
Memorandum

PHD-C 2-2025

Subject: Health Canada – Emergency Treatment Fund

Date: May 6, 2025

To: Public Health and Social Services Committee

From: Sarah Burciul, Manager Outreach, & Tara Wincott, Manager Health Promotion

Health Canada's new Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF) provides urgent, targeted funding to municipalities to support rapid responses to the overdose crisis. The fund is designed to address urgent, immediate needs identified by communities, enhance local capacity, and provide access to culturally sensitive trauma-informed and evidence-based programs and services.

Following a successful application, Public Health was awarded the grant in late December 2024, with a signed agreement allocating \$699,306 in funding over a two-year period. The project, led by Public Health in partnership with Positive Living Niagara and REACH Niagara, will enhance existing client-facing harm reduction services already provided by these two community organizations in the Niagara region.

The goals of the project are to:

1. Enhance access to the case managers, healthcare, and harm reduction services for underserved and marginalized populations in Niagara that are at critical risk of morbidity and mortality.
2. Increase pathways to care to meet people where they are at.
3. Demonstrate and leverage partner collaboration through shared resources to assist the community in accessing harm reduction services.
4. Through mobile street outreach, leverage outreach workers and peers to improve the sense of belonging, facilitate warm transfers to services and provide trauma-informed low barrier healthcare services to equity deserving groups.

The funding will support:

1. Salaries and benefits for two full-time Harm Reduction Workers.

2. The purchase of three vehicles, and the associated operating costs (insurance, fuel, maintenance), to enhance service and replace current vehicles that are end of life.
3. Medical supplies.

This grant aligns with priorities within the Community Safety and Wellbeing plan for the Niagara Region, as well as the Ontario Public Health Standard mandate requirements regarding coordination, provision, and enhancement of harm reduction services through collaboration with community providers. Funding is allocated to the community agencies, with required reporting that will be collected by Public Health. A fulsome program evaluation will be completed by Hamilton Health Sciences.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

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