

Family Health Teams

Advancing Primary Health Care

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More Family Health Teams Announced

On December 9, 2005, the McGuinty government announced opportunities for another 31 applicants to form Family Health Teams, now bringing the total to 100 Family Health Teams that are being established across Ontario. Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman also announced that applications for 50 additional Family Health Teams are now being accepted.

Within this new group of 31 Family Health Teams - from Vermillion Bay to Sauble Beach to Niagara Falls to Fenelon Falls to Iroquois Falls - 17 groups are in underserved areas. The Six Nations Health Services Family Health Team in Ohsweken is the first to be formed for Aboriginal primary health care services. Six Family Health Teams were also announced in the Greater Toronto Area. (See Appendix 1)

Evaluating Family Health Team Applications

In the first call for applications, interest from providers and communities was enthusiastic with 214 groups submitting proposals.

Applications were rigorously evaluated on:

- population need and current services available
- appropriateness of proposed services and provider mix to the needs of the identified population
- availability of human resources
- degree of partnership and support from other community groups and providers
- the readiness of the group to proceed

Groups who were not approved for Wave 2 are encouraged to apply again.

Wave 2 Approved Groups for Family Health Teams

There are a number of steps that applicant groups go through to get their Family Health Teams operational. These are:

- formalizing legal arrangements for governance
- developing the Family Health Team vision, mission and goals to help define the FHT role in the community
- defining the population to serve and the needs of this population
- consulting with other service providers in the community

- developing a proposed list of programs and services
- submitting a detailed Business Plan for the first year and a draft two to five year plan
- setting up premises
- establishing personal policies and recruiting/hiring staff

There are Guides available from the ministry contacts and on the website at www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/fht to provide more information to Family Health Teams. Each group is assigned a ministry staff contact to support them with the development. Each group is also eligible to receive one time funding to hire the resources they need to complete their planning and organizational processes.

Wave 1 Family Health Teams seeing patients

The first wave of 69 Family Health Teams was announced last April -- 52 Family Health Teams including the 17 individual teams that make up the three networks in Peterborough, Barrie and Hamilton. Some of the teams have progressed faster than expected and have hired health care providers and are now seeing new patients. Announcements have been made for some of these groups and more are expected to occur shortly. The Teams have been approved to hire almost 100 new providers and are in the process of actively recruiting these.

Family physicians working with nurse practitioners, nurses, mental health workers, dietitians, pharmacists, or social workers, share expertise and skills. Patients have more access to different health care providers to better meet their primary health care needs.

“Our nurse practitioner routinely sees all varieties of clinical problems, and deals capably with them all. In any given week she sees approximately fifteen per cent of my patient load, and her abilities allow me to spend more time with other patients who require my services”, says Dr. Garnet Maley, Lead Physician, Prime Care Family Health Team.

Family Health Teams are a key component of the government’s plan to build a health care system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses.

Wave 3 Call for Applications – Deadline February 15, 2006

The application package to support this call will be available on the Ministry web site. A guide will be included to provide useful tips and resources for completing the application.

Funding is available for all qualified Family Health Team applicants to help cover the costs of developing an application. The application package will provide details on the financial assistance available.

For those interested in submitting an application to form Family Health Teams, please refer to the web site for information on the application process www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/fht.

Any questions can be directed to the Ministry at 1-866-766-0266 or email at FHTinquiry@moh.gov.on.ca.

Appendix 1

Wave Two – Family Health Teams

The McGuinty government is creating 31 more Family Health Teams that will give Ontarians better access to health care. Below is a list of the new teams and their locations.

Proposed Family Health Team	Location	LHIN
Lambton County FHT	Point Edward	Erie St. Clair
VON Salvation Army	London	South West
St. Mary's FHT	St. Mary's	
Stratford FHT	Stratford	
Listowel FHT	Listowel	
VON Sauble Beach	Sauble Beach	
Erin FHT	Erin	Waterloo Wellington
Minto-Mapleton FHT	Palmerston	
Beamsville Medical Centre	Beamsville	Hamilton Niagara
Prima Care Community FHT	Paris	
Portage Medical Group	Niagara Falls	
Smithville Family Medical Centre	Smithville	
Six Nations Health Services	Ohswegen	
South Mississauga & South West Etobicoke FHT	Mississauga	Mississauga Halton
North York FHT	Toronto	Toronto Central
Toronto Western Hospital Family Health Centre	Toronto	
Urban Outreach Health Centre Partnership	Toronto	
Family Health Team for South East Toronto	Toronto	
Markham FHT	Markham	Central
Fenelon Health Team	Fenelon Falls	Central East

North Hastings Family Health Team	Bancroft	South East
Athens & District FHT	Athens	
Clarence-Rockland FHT	Ottawa	Champlain
West Carlton	Carp	
Penetanguishene FHT	Penetanguishene	North Simcoe Muskoka
Anson General Hospital	Iroquois Falls	North East
Kirkland Lake FHT	Kirkland Lake	
Northeastern Manitoulin FHT	Little Current	
Machin Medical Health Group	Vermilion Bay	North West
North Shore FHT	Schreiber	
Atikokan and District FHT	Atikokan	