

# Living in the Community with a Ventilator



This resource was created for patients requiring long-term ventilation wishing to transition back into the community.

## Introduction

I would prefer to live in the community... is that possible?

What Funding Resources are Available for Equipment & Supplies?

What Funding Resources are Available for Hiring Caregivers?

# Introduction

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## My medical team tells me that I will need a ventilator permanently.... now what ?

There are many reasons why you may need a ventilator to help you breath.

Once your initial medical condition has been stabilized, you may not require the level of care that is provided by an ICU setting, and instead, you may be a candidate to transition out of the ICU into a more appropriate environment such as your home or a long-term ventilation (LTV) unit found within specialized centers.

Long-Term Ventilation Centre's have a team of highly specialized professionals and programs that help enrich the quality of life. They can work with you to plan an appropriate discharge plan best suited to your circumstances while continuing to fostering safe, quality care.

You may have the potential for rehabilitation and placement in the community while others will require permanent residence at a specialized center.



“Quality of life is important. Leaving the safety net of the ICU was hard, but gaining independence and living my best life was more important to me and my family.”



# I would prefer to live in the community... is that possible?

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## Planning

Living in the community on a ventilator is definitely possible but requires careful thought and planning.

Some of the most important questions to ask yourself and your family are:

- 1** **Do I have enough caregiver supports to remain safe at home?** This includes government support as well as private support such as family and friends.
- 2** **Do I have the financial means to live in the community?** The government provides some funding but may not cover 100% of all costs associated with living at home.
- 3** **What insurance coverage do I have?** This includes money for hired caregivers and all of the equipment, supplies and renovations.
- 4** **Do I have a back up plan in place incase my situation changes and I cannot live in the community?**

## