

Clause 13 in Report No. 6 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 19, 2018.

13

Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors  
Update and Implications for Long-Term Care

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated March 23, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:

1. The Regional Chair write to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Seniors Affairs to:
  - a) Advocate and support the need for more Long-Term Care beds across York Region
  - b) Request that the methodology for projecting demand for Long-Term Care beds be revised to include factors such as the increasing prevalence of complex medical conditions that require long-term care, shifting demographics and waitlists
  - c) State its position that municipalities should not be responsible for health care costs
  - d) Request that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care:
    - i. Implement funding models that cover upfront capital costs of developing or re-developing long term care homes and beds similar to the models used for hospitals and the community sector
    - ii. Revise the Long-Term Care funding model to reflect the true costs of developing and operating Long-Term Care beds
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, the Central Local Health Integration Network, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, AdvantAge Ontario and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association for information.

Report dated March 23, 2018 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services now follows:

## 1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Chair write to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Seniors Affairs to:
  - a) Advocate and support the need for more Long-Term Care beds across York Region
  - b) Request that the methodology for projecting demand for Long-Term Care beds be revised to include factors such as the increasing prevalence of complex medical conditions that require long-term care, shifting demographics and waitlists
  - c) State its position that municipalities should not be responsible for health care costs
  - d) Request that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care:
    - i. Implement funding models that cover upfront capital costs of developing or re-developing long term care homes and beds similar to the models used for hospitals and the community sector
    - ii. Revise the Long-Term Care funding model to reflect the true costs of developing and operating Long-Term Care beds
2. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, the Central Local Health Integration Network, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, AdvantAge Ontario and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association for information.

## 2. Purpose

This report provides information on Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors, released on November 7, 2017, with a specific focus on the Province's commitment to create additional Long-Term Care beds.

### 3. Background

Aging with Confidence, Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors, has 30 actions intended to support seniors at various stages of life so that they can remain independent, healthy, active, safe and socially connected

On [November 7, 2017](#), the provincial government released, Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors (the "Ontario Action Plan"). The Ontario Action Plan commits to 30 actions to support seniors and caregivers at various stages of their lives, and introduces a more stringent compliance framework for long-term care services.

The Ontario Action Plan includes both previously announced funded and new initiatives, totalling approximately \$202.3 million. Table 1 lists the categories for action and related funding.

**Table 1**  
**Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors and Funding Envelopes**

Categories for Actions	Number of Actions	Approximate Funding Envelope (\$million)
Supporting Seniors At All Stages	7	31.7
Supporting Seniors Living Independently In the Community	6	37.1
Seniors Requiring Enhanced Supports At Home and In Their Communities	9	123.5
Seniors Requiring Intensive Supports	8	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>202.3</b>

Commitments include 30,000 new long-term care beds over the next decade, 40 more Seniors Acting Living Centres, and increasing access to in-home health care

All actions align with York Region's Seniors Strategy. Descriptions for each of the 30 actions and potential implications for York Region are set out in Attachment 1, and summarized below according to the four categories for actions used in Table 1. More detailed analysis of the implications for long-term care is provided below and in the next section of the report.

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Information on funding allocations and implementation is required to fully assess Regional implications. Staff anticipate further details and funding commitments to support the Ontario Action Plan will be announced as part of the 2018 provincial budget on March 28, 2018.

1. Supporting Seniors at All Stages

- Easier to find information through a “one-stop” website
- Better community transportation for seniors in underserved communities
- Expand the Age-Friendly community planning grant
- Free high-dose influenza vaccine
- Enhance education about power of attorneys
- Expand consumer protection programs for seniors
- Strengthen elder abuse protection

2. Supporting Seniors Living Independently In the Community

- More seniors active living centres (currently six in York Region)
- Extend the Seniors Community Grant program
- Establish a new Active for Life Recreation Stream for seniors under the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund
- Establish a new fund to support professional arts programming and art therapy for seniors
- Establish a link between youth volunteers and seniors to help enable use of technology by seniors
- Establish a senior-youth mentorship program, through an estimated 20 to 30 projects across the province.

### 3. Seniors Requiring Enhanced Supports At Home and In Their Communities

- Support for “naturally occurring” retirement communities (for example, York Region’s subsidized seniors housing communities)
- Increasing access to in-home health care to include, in addition to physicians, healthcare providers such as social workers, therapists and nurses
- Increasing access to geriatric care by increasing training opportunities for healthcare providers, including physicians, personal support workers and nurse practitioners;
- 2.6 million additional home-care hours
- Expanding seniors supportive housing with over 500 new transitional care spaces, and 200 new subsidies to better access affordable housing as well as home and community care supports;
- Launching a new organization to support caregivers
- Introducing new guidelines for home care assessment and planning to make the quality of care more consistent
- Expanding and enhancing access to quality care for people living with dementia and their care partners
- Establishing a new personal support services organization in 2018 to enhance self-directed care

### 4. Seniors Requiring Intensive Supports

- Redeveloping more than 30,000 existing long term care beds in more than 300 homes (not applicable to York Region’s two long-term care homes)
- Creating an additional 30,000 long-term care beds over the next decade
- Increasing the provincial average to four hours of direct care per resident per day, and ensure every home has staff with specialized training in behavioural supports and in palliative and end-of-life care
- Promoting innovation in long-term care through new technologies, such as electronic clinical support tools

