnerships with community partners, academics and leaders across

implementation. Given that nursing homes provide the physical space and administrative oversight for NHWW, it is critical to consider any impacts on their

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Getting started with NHWW

Purpose of this section

The previous section guided you in assessing the fit of the NHWW program for your province, territory or region. This section offers additional insights on key considerations for the initial planning stages of NHWW implementation. We recommend that you consult early with senior leaders in ministries and affiliated organizations responsible for home and community health, social support services and services for older adults. In New Brunswick, this included the Deputy Minister of Social Development and members of the Legislative Assembly, whose support significantly contributed to the program's wider adoption.

Next steps to get started with NHWW include:

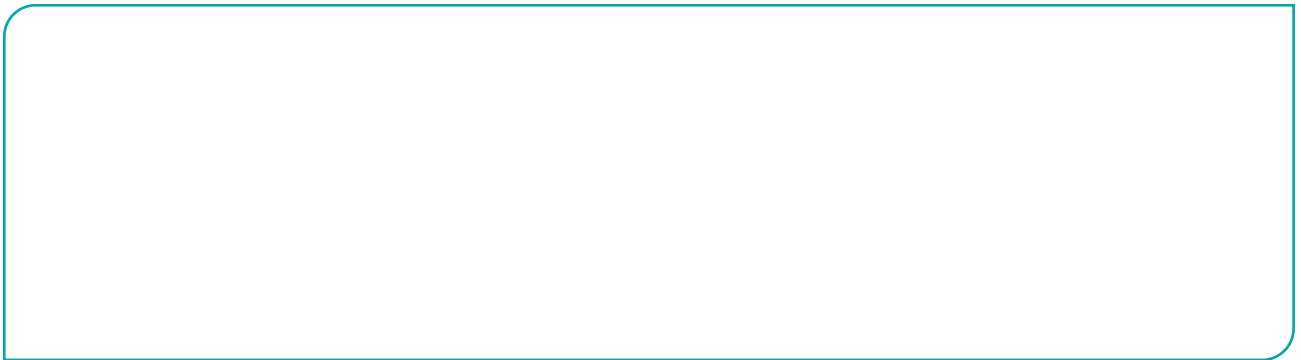
- x Developing meaningful partnerships and connections
- x Reviewing resources and funding
- x Leveraging leadership capacities
- x Exploring which regions and communities can benefit from this program
- x Developing a tailored implementation and sustainability plan

Developing meaningful partnerships and connections

The NHWW program thrives on multi-level partnerships: with government agencies for sustainable funding, provincial partners for implementation

Considerations

- x What provincial or territorial government partnerships could be established? Which areas of government currently support older adults (e.g. home care, health, social support)? What existing partnerships could be leveraged?
- x What partnerships with regional, provincial or territorial organizations could be established or leveraged to support this program?
- x Can existing partnerships or connections to community partners and organizations be leveraged?
- x Which organizations or individuals have influence in this space?

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Reviewing resources and funding

Cost and perceived value are often critical determinants in the adoption and implementation of programs. The NHWW program requires funding for sites to take on the planning and eventual operations of this program. Ongoing funding is needed to support participating sites.

Goal: Assess the resource and funding requirements for the NHWW program to evaluate alignment with existing budgets and opportunities for implementation across your province, territory or region.

Considerations

In New Brunswick, previous implementation sites submitted budgets for personnel, program administration, service delivery, transportation and other program costs, averaging up to \$200,0000 a year. Your province, territory or region may need to adapt this model based on local resources and needs. For example, funding was allocated for new dedicated staff to help coordinate this program. Your province, territory or region may have existing roles or structures that could fulfill these needs.

Direct costs associated with site-specific funding need to be assessed, along with information on cost savings from keeping people out of publicly funded long-term care systems and emergency departments. Your jurisdiction may want to start by looking at the funding opportunities associated with the [Aging with Dignity agreements](#)⁸ specific to your province or territory.

- x What funding opportunities are available to support this program?
- x How do the resource requirements align with similar programs in your province, territory or region?
- x Are the funding requirements of this program feasible and sustainable for your province, territory or region?
- x Are there organizations currently funded by the government that align with the program's goals? How could these funding structures be leveraged?

Example scenarios

Scenario #1:

The team reviewing this program learns that last year, the Aging with Dignity bilateral agreement announced additional funding to improve access to home and community care.⁸ This year's provincial budget allocates increased investment in community-based services for older adults. However, there are limited models to review for how to fund nursing homes in the province as part of an initial pilot phase. The lead contacts HEC to learn more about funding models for the NWHH program.

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Scenario #2:

The team reviewing this program identifies leaders at multiple levels who

Since 2007, most regions and provinces across Canada have been promoting age-friendly community initiatives. There are now active programs inspired by this initiative across Canada. The [Age-Friendly Community](#) landing page could help you explore what is currently in place in your province, region or territory and where there are gaps.¹² While some of these programs may have a different scope than the NHWW program, you may be able to leverage partnerships or find opportunities to review existing funding models.

Example scenarios

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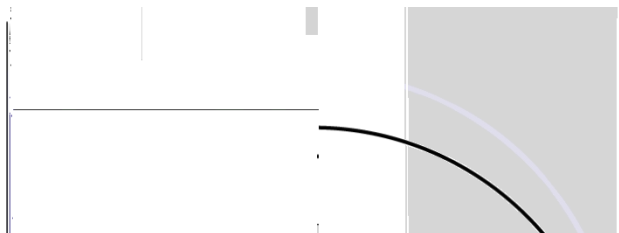
Scenario #1

In reviewing available data sources, the team identifies the National Institute on Aging report (2023) and the Age-Friendly Community landing page as the most current sources. These sources identify limited existing programs. However, they also reveal that several communities are participating in the Age-Friendly Community initiative. This initiative can serve as a starting point to learn more about which communities are engaged and what types of programs and services are offered.

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Scenario #2:

Provincial-level data sources are accessed to identify existing programs supporting aging in place and to understand which regions are currently served. Furthermore, it has been learned that the province has invested in developing senior community profiles to support local-level planning. These profiles provide demographic insights and key indicators – such as living arrangements, economic status, physical and mental health, healthcare utilization and a summary of current resources – that can serve as a foundation for considering what regions and communities could benefit from NHWW.



x What other partners within your jurisdiction could support monitoring and evaluation?

x



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