

Supporting complex seniors health needs

Adult Day Services (ADS) expansion to meet rising demand

Evolving provincial policy direction emphasizes a shift toward lower cost, community based care to prevent caregiver burnout, reduce avoidable hospital use, and strengthen health system sustainability. Peel Region is encouraged by the Province of Ontario's recent budget investments in home and community care, viewing it as a positive signal to continue collaboration to address growing demand locally.

Specifically, Ontario Health's recent commitment of **\$901,204** in base funding for 2026 and **\$563,582** for start up and implementation activities for overnight respite at Peel Manor are greatly appreciated. In recognition of the growing number of seniors requiring support, Peel continues to advocate for program expansion and sustainable funding to ensure these supports are available for seniors and their caregivers.

To ensure equitable access to services and to adequately address waitlist demands, the Province of Ontario can provide \$1.85 million in funding for ADS expansion at Peel Manor and \$729,000 to sustain and scale the Virtual ADS program (total ask of \$2.57 million).

Flexible, integrated care

Adult Day Services are increasingly supporting higher acuity clients, without timely access to short term clinical and primary care supports, contributing to preventable decline, caregiver strain, emergency department use, and earlier transitions to long term care.

Peel recommends strengthened coordination between the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Long-Term Care, supported by flexible and aligned funding that allows resources to be deployed based on client needs rather than program boundaries.

This approach would:

- **Maximize the impact of existing MOH funded ADS:** Modest MOH investment can build on the ability of ADS staff to identify early changes in health and function by layering clinical supports onto existing programs and addressing evolving needs without new infrastructure or duplicative services.



High Demand

At Peel's 5 ADS centres:

- 40,000 client visits are delivered annually
- Waitlist of over 780 individuals

- **Enabling efficient, right sized care and continuity:** Supporting time-limited clinical interventions in community settings can stabilize seniors earlier, reserve specialized resources for the most complex needs, and strengthen seamless transitions with primary care and Ontario Health at Home as needs change.
- **Advance equity and access for aging in place:** Flexible funding can extend preventive supports into the community, improving access for seniors who face barriers to traditional clinic-based care.

Align funding to address unmet needs

Solutions to support seniors

Peel faces a widening gap between demand and available funding to provide critical services for seniors. Support from the Province of Ontario is needed in the following areas:

- Support community-based care by providing \$2.57 million in funding to support increasing demand for ADS.
- Advance flexible, integrated seniors' care through cross-ministerial partnership.



Key takeaway

Peel Region has expanded community-based care to improve support for residents. However, without sustainable provincial funding, opportunities to further expand service capacity and respond effectively to the evolving needs of seniors and caregivers will be limited.

Peel proposes a collaborative, cross-ministry funding and performance framework to reduce duplication, maximize existing resources, improve outcomes for seniors and caregivers, and address alternate level of care pressures while generating scalable, system-wide best practices across Ontario.

