



AdvantAge
Ontario

Advancing Senior Care

Bridging the Gap:

Opportunities to Address Seniors'
Supportive Housing Needs in
Ontario

Association of Municipalities
2023 Conference

August 22, 2023

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Today's Discussion

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- 2 Seniors' Housing Landscape
- 3 Seniors' Supportive Housing
- 4 Municipalities and Seniors' Housing
- 5 Member Profiles and Emerging Practices



About AdvantAge Ontario



- > For more than 100 years, AdvantAge Ontario has been the voice of not-for-profit seniors' care in Ontario.
- > We represent more than 480 providers of long-term care, seniors' housing, supportive housing and community service agencies, including **98 per cent of all municipal long-term care homes** and 83 per cent of all not-for-profit long-term care homes.
- > Our members house seniors across the aging continuum, by providing much more than long-term care. That includes independent rental units, supportive housing, life lease housing and other creative affordable housing options.
- > **Currently, our members operate 126 housing projects that account for ten thousand units.**

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Core Services



Advocacy

Strong, influential and effective voice for members



Education

Recognized leader in sector-specific training and education



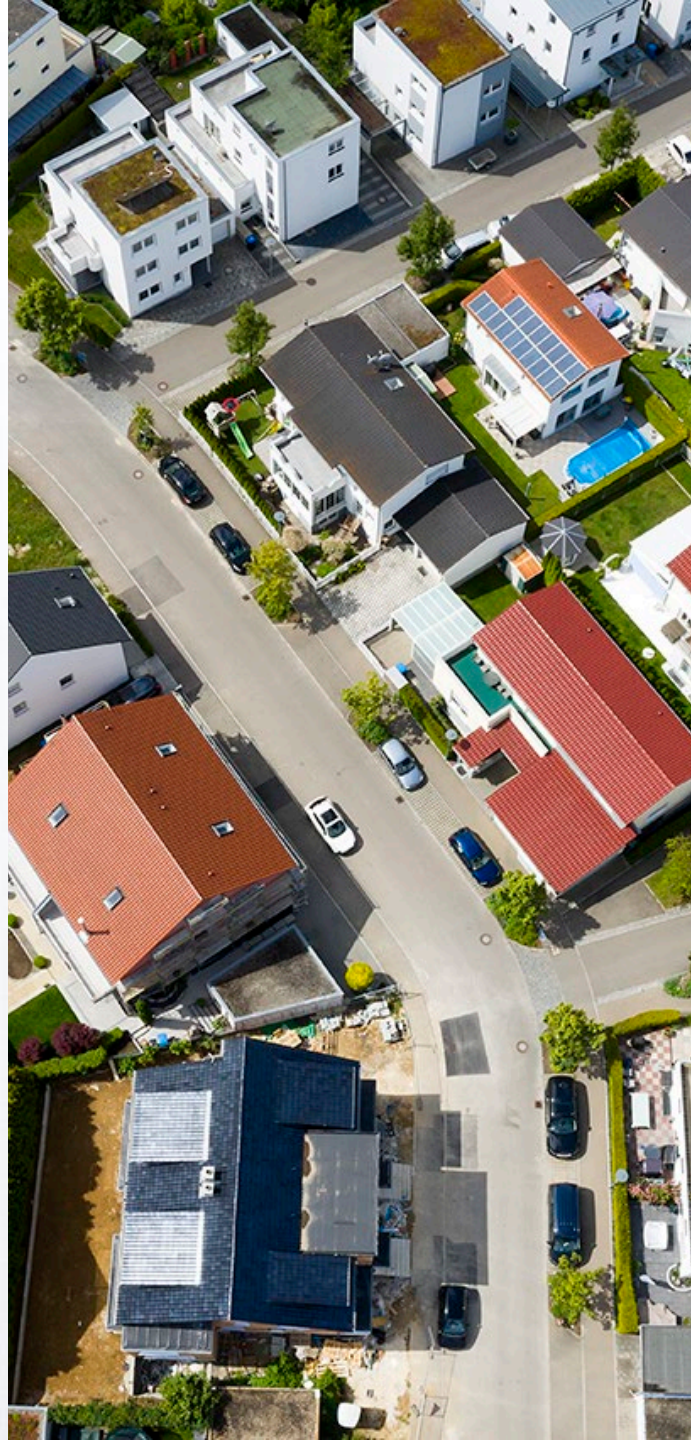
Services and Supports

Specialized communications, programs, tools, and networking forums



Seniors' Housing Landscape

- > Canadians aged 65 years + make up 19% of the population, however, in 2017, this age group already represented 47% of Canada's total health care spending.
- > Seniors are a sizable share of Ontario's population and continue to increase (2.25M population, 1.3M households).
- > As of 2021, the percentage of persons 65 years and over living in poverty is 5.1% in Ontario. In 2017, an estimated 129,000 female seniors in Ontario were living alone and in poverty.
- > Growing number of seniors are living alone (45% of senior households). Increasing need for assistance with activities of daily living as seniors age in order to maintain independence.



Seniors' Housing Landscape

- > 79,000 long-term care beds today, wait list of 38,000 and growing. It is estimated that $\frac{1}{4}$ of those entering long-term care have needs that could be served in the community.
- > 67,000+ beds in private non-long-term care/retirement homes BUT notable vacancy rates (19.5%) and rents not affordable to many seniors (average of approx. \$4,000/month.).
- > Lack of local options means many seniors stay put (underserved), pre-maturely seek long-term care options (overserved) and/or end up in hospital after an avoidable adverse event.



Assisted Living in Seniors' Supportive Housing

“Supportive housing generally refers to a combination of housing assistance and supports that enable people to live as independently as possible in their community.”

Ontario Supportive Housing Policy Framework, Province of Ontario (2017)

