

Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (WWLHIN) Questions and Answers Document for Year 2 Aging at Home (AAH)

Questions were generated from the September 12, 2008, Year 2 AAH Teleconference

Introduction

Stewart Sutley, Senior Director of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement, provided an overview of the Year 2 AAH proposal process. He invited teleconference participants to support the broad strategic directions noted in the WWLHIN's Year 1 AAH Directional Plan (2007), along with its three focus areas, which were identified as:

- **Services for Frail and Complex Seniors**
- **Supportive Housing Services**
- **Seniors' Health and Wellness**

The Year 2 Call for Proposals creates an additional requirement that all proposals demonstrate a measurable, positive impact on **Emergency Department wait times and/or Alternative Levels of Care (ALC) pressures**. These targets, set by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), reflect the provincial mandate of "*Reducing wait times with a particular focus on emergency departments and delivering access to family healthcare for all Ontarians*". Please follow the link below to learn more about Ontario's healthcare priorities:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/media/speeches/archives/sp_08/sp_20080423.html

Funding

The total funding allocation for Year 2 of Aging at Home (\$11.9 million [M]) will be divided and allocated as follows:

Initiative	Funding
Call for Proposals for Year 2 AAH	\$2.0 M
Funding reserved pending the outcome and review of Year 1 planning initiatives, currently underway	\$2.5 M
Funding reserved for Year 2 funding of Year 1 projects	\$7.4 M
Total	\$11.9 M

Projects to be considered for funding in the Call for Proposals Year 2 AAH must conform to the process and criteria outlined on the WWLHIN Website (www.wwlhin.on.ca).

Planning projects funded in Year 1 AAH should not submit proposals for Year 2 funding where project deliverables are dependent on the outcomes of Year 1 planning, still to be completed. It is expected, however, that the planning projects funded in Year 1 will continue to develop their plans and meet performance outcomes and deliverables noted in their respective implementation plans. Those projects are:

- Tele-home Monitoring for Seniors
- Multicultural Planning
- Integrated Seniors Service (ISS) Planning (with GEM nurses)

- End of Life Medications in Long-Term Care
- Specialized Behaviour Unit
- Supportive Housing Planning
- Transportation Planning

Proposal Template

The proposal template is based on the Year 1 implementation plan template, and is designed to provide WWLHIN proposal evaluators with clarity on how the project will be implemented (including the identification of risks, mitigation strategies, performance outcomes and specific deliverables). The Year 2 proposal template will also enable the WWLHIN to identify resources required to support the project on an ongoing basis.

Questions and Answers:

1. Can the LHIN speak to the evaluation process? What will that look like?

The evaluation process documentation is still in a draft state; however, it has been informed by a number of sources. We anticipate a 10 step process. The WWLHIN Board follows a set process for decision-making, we will look at alignment with this LHIN's Integrated Health Service Plan as well as issues of equity/accessibility, community and organizational capacity, ethics and the economy of the proposal in addition to its potential to address ER wait times and ALC pressures. It is possible that additional criteria may need to be put into place dependant on information or direction from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care that may come to us at some future point. When finalized, this documentation will be shared via Web site posting. Our goal is transparency in our evaluation scheme.

2. Can a hospital submit a proposal for funding?

The year two call for proposals is open to all service providers and organizations. However, the WWLHIN will accept only collaborative proposals, regardless of source.

3. Will the LHIN accept a proposal that includes the purchase of equipment?

Equipment that is necessary to enable service delivery will be considered. However, large capital investment for building, renovation, information technology infrastructure or information management will not.

4. Can project proposals for year two funding identify a need for funding in year three allowing projects with modest service projections to grow?

Yes the WWLHIN will consider such proposals but the numbers must be shown in the proposal submitted for year two so that we can fully understand the nature of the financial commitment your project will require.

5. Can you define “frail and complex” within the context of Aging at Home?

The WWLHIN has not adopted a prescriptive interpretation of “frail and complex” so as not to limit the scope of project ideas to be put forward by the community.

6. Has the LHIN identified priorities within the three focus areas?

No, the LHIN is not favouring one area of focus over another.

7. Are we to assume 12 months of funding will be provided for year two projects?

Yes, it is our intention at present to fund year 2 projects beginning April 1, 2009.

8. Will the LHIN consider an expansion of a year one project with year two funding?

The LHIN has not formulated an opinion on this and it will require internal discussion.

9. Is there any way that the LHIN can connect organizations that want to collaborate?

The LHIN has no formal mechanism for connecting potential partners.

Teleconference participant, Lutherwood, invited community organizations to form a collaborative. Interested parties were invited to contact Lutherwood directly.

10. How many proposals will the LHIN approve?

The available funding is finite - \$2M – but we have no preset number of proposals in mind. We will fund as many good ideas as we can for the available dollars.

11. What will be the project reporting criteria?

Content of regular reporting is dependent on individual project deliverables; however, the format will be consistent to all projects.

12. What will be the process for evaluation of proposals?

Please refer to document Priority Setting & Decision-making Approach found on the WWLHIN Aging at Home main page:

<http://www.waterloowellingtonlhin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=1126>

13. Who should Aging at Home questions be directed to?

All questions should be directed to Sonal Garach, Program Assistant, who will direct the inquiry to an appropriate person.

