

# Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW) – Guide for Jurisdictions Summary



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Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) works with partners to spread innovation, build capability and catalyze policy change so that everyone in Canada has safe and high-quality healthcare. Through collaboration with patients, caregivers and people working in healthcare, we turn proven innovations into lasting improvements in all dimensions of healthcare excellence.

HEC focuses on improving care of older adults, bringing care closer to home and supporting the retention of the health workforce – with quality and safety embedded across all our efforts. We are committed to fostering inclusive, culturally safe and equitable care through engagement with different groups, including patients and caregivers, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, healthcare workers and more.

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# Overview

The *Nursing Home Without Walls (NHWW)* program is an innovative, person- and community-centered model designed to support older adults in aging in place. NHWW leverages the assets of nursing homes and community partners to improve quality of life and delay or avoid entry into long-term care. Originally developed in New Brunswick by Dr. Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard, NHWW has shown success through collaborative implementation with the Government of New Brunswick Ministry of Social Development, Université de Moncton and Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC).

## Nursing Home Without Walls – Guide for Jurisdictions

You can read the full Implementation Guide Here:

[Full Guide for Jurisdictions](#)



# Program Foundations

## Core Principles

- NHWW is led by a nursing home or long-term care centre that partners with the community to co-develop and deliver services.
- Services are offered at no cost to older adults and their care partners.
- Emphasizes autonomy, social connection, and aging as a valued life stage.
- Utilizes asset-based community development approaches.

## Key Activities

- Needs assessments to identify local gaps and opportunities.
- Development of flexible, culturally safe, and responsive services.
- Connection to and navigation of existing supports.
- Ongoing data collection, evaluation, and service adaptation.
- Planning for sustainability and continued community engagement.

# Is NHWW A Fit for Your Region?

## Key Considerations

1. **Strategic Alignment:** Is NHWW in alignment with strategic and relative priorities?
2. **Political & Economic Conditions:** Are social, political and economic conditions favourable for NHWW? Is there sufficient support and stability to sustain funding and momentum?
3. **Infrastructure Readiness:** Are there nursing homes and community infrastructure available to support NHWW?

## Assessment Tools

Use policy scans, strategy alignment/review, and stakeholder engagement to evaluate readiness.

Consider regional nursing home funding models (e.g., public vs. private homes, profit vs. not-for-profit) and regulatory environments (e.g., long-term care legislation).

## Getting Started

### Steps for Implementation

#### Build Partnerships

Engage ministries, community organizations, researchers, and health system leaders early. Leverage existing partners and cultivate new strategic relationships to enhance NHWW's impact.

#### Review and Secure Resources

Assess the resource and funding requirements for the NHWW program to evaluate alignment with existing budgets and opportunities for implementation across your province, territory or region.

#### Leverage Leadership

Identify key contacts who have a good understanding of your province/territory's aging strategy, relevant policies and legislation, community development and who can provide system-level support/advocacy.

#### Identify Communities

Consider what regions, communities or populations could benefit from this program. Use provincial level data to identify areas with unmet needs, for example rural, remote and/or underserved populations/communities.

#### Develop Tailored Implementation and Sustainability Plan

Assess the needs and available supports to guide the implementation of NHWW. Draw on lessons from New Brunswick's experience with NHWW implementation and evaluation to strengthen your program planning. Identify and access capacity-building and implementation supports where available.