Seniors' Supportive Housing



- > **Seniors' supportive housing** refers to a combination of housing and supports that enables seniors to live as independently as possible in their community and that:
 - > accommodates seniors of varying abilities who require assistance to maintain independence
 - > are appropriate to seniors housing needs
 - > provide suitable and flexible services that address needs as they may change over time
- > Seniors' supportive housing is in short supply and is the missing piece in the continuum of care for seniors in Ontario who cannot afford retirement housing or private home care but are not able to find their way into long-term care.

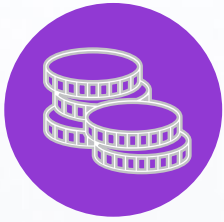
Seniors' Supportive Housing and Home Care



- > **The average cost per day of providing services to a senior in supportive housing is \$62, versus more than \$200 in long-term care.**
- > Home care is the other option, but publicly funded home care is limited.
 - > In 2019 it was found that of households receiving home care services, only around 52% of them have their home care services funded solely by public sources, and 27% of Canadian households paid for home care services using only their own money.
 - > Before the COVID-19 pandemic began, Ontario home care providers reported being able to fulfill requests for care 95% of the time. This number, unfortunately, decreased to just 56% by the end of 2021.

Funding Seniors' Supportive Housing

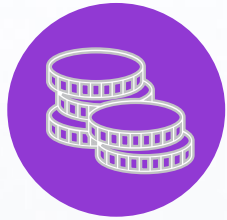
Challenges



- > Unfortunately, there is no single “go to” provincial Ministry for seniors' supportive housing to make access to funding and information easier.
- > Existing operators have not had significant funding increases in years for supportive housing.
- > At the provincial level in Ontario, responsibility for services to seniors crosses a number of ministries, including:
 - > **Ministry of Health** – services associated with primary and acute care, as well as home and community care, and assisted living in supportive housing for seniors
 - > **Ontario Health** – flows the provincial funding to local supportive housing for seniors' organizations.

Funding Seniors' Supportive Housing

Challenges



- > **Ministry of Long-Term Care** – services associated primarily with long-term care homes and community paramedicine
- > **Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility** – services associated with community grants, active living centers and retirement home regulation
- > **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – stewards for service system associated with homelessness and housing services (but delivered by municipal Service Managers), lead for supportive housing except for seniors and mental health populations.
 - > Leads the *Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative*- \$91 M- which aims to provide Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators with access to flexible funding to address community housing priorities.