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- Providing more access to culturally appropriate homes and supports (for example, culturally appropriate meal preparation and support in language of the resident's choice)
- Strengthening safety for long-term care home residents, which includes stricter standards of accountability for homes
- Improving customer service by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
- Creating more hospice beds to support more than 2,000 additional people and their families

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario supports the Ontario Action Plan

On [November 8, 2017](#), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario issued a release on the Province's New Action Plan for Seniors welcoming the new provincial investments for initiatives it has advocated for, such as:

- Increasing hours of care in long-term care homes
- Enhancing culturally appropriate practices
- Engaging in a capacity review to determine the need for more long-term care beds
- Better transportation options in rural and northern areas
- Expanding age-friendly programs that support municipal governments to provide services to seniors

Provincial long-term care associations, including Advantage Ontario and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association, are cautiously optimistic about the enhancements to long-term care. There are concerns, shared by Regional staff, about implementation including challenges associated with recruiting and retaining sufficient staff to meet the increase to four hours of daily care per resident and related staffing costs.

The Province has started the process of calling for applications for new Long-Term Care beds

On February 12, 2018, the Province released its first call for applications to create new Long-Term Care beds. Applications were due to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on March 2, 2018, with priority given to those that demonstrated the following:

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- Regions with high needs for Long-Term Care beds
- Ability to serve specialized populations
- Ability to serve culturally specific needs, including those of Indigenous populations
- A campus of care or hub model

Ministry staff have advised that the February call is the first call, and there will be others.

#### 4. Analysis and Implications

Overall, the Ontario Action Plan investments are positive and closely align with Regional priorities to better support seniors to age in place

The Ontario Action Plan includes actions intended to support seniors including enhanced municipal services.

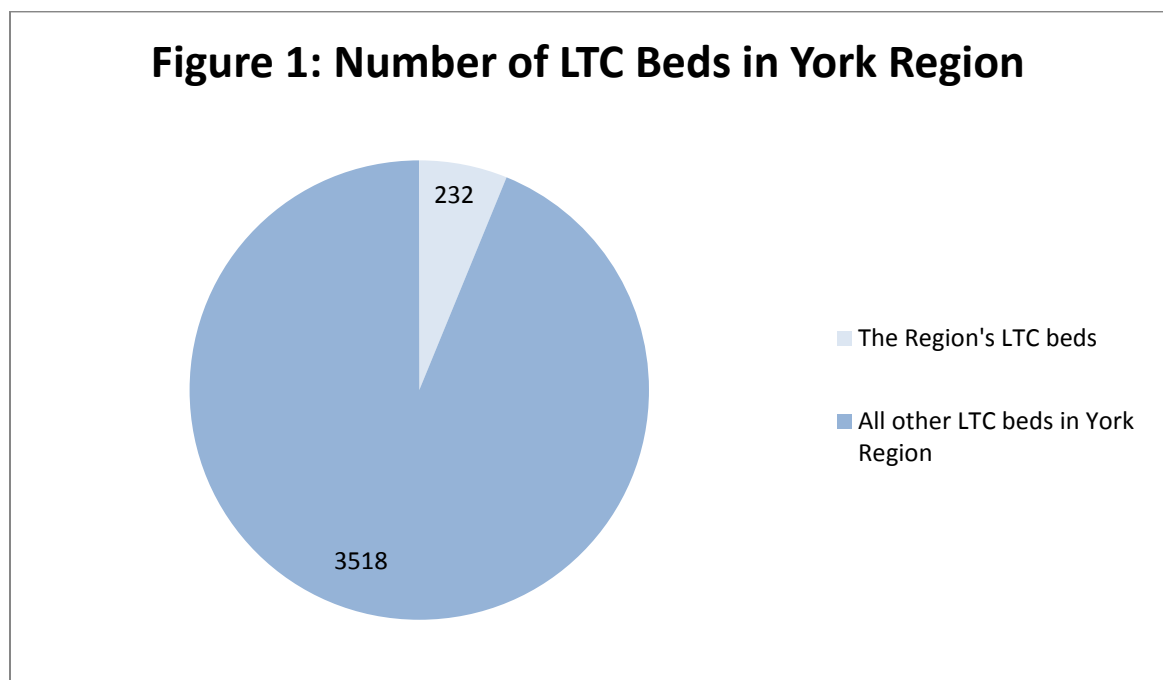
Regional staff anticipate that Ontario Action Plan investments will benefit York Region programs and services as well as community agencies that serve seniors.

The provincial decision to create 30,000 new long-term care beds is a significant change in direction

For many years, the provincial direction has been that it would not increase the number of long-term care beds. Instead, the focus has been on funding and supports that would support seniors to age in place rather than increasing the number of Long-Term Care beds. The additional commitments made in the Ontario Action Plan represent a significant departure from that approach, for which many long-term care operators were unprepared. As such, the Region had not completed any analysis since 2011 on costs or issues related to long-term care expansion.

