

# Niagara's HART Hub

Niagara  Region

 Growing  
Better  
Together

  
**GATEWAY**  
Residential & Community Support Services

# HART Hub Overview

- Niagara 1 of 27 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs
- 3-year Demonstration Project, beginning Spring 2025
- Up to \$6.3 million per year

# Homelessness in Niagara

- 1193 individuals experiencing homelessness, 629 considered chronic
- 16% of chronic individuals identify as Indigenous
- Majority are adult, single

# Mental Health and Addictions in Niagara

- Needs Based Planning estimates gaps in mental health and addictions services
- Niagara's large and significant gaps:
  - Mental health/substance use community services
  - Peer and family supports
  - Intensive case management services
  - Supportive housing
  - Specialized addiction medicine

# Engagement

- Mental Health and Addictions Sector Leadership
- Homelessness Leadership
- Niagara's Lived Expert Advisory on Homelessness
- Youth Wellness Hub
- Community Partners

# Trauma Informed and Non-Traditional Approach

- Less likely to access traditional services
  - History of Trauma
  - Previous difficult experiences with healthcare
- Mobile or clinic opportunities
- Outreach
- Peer support

# Primary Care for Addiction Medicine

- Numerous barriers to primary health care
- Primary care well suited for addictions medicine
- Team based care includes outreach and flexibility

# Indigenous Specific Supports

- Indigenous people disproportionately impacted by homelessness
- Local Indigenous health provider in Hub
- Designated units in supportive housing for Indigenous clients



# Social Isolation in Homelessness

- Isolation and loneliness in homelessness
- Trend of return to homeless serving spaces once housed
- Hub provides connection to community
- Hub provides opportunities for productivity

# Niagara's Hub Model

- Adult, chronic homelessness, mental health/substance use challenges
- Needs not often met through traditional programs
- Multidisciplinary team-based care
- Supportive housing
- Alternate levels of care based on identified need
- Region-wide mobile or in clinic services

# Niagara's HART Hub Providers

- Gateway Residential and Community Support Services
- Community Addictions Services of Niagara
- Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara
- De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Services
- Good Shepherd
- Niagara Health
- Niagara Region Homelessness Services
- Niagara Region Mental Health
- Oak Centre
- REACH Niagara
- Quest Community Health Centre

# What's Next?

- Contract to be received and signed
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with partners
- Purchase of equipment, furniture, technology
- Staff hiring and training
- Hub opening Spring 2025