Funding Seniors' Supportive Housing

Opportunities



With the federal government's commitment to increase housing supply, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently split the housing division into two new portfolios (market housing and community/supportive housing) and brought along other funding announcements through the *National Housing Strategy*:

- > **Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)- \$18.5 M**
 - > Aims to protect affordability for social housing, and support repair and renewal of existing social housing supply. This is an avenue to get capital funding for seniors supportive housing. The gap is access to operating funding.
- > **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) - \$148.5 M**
 - > Aims to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit payment directly to eligible populations.

Issues & Gaps



- > The Association has long been advocating for seniors' supportive housing. Our recent advocacy asks have been:
 - > **Increase funding and capacity for Assisted Living in Seniors' Supportive Housing with a \$57 million investment.**
 - > **Provide a 5% base funding increase to current providers of Assisted Living in Seniors' Supportive Housing, who are finding it increasingly difficult to operate**
 - > **Develop a Seniors' Supportive Housing Program.**

Municipalities – How to Expand Seniors’ Housing



- > Work with local Ontario Health Teams to obtain funding for operating supportive housing. Build and own the seniors’ housing and have non-profit group run the operations.
- > With possible municipal top up, obtain capital funding from federal government to build new or convert a seniors’ building (social housing or private rental) into supportive housing.
- > Provide free or low-cost land to non-profit groups for this purpose e.g., Abbeyfield; Stillbrook Homes.
- > Create a seniors’ campus of care – use life lease or non-profit retirement housing to cross subsidize seniors’ supportive housing.
- > Identify possible NORCs in your community (could be single family cluster of homes) and coordinate service delivery.

Municipalities and Senior's Supportive Housing

Parkwood Seniors Communities (Waterloo)

- > Parkwood Seniors Community is a not-for-profit, charitable continuum of care located in Waterloo with long-term care and seniors' housing.
- > In 2021, Parkwood added home and community care services to help seniors live at home.
- > A new affordable seniors' housing project is under construction on the campus with \$1.95 million in operating funding support from the Region of Waterloo and a City of Waterloo grant of approximately \$354,000.



Municipalities and Seniors' Supportive Housing

Oakville Senior Citizens Residence- OSCR (Oakville)

- > Not-for-profit organization offering a wide range of healthy living programs and on-site services.
- > OSCR provides supportive housing, supports for daily living, respite and rent-geared-to-income apartments for seniors 65 years and older.
- > Buildings are owned by Halton Region which helps fund ongoing capital upkeep.



Municipalities and Seniors' Supportive Housing

Simcoe Campuses of Care – Georgian Village

- > The County of Simcoe's vision for a "60+" adult lifestyle community offering an entire continuum of housing and services to help seniors age in place became a reality when the Georgian Village campus opened its doors to its residents in 2013 in Penetanguishene, Ontario.
- > The County operates four long-term care homes and offers a broad range of seniors' housing that includes affordable housing units, garden homes and apartment suites, life lease and market rentals, retirement living, and supportive housing.
 - > This is further complemented by adult day programming, and a range of outreach programs that include meals on wheels, and assessment clinics.

Emerging Practices

Opportunities to Address Seniors' Supportive Housing Needs in Ontario

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) – OASIS Kingston & Toronto

- > NORCs are communities that are designed to house a large concentration of older adults (e.g., aged 55-plus apartment buildings, rent-gearred-to-income housing) but are not purpose-built to provide care for older adults.
- > They often integrate health, social and physical supports directly within the community.



Emerging Practices

Opportunities to Address Seniors' Supportive Housing Needs in Ontario

Small Homes – Green House & Maison des aînés in Quebec

- > Small homes have been used to enable seniors to retain a sense of autonomy as they age. They are purpose-built residences for up to 12 persons, and can easily be incorporated into any new or existing community.
- > Green House Project homes, are based on a not-for-profit model of care that started 17 years ago in the US. Studies show that small homes can offer both economic and social benefits to our healthcare system and generate savings including fewer emergency department visits and hospitalizations.