More long-term care beds are required by 2025 to maintain current service levels

The CLHIN has 46 Long-Term Care homes that operate 7,247 beds. Twenty-eight of these homes are located within York Region and operate a total of 3,750 beds. These homes are operated by non-profit organizations and private sector companies, and two are owned and operated by York Region (232 beds).



The Central Local Health Integration Network (CLHIN) covers most of York Region, some of Simcoe County, and a small part of the north-west area of the City of Toronto. It has the highest number of seniors aged 75+ in the province (127,000 or 12 per cent).

In its Long-Term Care Capacity Plan (2016), the Central Local Health Integration Network noted it would need, "4,246 more long-term care beds by 2025 in order to maintain current state. This does not take into consideration clients on the waitlist".

As of February 9, 2018, the CLHIN had 4,449 clients waiting for a Long-Term Care bed

As of December 31, 2017, the average number of people waiting for placement in a CLHIN Long-Term Care home was 269. There were 337 people on Maple Health Centre's wait list for basic accommodation (two people sharing a room) and 369 people on Newmarket Health Centre's wait list for basic accommodation.



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The length of time that people wait for a bed is long, with a median time of 188 days for CLHIN homes

Wait times for the Region's homes are much longer than the median. In 2016/17, Newmarket Health Centre's median wait time was 432 days for all placements, with 90 per cent of people on the waitlist being placed in Newmarket Health Centre within 1,063 days. For the same time period, Maple Health Centre's median wait time was 195 days for all placements, with 90 percent of people on the waitlist placed in Maple Health Centre within 625 days.

By 2026, the greatest need for Long-Term Care beds will be in the Richmond Hill and Markham areas

As of February 9, 2018, the CLHIN advised that the Long-Term Care homes in its western (Town of Richmond Hill and area) and eastern (City of Markham and area) sub-region planning areas had the greatest number of people on their waitlists. The CLHIN projects that by 2026, the eastern sub-region will need an additional 818 beds and the western sub-region will need another 1,004 beds.

In contrast, projections show that the number of Long-Term Care beds needed for York Region's northern sub-region planning area will decrease by 46 beds by 2026. Regional staff are not confident about this projection. The methodology used Census data and population projections, but did not take into account important factors such as the increasing prevalence of complex medical conditions that require long-term care, shifting demographics and waitlists. Further, the Central LHIN's projected demand assumes people want long-term care in the sub-region where they live, which may or may not be true (for example, they may wish to live closer to family members). Staff recommend that the Province revise their methodology for projected demand for Long-Term Care beds to address these factors.

The CLHIN has identified priority populations in need of Long-Term Care

To identify York Region's priority populations for Long-Term Care, staff had discussions with CLHIN planners, the CLHIN Director of Home and Community Care Placement for Long-Term Care Homes, Behavioural Supports Ontario for CLHIN, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Long Term Care Homes Division. Based on these discussions, the following populations have been identified as most in need of Long-Term Care placement:

- Younger residents with complex needs
- Adults with developmental disabilities

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- Older adults with specialized medical needs (for example dialysis, chronic ventilation, acquired brain injury)
- Older adults with responsive behaviours (complex mental health, addictions, dementia or other neurological conditions)

The Province provides higher per diem funding rates for serving priority populations. However, there is a possibility that the costs to care for these residents may exceed the funding provided.

New beds would result in significant upfront construction costs

Unlike the construction funding for new hospitals and community sector institutions, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care does not provide upfront capital funding for developing and constructing new Long-Term Care beds, nor does it provide funding for demolition costs of existing facilities. If the Region applies for and received an allocation of additional beds, the Region would be fully responsible for costs.

In 2011, cost estimates were obtained for building a new Long-Term Care home. The estimated cost at that time was about \$165,000 per bed, with a total cost of \$33 million for a 200 bed home. The estimated project completion timeframe was approximately four years.

Construction funding subsidies are available as reimbursements for capital expenditures over a 25 year period

Long-Term Care operators may apply to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for a Construction Funding Subsidy. This funding is subject to a number of eligibility requirements, including that at least \$120,000 is spent in eligible expenses per new bed. Non-profit homes may also apply for a one-time planning grant of \$250,000, which is to be used for planning purposes only.

The Construction Funding Subsidy is a per diem per bed amount that becomes payable for a period of 25 years once new beds are open and operational. The per diem amount varies based on a number of factors (variance from current standards, home size, environmental design, whether it is a new facility or renovation of an existing one, and the proportion of new beds that are basic accommodation) and ranges from \$16.65 to \$23.03 per bed per day.

There is a risk that the Construction Funding Subsidy received over the 25-year term may not fully reimburse the construction costs incurred.

### Municipal funding of health care costs is increasing

At one time, municipal homes were more like retirement homes. Over the years, they have become more like chronic care hospitals providing medical and nursing care for residents with complex health conditions. Residents currently being admitted to the homes are increasingly frail with multiple medical conditions, dementia and/or behavioural issues. As such, they have complex care needs and the Region is under increasing pressure to fund the costs of providing health care, even though health care provision has historically been the purview of the provincial government. Further, as a relatively small player, the Region cannot benefit from economies of scale available to larger providers.

