

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

**Ministère des Services à
l'enfance et des Services
sociaux et communautaires**



Assistant Deputy Minister
Social Assistance Programs
Division

Sous-ministre adjoint
Division des programmes d'aide
sociale

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April 16, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO: Bonnie Elder
Ontario Works Administrator, City of Hamilton

FROM: Richard Steele
ADM, Social Assistance Programs Division

SUBJECT: Addictions Services Initiative Wind-Down

I am writing to inform you that the ministry is winding down the Addiction Services Initiative (ASI). Pursuant to section 14 of the Service Contract, the Ministry is hereby providing notice to the City of Hamilton that it is terminating the Service Contract, or part of the Service Contract, with respect to ASI services effective as of July 31, 2019.

Evaluations of the ASI over the past few years have shown it is not demonstrating sufficient value for investment to justify continuing the program.

As the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continues to expand access to mental health and addictions supports across the province, the government's plan includes a province-wide wraparound model with connections to supports customized to the needs of the individual.

Funding for the ASI will continue until July 31, 2019 to allow time for transition planning with staff, local service delivery partners and program participants. Further details on ASI funding, prorated to July 31, 2019 will be included as part of the 2019-20 Ontario Works Budget/Service Contracting package.

Program Wind-Down

To support transition, the ASI Service Planning Template has been amended, and your Social Assistance Program Supervisor will be available to assist wind-down planning that addresses unique local circumstances. For example, the ministry recognizes that a small number of participants may remain in treatment as of July 31st and expects that no such participants will be cut off from their treatment.

Moving Forward

Social assistance delivery partners are expected to continue to assist recipients in accessing resources appropriate to their individual needs, including publicly-funded addictions assessment and treatment services, to support individual and employment outcomes.

I would like to thank you for your dedication to helping participants whose substance use creates a barrier to employment. We look forward to working together with our Ontario Works delivery partners to build a system that is simpler, more sustainable and more effective.

Should you have any inquiries, please contact your Social Assistance Program Supervisor.



Richard Steele

Assistant Deputy Minister

Social Assistance Programs Division

cc:

Anna Cain, Director, Social Assistance Program Policy Branch
Patti Redmond, Director, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch
Social Assistance Program Managers
Social Assistance Program Supervisors
Jo-Anne Platts, Business Manager, Social Assistance Service Delivery Branch
Jeffrey Bowen, Director, Social Assistance & Municipal Operations Branch