Emerging Practices

Opportunities to Address Seniors' Supportive Housing Needs in Ontario

Abbeyfield Houses Society of Canada

- > Not-for-profit affordable homes providing companionship for seniors within their own local community. This is achieved by converting and maintaining houses in which, typically, a small group of residents live together with a house manager.
- > There are 21 homes in residential areas throughout Canada in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan.



Abbeyfield
Duncan B.C.



Advant**Age**
Ontario

Advancing Senior Care

Thank You

Lisa Levin

CEO

llevin@advantageontario.ca

(647) 531-8821

Appendix: Supporting Housing Members

To further advance our advocacy aimed to enable the expansion and investment for seniors supportive housing, the association has led the following initiatives:



1. Bridging the Gap: Opportunities to Address Seniors' Supported Housing Needs in Ontario.

- > Commissioned the paper in 2021 to better define the current status of the seniors' housing market and document emerging issues and promising practices to encourage more assisted living/ supportive housing geared to seniors.
 - > Recommendations point to the need for increased investments and pursuit of opportunities for expansion of seniors' supported housing as a critical element to transform seniors' care.

Appendix: Supporting Housing Members

2. Education, Awareness and Engagement

Housing Advisory Group

- > In 2021, the Association created the Housing Advisory group which consists of 13 members who provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure that the delivery of seniors' housing, assisted living, community support services, and other related services remains viable, sustainable, and strong and provide advice to staff on matters impacting providers.
- > It is a great chance for members to learn about important sector changes, what our Association is working on and share input for advocacy initiatives such as submissions, and education sessions.

Appendix: Supporting Housing Members

2. Education, Awareness and Engagement

Housing Webinar Series

- > Throughout the year, the Association delivers housing education by spotlighting relevant knowledge, expertise, and information about what services may be available in the community to help seniors' housing residents thrive and on how they got seniors' housing built

Housing Survey:

- > In November 2021- we conducted the Housing Survey to better understand the scope of services related to seniors' housing delivered by our members. This data is intended to be conducted every few years to quantify the most current landscape and needs of our seniors housing providers to help shape our advocacy efforts.

Appendix: Supporting Housing Members

2. Education, Awareness and Engagement

Continued

National Housing Day- AdvantAge Ontario Seniors Housing Forum



- > On National Housing Day – November 22nd – the Association hosts its annual Housing Forum which draws various experts, leaders and champions within the field of seniors housing to highlight innovative approaches to advancing affordable and attainable housing for seniors.

Appendix: Supporting Housing Advocacy

3. AdvantAge Ontario Submissions and Advocacy

Pre-Budget/ Briefing Meetings

- > The association has and continues to brief Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Colleges and Universities, Long Term Care, Health, Finance, Ontario Health, Treasury Board Secretariat, and Premier's Office on our main advocacy asks related to seniors supportive housing:
 - *Increase funding and capacity for Assisted Living in Seniors' Supportive Housing with a \$57 million investment.*
 - *Provide a 5% base funding increase to current providers of Assisted Living in Seniors' Supportive Housing, who are finding it increasingly difficult to operate*
 - *Develop a Seniors Supportive Housing Program*

Appendix: Supportive Housing Advocacy



3. AdvantAge Ontario Submissions and Advocacy

Key Submissions

- > [December 2022 - Supportive Housing Roundtables with former Associate Housing Minister Parsa \(Discussion Questions\)](#)
- > Our response highlighted a significant opportunity to expand the continuum of care for seniors. Our main recommendation emphasized a transformation of all services related to supportive housing to be integrated into one ministry or agency body and a seniors housing strategy, which does not exist.

Appendix: Supportive Housing Advocacy

3. AdvantAge Ontario Submissions and Advocacy

- > [April 2022 - AdvantAge Ontario Feedback on Access to Provincial Financing for Not-for-Profit Housing Providers-](#)
 - > Our response aimed to reiterate that the significant gap that prevents not-for-profit housing providers from accessing capital financing is due to the fact that housing is not seen as a social determinant of health through provincial programs.
- > [February 2022 - Proposed Regulatory Amendments to O. Reg. 367/11 under the Housing Services Act, 2011-](#)
 - > The recommendations to the proposed amendments aim to ensure there are better and sustainable opportunities for seniors to age in place, through significant regulatory changes to the community housing sector.