There is increasing reliance on property taxes for the Region's Long-Term Care Homes

To sustain high quality of care, the Long-Term Care budget relies on the municipal tax levy. From 2012 to 2016, the tax levy contribution to the Region's annual Long-Term Care budget ranged from 40.1 to 44.2 per cent of gross operating costs. Many municipalities contribute additional resources to their Long Term Care operations to maintain standards of care that exceed provincial requirements. According to the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 annual report, York Region's Long Term Care Facility Operating Cost per Bed Day is \$296, which is \$53 above the median of the participating municipalities and is the second highest cost (after Durham Region which reported \$303).

Amendments to the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* increase the risk to long-term care home operators due to stricter accountability standards and monetary administrative penalties

The Action Plan includes new provisions that strengthen the safety of Long-Term Care residents by amending the *Long-Term Care Homes Act* (the *Act*) to establish a more stringent compliance framework with enhanced enforcement tools and additional requirements in providing Long-Term Care services. As a result of the amendments, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care may:

- Make operational or policy directives for the quality of care and treatment of residents in Long-Term Care homes generally
- Impose administrative monetary penalties for licensees if the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is of the view that the home has not complied with the *Act*
- Expand Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's ability to return/withhold funding from licensees

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The *Act* also specifies that the Directors and Officers of a corporation operating a Home and Committee of Management (Regional Council) shall ensure that the corporation complies with all requirements under the *Act* and if convicted of an offence, are liable to individual fines.

Under this more stringent compliance framework, homes are at increased risk of being found in non-compliance with the Long-Term Care legislation and that risk may increase by adding more beds and admitting more residents.

Further details on the legislative amendments and significant implications for York Region are set out in Attachment 2.

Long-term Care Homes are part of the healthcare system and should be fully funded by the Province

Given the significant financial outlay and risks, and the current nature of Long-Term Care service requirements, staff recommends writing to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Seniors Affairs to:

- Advise the Ministers of Council's position that municipalities should not be responsible for health care costs
- Advocate and support the need for more Long-Term Care beds across York Region, to be provided by other operators (e.g. non-profits, private firms, hospitals and/or other providers in the acute health care system)
- Request that the methodology for projecting demand for Long-Term Care beds be revised to include factors such as the increasing prevalence of complex medical conditions that require long-term care, shifting demographics and waitlists
- Adopt funding models that cover upfront capital costs, similar to hospitals and the community sector
- Revise the Long-Term Care funding model to reflect the true costs of developing and operating Long-Term Care beds

## 5. Financial Considerations

The financial implications arising from the Province's Action Plan for Long-Term Care commitments are still to be determined as the Province provides more details and funding announcements.

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Staff will continue to monitor and explore funding opportunities, where appropriate, to better support seniors in the Region and to advance implementation of the Seniors Strategy.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Local municipalities have an integral role to play in ensuring that seniors living in their communities receive the best possible supports and services to help them age in place. Successful implementation of the Ontario Action Plan and the Seniors Strategy requires alignment, collaboration and partnership with local municipal initiatives to effectively serve and support seniors. This includes continuing discussions from the November Age-Friendly Complete Communities workshop with the local municipalities and leveraging the Regional Municipal Comprehensive Review to better support age-friendly, complete communities in York Region.

Residents of local municipalities in need of Long-Term Care services will benefit from the Long-Term Care initiatives outlined in the Province's new Action Plan; such as more Long-Term Care beds (should they be allocated within the region), reduced wait times, increased hours of direct daily care and the commitment to strengthen resident safety.

7. Conclusion

Overall, the Ontario Action Plan aligns with the direction of the York Region Seniors Strategy and will help the Region to better address the needs of a growing aging population while ensuring seniors are able to age in place for longer in the future. Staff will continue to monitor for additional details on implementation of the Ontario Action Plan and will report back to Council with new information.

The Ontario Action Plan signals a change in direction for the Province's Long-Term Care sector. There is a continued need for advocacy for sustainable funding and the allocation of the appropriate number of Long-term Care beds in the Region to address current and future demands.

Regional staff will continue to monitor Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announcements and consult with the Central Local Health Integration Network to investigate options and costs for implementing these initiatives, and will report back to Council as required.

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For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Chief and General Manager at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74709 and Lisa Gonsalves at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

March 23, 2018

Attachments (2)

#8321668

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

## Summary of Ontario Action Plan for Seniors and Potential Implications for York Region

<b>Supporting Seniors at All Stages</b>			
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities</b>
Easier-to-Find Information	A “one-stop” website ( <a href="http://ontario.ca/AgingWell">ontario.ca/AgingWell</a> ) has been developed to provide information, about government services, programs and supports for seniors across the province. Information can be accessed by phone, 24 hours a day, and in over 150 languages	Not Announced	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate options for a single point of access for seniors to access information, including a self-service option (for example system navigation)</li> <li>• Explore how to guide seniors through the many services out there</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</p>
Better Community Transportation	Ontario will make it easier for seniors who live in communities currently underserved by public transportation to connect with the services and supports they need. In recognition of challenges faced by those living in northern communities in particular, services in Northern Ontario will also be improved	Not Announced	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a variety of transportation options to support age-friendly, complete communities</li> <li>• Initiate discussions with transit providers funded by various provincial ministries to look for ways to better coordinate services, look for innovative opportunities and enhance services and choice for seniors</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to build upon existing programs/services that aim to enhance transportation service to all residents, including seniors, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobility Plus which offers accessible transit for people with disabilities</li> <li>• On-Demand Transit which improves service delivery in low-demand areas</li> <li>• MyRide Travel Training programs which provides the knowledge and skills to use transit independently</li> </ul>

## Supporting Seniors at All Stages

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
More Age-Friendly Communities	Ontario will expand the successful <a href="#">Age-Friendly Community Planning grant program</a> including a new implementation stream to make communities more accessible and inclusive for seniors of all ages and abilities	\$7 million over three years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy desired result area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for age-friendly, complete communities</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To apply for funding to undertake research, needs assessments and consultation to inform and advance age-friendly, complete communities in York Region</li> <li>To collaborate with and support external partners such as the local municipalities in applying for funding to support local age-friendly initiatives</li> </ul>
Free High-dose flu vaccine	<p>A high-dose influenza vaccine, targeted to protect seniors, will be available free of charge as part of the Ontario Universal Influenza Immunization Program</p> <p>This vaccine will help keep seniors healthy and active and out of hospitals</p>	\$17 million per year beginning in the 2018-2019 flu season	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity needed to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to build upon existing prevention and promotion programs and services such as expanding Public Health's vaccine program/clinic. This expanded role can include reaching vulnerable seniors who face barriers accessing primary care.</p>
Enhance Education about Power of Attorneys	<p>A public education campaign to raise awareness among seniors of how important — and easy — it is to set up Powers of Attorney and to encourage them to choose who can make personal care and financial decisions on their behalf</p> <p>As part of this campaign, easy-to-use and accessible resource materials, including a revised Power of Attorney (POA) document and information about how people can prevent</p>	\$1 million over three years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication campaign about preparing financially for retirement</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>to train Regional staff who work with seniors on identifying potential fraud/misappropriation by Powers of Attorney</li> </ul>



## Supporting Seniors at All Stages

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
	POA misuse, will be made available on <a href="http://Ontario.ca/AgingWell">Ontario.ca/AgingWell</a>		
Expansion of Consumer Protection Programs for Seniors	Consumer protection pilot program aimed at protecting seniors' hard-earned money through education and awareness, as well as through enhanced assistance and intervention programs for seniors who have fallen victim to consumer threats or scams	Not announced	Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a communication campaign about preparing financially for retirement</li> </ul> Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To promote awareness within existing York Region programs and services including social and affordable housing communities and the Housing Repair Program</li> <li>• To advocate for legal assistance for seniors to reverse Powers of Attorney, in cases where seniors are being taken advantage of</li> </ul>
Strengthening elder abuse Protection	Deliver public education, service provider training, research, and improved community response, to better support abused older adults. This also includes dedicated efforts to address violence against older women, and support older people in Indigenous communities	\$6.7 million over three years	Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for outside workers to identify seniors in distress and age sensitivity training</li> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity needed to deliver them</li> </ul> Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• to coordinate the sharing of information at York Region community outreach events such Paramedics and Seniors Services' Connecting Caregivers Workshop and York Regional Police Seniors' Day</li> </ul>

## Supporting Seniors Living Independently in the Community

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
More seniors active living centres	The province is increasing its network of <a href="#">Seniors Active Living Centres by 40</a> , to more than 300 Centres province-wide. These centres provide seniors with a range of social, recreational and wellness programs, as well as educational and support services	\$8 million over three years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local municipalities, community agencies, private sector and Central Local Health Integration Network to provide better integrated and co-located services for seniors</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>To collaborate with external partners such as local municipalities, agencies and the Central LHIN to better integrate and co-locate services for seniors</li> </ul> <p>There are 6 Seniors Active Living Centres in York Region: Markham (2), Richmond Hill (1), Newmarket (1), Aurora (1), Georgina (1)</p>
More community engagement opportunities	<a href="#">Ontario's Seniors Community Grant Program</a> is being extended and enhanced to support larger projects that will benefit more seniors over a longer term. The program will support seniors to learn, volunteer and be socially involved	\$11 million over three years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors strategy desired result area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect seniors and caregivers to the right programs and services at the right times</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To apply for funding to build upon existing programs and services</li> <li>To collaborate with and support external partners such as the local municipalities and agencies to provide more community engagement opportunities for seniors</li> </ul>
Staying physically strong	A new Active for Life Recreation Stream for seniors, under the <a href="#">Ontario Sport and Recreations Communities Fund</a> to provide more recreational activities to help up to 20,000 older Ontarians prolong their physical and mental health, stay mobile and reduce the risk of falls	\$3.5 million over three years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand existing prevention programs and identify new programs needed, including alternative programs for those on waitlists</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To advocate to the province for more funding to expand existing York Region programs and services such as Public Health exercise and fall prevention classes</li> <li>To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> </ul>

## Supporting Seniors Living Independently in the Community

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To collaborate with and support external partners such as the local municipalities and agencies to provide more recreational opportunities for seniors</li> </ul>
Engaging seniors through the arts	A government fund will be created to support professional arts programming and art therapy for seniors in community settings such as Seniors Active Living Centres, retirement homes, hospitals, and long-term care homes, as well as build capacity for seniors to engage in arts organizations in their communities	\$10 million over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy result area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect seniors and caregivers with the right programs and services at the right times</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To apply for funding to build upon existing programs/services in the Region's Long-Term Care homes and subsidized seniors housing communities, as well as adult day programs</li> <li>To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>To collaborate with and support external partners such as the local municipalities and agencies to provide more arts programming opportunities for seniors</li> </ul>
Helping seniors with technology	<a href="#">Ontario's Change the World program</a> will launch a special project to link youth volunteers with seniors to help seniors build their understanding and enable their use of technology. It will help reduce seniors' social isolation and facilitate meaningful volunteering experiences for youth	\$600,000 over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the business/industry sector to identify innovative new business solutions for seniors (i.e. new technology, apps for wellness checks, data solutions)</li> <li>Connect seniors and caregivers to the right programs and services at the right times</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>To apply for funding to build upon existing programs/services in the Region's Long-Term Care homes and subsidized seniors housing communities, as well as adult day programs</li> <li>To collaborate with external partners such as the local municipalities and agencies to provide more opportunities</li> </ul>

**Supporting Seniors Living Independently in the Community**

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
Supporting seniors to become mentors	A senior-youth mentorship program will be established, to help build relationships and encourage knowledge sharing between generations. This will support 20 to 30 projects across the province	\$4 million over two years	<p align="center">for youth to engage with seniors on the use of technology</p> <p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy result area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect seniors and caregivers to the right programs and services at the right times</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To apply for funding to build upon existing programs and services such as the York Region Transit Travel Training Centre which is an opportunity to bring youth and seniors together to train how to use technology such as pay app, PRESTO, etc.</li> <li>• To collaborate with and support external partners such as the local municipalities and agencies to provide more youth mentorship opportunities with seniors in York Region</li> </ul>

## Seniors Requiring Enhances Supports at Home and in their Communities

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
Support for more naturally occurring retirement communities	<p>Province to continue supporting "naturally occurring" retirement communities. Naturally occurring retirement communities are apartment buildings or housing developments where many seniors already live close to one another such as York Region's seniors subsidized housing communities</p> <p>The Local Health Integration Networks will explore ways to further support seniors who live near each other by providing more on-site services to meet seniors' needs, including culturally appropriate care</p>	\$15 million over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the local municipalities, community agencies, private sector and Central Health Integration Network to design and implement a multi-service centre/hub model(s) that will co-locate services to respond to the needs of seniors</li> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity needed to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>York Region seniors subsidized housing communities are independent living communities. It is important that supports introduced into naturally occurring retirement communities are not provided in lieu of transitioning a resident to a long-term care home. York Region's subsidized housing communities do not have the infrastructure or staff to accommodate residents in need of long-term care and retrofitting existing buildings can be costly or not possible, in some cases</p>
Increasing access to in-home health care	Improve seniors' access to house-calls by expanding the existing program beyond physicians to include additional healthcare providers such as social workers, therapists and nurses	\$3 million over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to build upon existing programs/services such as the Expanded Paramedics in the Community Program, Integrated Psychogeriatric Outreach Team and Housing York Inc. social workers</li> <li>• Greater access to in-home health care may benefit some seniors in the Region's social and affordable housing and Homelessness Community Programs</li> <li>• For the Region to continue to advocate to ensure the appropriate home and community supports are available in the Region, including funding for the Community</li> </ul>

## Seniors Requiring Enhanced Supports at Home and in their Communities

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
			Paramedicine Program that supports additional healthcare providers in providing home health care
Increasing access to geriatric care	Strengthen the healthcare workforce's ability to provide specialized care in geriatrics by increasing training opportunities for healthcare providers, including physicians, personal support workers and nurse practitioners	\$5.5 million over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> <li>• Provide training for those that work with seniors on how to care for elderly with complex needs</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To apply for funding to provide training for the Region's healthcare workers</li> <li>• To advocate for funding for York Region staff such as Housing York Inc. social workers and those working on the Integrated Psychogeriatric Outreach Team</li> </ul>
Providing more home care hours	Seniors requiring home care will benefit from an estimated <a href="#">2.6 million additional hours</a> this year, including personal support services, nursing, physical and speech therapy, and respite services for caregivers	Not announced	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>May benefit York Region seniors by helping them to age in place for longer, including seniors residing in social and affordable housing and housing with supports</p>
Expanding seniors supportive housing	<p>Providing support and rehabilitation to 1,700 people who are ready to leave hospital, but need some additional assistance before they can return home, with over 500 new transitional care spaces</p> <p>The province is also helping</p>	Not announced	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> <li>• Provide a variety of housing options, including rental, to support age-friendly, complete communities</li> </ul>

## Seniors Requiring Enhances Supports at Home and in their Communities

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
	<p>seniors who require assistance with health care or activities of daily living, such as bathing or meal preparation, and cannot afford to live independently, by providing 200 new subsidies to better access affordable housing as well as home and community care supports</p>		<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To benefit seniors living in subsidized housing communities</li> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To collaborate with and support external partners such as agencies to provide more supportive housing to benefit seniors</li> </ul>
<p>Increasing support for caregivers</p>	<p>Ontario is launching a new province-wide organization to provide caregivers with supports and resources, including a single point of access for information in areas such as training in multiple languages, local programs and peer support</p>	<p>Not announced</p>	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate options for a single point of access for seniors to access information, including a self-service option (i.e. system navigation)</li> <li>• Explore how to guide seniors through the many services out there</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To build upon existing programs/services offered by Paramedic and Seniors Services such as the Connecting Caregivers Workshop</li> <li>• For the Region to advocate to the province to request funding and improved coordination and integrated service delivery to assist with system navigation to ensure seniors and caregivers are connected to the right programs and services at the right times</li> </ul>
<p>Making the quality of care more consistent</p>	<p>Ontario is introducing new guidelines for home care assessment and planning based on the level of care needed by the individual and their caregivers</p>	<p>Not announced</p>	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities – dependant on funding and program details</p>
<p>Helping people with dementia</p>	<p>Improvements to access to quality care for people living</p>	<p>\$100 million</p>	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services</li> </ul>

## Seniors Requiring Enhances Supports at Home and in their Communities

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
	<p>with dementia and their care partners, including expanding and enhancing existing services such as community dementia programs.</p> <p>The first year of Ontario's <a href="#">dementia strategy</a> is focused on expanding and enhancing existing services such as community dementia programs, including increased access to adult day programs, enhanced caregiver respite services (both in-home and overnight), expanding behavioural supports, improving the coordination of care, continuing to invest in health care providers' education, and raising awareness about dementia risk factors and reducing the stigma associated with dementia</p>	<p>over three years</p>	<p>are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training outside workers on how to identify seniors in distress as well as training on age sensitivity and how to care for elderly with complex needs</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To apply for funding to expand Regional programs and services that align with the Dementia Strategy (i.e. behavioural support services, adult day programs, respite services and the Mental Health Matters Initiative). The behavioural support services may include providing supports in Emergency Housing facilities and building capacity in Public Health for dementia prevention and falls prevention</li> <li>• To advocate to the provincial government to request funding to ensure adequate dementia services are available to support seniors and caregivers in York Region social housing and housing with supports programs, and to ensure appropriate home and community care supports are available in the Region, including homecare, adult day programs and respite</li> </ul> <p>York Region operates two ADP programs and hosts two other ADP programs through purchase of service partnerships with Mackenzie Health and the March of Dimes.</p>
<p>Enhancing self-directed care</p>	<p>Ontario is creating new, innovative self-directed care models to provide eligible clients and caregivers with more control over their care</p> <p>This will include establishment of a new personal support services organization in early 2018: Self-Directed Personal Support Services Ontario (SDPSSO)</p>	<p>Not announced</p>	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</p> <p>Potential financial and legal implications to existing programs/ services</p>



## Seniors Requiring Intensive Supports

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
Modernizing long-term care homes	Ontario is supporting redevelopment of more than 30,000 existing long-term care beds in more than 300 long-term care homes by 2025, and will be eliminating all four-bed wards in the long-term care homes	Not announced	Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy advocacy area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request the provincial government work with the Region to improve policy planning and decision-making for long-term care beds by developing a forecast for York Region, including required number, type and locations</li> </ul> <p>York Region's two long-term care homes are not eligible for redevelopment (they do not have four-bed wards)</p>
Reducing the wait for long-term care	Ontario will create 5,000 new long-term care beds by 2022, to ensure those with the highest need, as well as those within hospitals who are ready to be discharged and require a long-term care home, have a bed  Over the next decade, Ontario will create over 30,000 new long-term care beds to keep pace with the growing and changing needs of an aging population. These new beds are in addition to the 30,000 existing beds that are being redeveloped	Not announced	Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy advocacy area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request the provincial government work with the Region to improve policy planning and decision-making for long-term care beds by developing a forecast for York Region, including required number, type and locations</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to expand Long-Term Care Services in the Region. Staff are assessing potential options, implications and associated costs for the development of long-term care beds</p>
More staffing and support in long term care	Ontario will increase the provincial average to four hours of direct care per resident per day to ensure that residents in Ontario's long-term care homes receive the highest quality of care  This will mean an additional 15 million hours of nursing, personal support and therapeutic care for long-term	Not announced	Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to build upon existing programs/services offered by Long-Term Care Services by providing more staffing with specialized training</p> <p>Potential financial implications in the delivery of Long-Term Care Services as funding has not been announced</p>

### Seniors Requiring Intensive Supports

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
	care residents across Ontario, and will ensure that every long-term care home in the province has staff with specialized training in behavioural supports and in palliative and end-of-life care		<p>Potential recruitment implications associated with additional long-term care staff, and in particular, recruiting registered nursing staff and personal support workers</p> <p>[York Region's two long-term care homes currently provide 3.5 hours of direct resident care per day]</p>
Promoting innovation in long-term care	Ontario is introducing innovative technologies to all long-term care homes to help create a modernized and efficient system. This includes supplying all homes with electronic clinical support tools to ensure standardized, high-quality care is delivered to residents with a range of complex diagnoses	Not announced	<p>Opportunity to build upon existing programs/services in the Region's Long-Term Care Homes</p> <p>Potential financial implications (e.g. capital, operational, etc.)</p>
Culturally appropriate long-term care	In consultation with long-term care providers and residents and families, Ontario will provide more access to culturally appropriate homes, and in-home supports such as culturally appropriate meal preparation and support in the resident's language of choice	Not announced	<p>Opportunity to build upon existing programs/services offered Long-Term Care Services</p> <p>Positive for York Region as it is one of the most culturally diverse areas in the province</p> <p>Potential financial implications (i.e. capital, operational, etc.)</p>
Strengthening safety for long-term care home residents	Bill 160, <a href="#"><i>Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017</i></a> , strengthens the long-term care inspection and enforcement framework	Not applicable Legislation	Stricter standards of accountability and higher fines for the Region's Committee of Management (Regional Council) and long-term care staff, if convicted of an offence under the amended Long-Term Care Homes Act. See attachment 2 for details.
Protecting vulnerable seniors	The province will strengthen the <a href="#"><i>Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee</i></a> (OPGT), which acts as a public guardian for over 13,000 mentally incapable	\$10 million over two years	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how to guide seniors through the many services available</li> </ul> <p>Opportunity to connect York Region seniors/caregivers with</p>

### Seniors Requiring Intensive Supports

Actions	Details	Funding	Alignment with Seniors Strategy and Potential Opportunities
	adults. The OPGT will offer improved customer service through the creation of a contact centre, improved information management and modernized service delivery		<p>information via Access York</p> <p>May benefit York Region Homelessness and Community Programs staff and frontline service providers who support clients in housing with supports</p>
Improved end-of-life care	Ontario is partnering with local communities to build more hospice beds across the province. This expansion will provide compassionate palliative and end-of-life care for more than 2,000 additional people and their families each year, closer to home	Not announced	<p>Aligns with the following Seniors Strategy action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a system level, understand what programs and services are required to support seniors to age in place and the capacity required to deliver them</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To connect York Region seniors/caregivers with information via Access York</li> <li>• To collaborate with and support external partners to provide more hospice beds in York Region</li> </ul>

## **Strengthening Safety for Long-Term Care Home Residents**

**Details:** Bill 160, Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, 2017, strengthens the long-term care inspection and enforcement framework by making amendments to the Long Term Care Homes Act, 2007 (the Act).

**Implications:** As a result of the amendments there will be a more stringent compliance framework and additional requirements in providing long-term care services. The amended legislation enables the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to do the following:

- 1. Issue policy/operational directives for long-term care homes**
- 2. Charge homes with two new offences:**
  - A “Failure to Protect” charge for violations of section 19 of the Act, which requires homes to protect residents from abuse and neglect
  - A “Failure to Comply with an Order” charge to be applied every licensee that fails to comply with an Order. Persons convicted of this offence could be liable to fines but not to imprisonment and probation.
- 3. File an order with the court:** The MOHLTC may file an Order issued under the Act with the local registrar of the Superior Court of Justice after the time limit for review or appeal has passed. On filing an Order, it would be deemed to be an Order of that Court and be enforceable as such.
- 4. Hold directors and officers of a corporation more accountable:** Directors and officers of a corporation must ensure that the corporation complies with all requirements of the Act. This obligation also applies to every member of the Committee of Management, a role filled by Regional Council. Failure to comply with this obligation is an offence and committee of management and directors and officers of a not for profit corporation, such as the Region, is subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000.
- 5. Impose administrative monetary penalties:** The MOHLTC could issue a notice in imposing monetary penalties to a licensee for non-compliance with the Act, which cannot exceed \$100,000.
- 6. Increase fines under the Act:**
  - a) For individuals:** Every individual who is convicted of an offence under this Act is liable (a) for a first offence, to a fine not more than \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than 12 months, or to both; and (b) for a subsequent offence, to a fine of not more than \$200,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than 12 months, or to both.

**Exception:** Every individual who is convicted of an offence under section 24, (such as abuse of a resident) is liable to a fine of not more than \$100,000.

**b) For Directors, Officers, Members of Committee of Management:** The following rules apply if an individual is convicted of an offence as a director or officer of a corporation:

- If the individual is a member of a committee of management/board of management or a director or officer of a corporation that is the licensee of a non-profit Long-Term Care home, the individual is liable to a fine of not more than \$2,000.
- In every other case, the individual is liable to a fine of not more than \$100,000 for a first offence, and not more than \$200,000 for a subsequent offence.

**c) For Corporations:** Any corporation convicted of an offence under this Act could be fined up to a maximum of \$200,000 for a first offence and a maximum of \$500,000 for a subsequent offence.

**Note:** An individual may be prosecuted and convicted under this section even if the corporation has not been prosecuted or convicted.

- 7. Expand the MOHLTC's ability to return/withhold funding:** The MOHLTC can currently withhold funding from the nursing and personal care fund when an amount is owed by the home. The proposed change would mean that funding owed by a home could come from any specific funding envelope such as direct funding, resident co-payments and preferred accommodation revenue. Returning/withholding funding could negatively impact the care provided to residents.
- 8. Publicly post directives for improvement:** Inspection reports are currently published; with new amendments the MOHLTC can also publish cease admission order, written plans for achieving compliance, administrative monetary penalty information, and convictions and penalties imposed on a home.