



Behavioural Support Unit Pilot Project
Funding Information Package

May 2022

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Behavioural Support Unit Program Overview

Background

Over the past decade, through many discussions within the Continuing Care, Mental Health, Geriatric Medicine, Primary Care, Emergency Care and Acute Care sectors, it has repeatedly been identified that there is a need to take a strategic, collaborative approach to better support clients with complex responsive behaviours. Service providers continue to report an increase in the number of clients with responsive behaviours and as a result, greater demands on the emergency care, acute care, primary care, mental health, home care and long-term care systems.

In January 2019, the Minister's Expert Advisory Panel on Long-Term Care (LTC) included recognition of the challenges experienced by LTC providers to provide care to clients with responsive behaviors. Recommendation 4.3 endorses the establishment of Behavioural Support Unit(s) in each zone to support clients experiencing responsive behaviours. As part of the work to explore Recommendation 4.3, Continuing Care has allocated \$1.8M to be used over two years to address and implement Behavioural Support Units in a LTC facility within 3 NSH health zones¹.

Project Description

While the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care (DSLTC) continues to work on broader solutions under the panel work and home service redesign, the intent of this fund is to support service providers to test and evaluate new approaches in service delivery that increase/maintain quality of care while introducing system efficiencies that address identified workforce issues.

We are interested in proposals to implement and operate similar units to support clients with complex and responsive behaviours in the Northern, Western and Central zones. As such, licensed long term care facilities are invited to apply for funding to pilot a Behavioural Support Unit within their facility.

Eligibility Requirements

Only the following facilities/proposed BSU's are eligible to apply for/receive funding:

- Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care licenced nursing homes
- Must propose to target and address challenging and complex behaviors of clients
- Proposed projects must be prepared to run the BSU for a minimum of 1 year

Examples of Facilities/Proposed BSU's NOT eligible for funding include:

- RCF's are not eligible to apply for funding
- Staffing increases that do not directly contribute to the proposed BSU

¹ There is currently a behavioural management pilot in Eastern Zone. This was initiated through the Innovation Fund (2020) and has been extended for one year and as such no additional pilots will be funded for Eastern zone.

- Routine costs that could go through business planning or over costs such as preventative maintenance, or emergency fund.
- Large scale renovations or capital costs
- IT projects that are not directly related to improving client outcomes
- Routine administrative costs not directly related to the proposed BSU
- Routine operational costs not directly related to operation of the proposed BSU
- Projects already underway or funds for projects that have already been committed

Funding Details

Objectives

The intent of the fund is to support service providers to implement and evaluate models of care that provide a behavioral health management environment inside LTC for clients with complex responsive behaviours.

The funding is designed to support initiatives that will result in:

- Improved support for residents with responsive behaviours (e.g., placement into LTC, incident reporting)
- Improved support for staff to care for residents with responsive behaviours (e.g., staff training, staff satisfaction)
- Improve care related outcomes for residents with responsive behaviours (e.g., care planning, care provision, resident outcomes)
- Improved facility related outcomes (e.g., integration amongst residents, safety, collaboration with other stakeholders)
- Other. If there are additional objectives or anticipated outcomes that are not captured in the above categories.

Amount

A total of \$1.8M has been allocated to support three behavioural support pilot projects to be implemented in one facility within each of the Western, Northern and Central zones. Each proposal should not request funds that total more than \$600,000. If no applications are received within a zone by July 1st, 2022, another call for applications will be made. *Late applications will be handled on a case-by-case basis.*

Evaluation Requirements

Behavioural Support Unit Evaluation

As part of the pilot initiatives, the Department will be conducting an evaluation to tell the collective impact story across each site. The Department will develop an evaluation plan to articulate the evaluation design including data collection methods and tools, timing, and roles and responsibilities. The Department's evaluation will also be informed by performance measurements that each of the pilot

partners will need to define, collect, and report on. This is intended to help each pilot project clearly articulate if and how they are meeting the intended objectives of the pilot.

You are expected to identify, capture, and report key performance measurements over the course of the project. It is expected that reporting of these measurements will take place at regular intervals (e.g., monthly, quarterly as appropriate). Additionally, you are expected to also contribute to an interim report after 6 months of operations and a final evaluation after pilot completion. Contribution may come in the form of

- providing data and data summaries of key measures of success; and
- the completion of surveys, interviews, focus groups by facility administration, staff, client, and family councils, for example.

The proposed BSU must demonstrate a commitment to provide quality care that is rooted in client needs. Data capture is aligned to the following key categories:

- Improved support for clients with responsive behaviours (e.g., placement into LTC, incident reporting)
- Improved support for staff to care for clients with responsive behaviours (e.g., staff training, staff satisfaction)
- Improve care-related outcomes for clients with responsive behaviours (e.g., care planning, care provision, client outcomes)
- Improved facility related outcomes (e.g., integration amongst clients, safety, collaboration with other stakeholders)
- Other. If there are additional objectives or anticipated outcomes that are not captured in the above categories.

Fiscal Accountability

Successful applicants will be required to provide information regarding the financial progress of the BSU to ensure financial accountability. Information on the reporting requirements and timelines will be provided separately.

Application Support

Proposal development support will be provided by Bernadette Lake (HANS Member and Partner Engagement). This includes:

- Dedicated time to aid (phone, email, virtual meetings)
- Support with navigating application process, progress, and evaluation report requirements
- Verifying applications are complete/ready for submission (e.g., proof reading)
- Guidance regarding effective proposal writing approach (e.g., aligning proposal details to application requirements)
- Guidance regarding information/research requirements
- Guidance with potential sourcing of materials required for proposals
- General inquiries

Contact Information: bernadette.lake@healthassociation.ns.ca P: 902-225-4852

Application Overview and Required information

A standardized application form (separate document) must be completed in full and submitted no later than July 1, 2022, to Barbara.Salkin@healthassociation.ns.ca. There are 8 sections within the application form that must be completed. They are as follows:

- Section 1 – Applicant/Facility Information
- Section 2 – Proposed BSU Synopsis/Summary
- Section 3 – Description of Proposed Behavioural Support Unit
- Section 4 – BSU Budget/Required Costs
- Section 5 – Project timeline
- Section 5 – Evaluation
- Section 6 – Sustainability
- Section 7 – Signature Page

Applicants will be expected to ensure any supporting documents are provided at the time of submission. Applicants may be required to provide additional documentation. If an application has minor deficiencies, the applicant will be contacted to request the application be amended and resubmitted.

Summary of Proposal Process and Key Dates

April - July

- Organizations will complete application form (pdf)

July 1 2022

- Organizations will submit a completed application to Barbara Salkin via email

July 15 - 30

- Applications will be reviewed by Evaluation Committee

August to September 2022

- Successful applicants will be notified & receive funding
- Proposed BSU's to start within 1 month of receiving funding

October 2022

- Organizations will submit initial one month progress update

December 2022

- Organizations to submit quarterly evaluation to Barbara Salkin via email

March 2023

- Organizations to submit second quarterly evaluation

June 2023

- Organizations to submit third quarterly evaluation

September 2023

- Organizations to submit final evaluation of BSU