

Expanded Services Will Help Vulnerable, Isolated Ontarians Stay Safe at Home During COVID-19

April 21, 2020

Background

The Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) is partnering with the Government of Ontario's on a new \$11 million program to coordinate and subsidize deliveries of meals, medicines and other necessities to low-income seniors and people with disabilities in need, such as those who lack family or community connections, or are in supportive housing environments and community-based independent living programs.

Demand for help and support at the local level has never been greater or more widespread. The program will leverage CareDove's trusted referral network, which is already used by 600+ organizations across Ontario to streamline access to service and improve care transitions between networks of care partners. OCSA will also work through existing Meals on Wheels organizations to coordinate and subsidize deliveries of groceries, pharmacy items, and other defined necessities. With their expertise, experience, and ability to leverage community assets, Meals on Wheels organizations are perfectly positioned to rise to the challenge of serving Ontario's most vulnerable.

As the transfer payment agency, OCSA will provide emergency relief funds to Meals on Wheels organizations, and fund supplies and services that are needed to meet increased demand. Organizations may apply for both rounds of funding.

Applications for emergency relief funding that can be applied to direct program costs are now being accepted from eligible Meals on Wheels organizations.

In the next few weeks, OCSA will expand the program to fund eligible organizations to allow them to add capacity to deliver additional meals, as well as deliver groceries, medications and other essentials. OCSA will also be supporting collaboration between providers and private sector businesses, municipalities and other community organizations.

To identify a local Meals on Wheels provider and request service, eligible seniors and persons with disabilities, their caregivers, neighbours or families should visit www.ontariocommunitysupport.ca. Those without Internet access, or who require services in languages other than English or French, can dial 211 or 1-877-330-3213 (toll free). TTY service is also available by calling 1-888-340-1001.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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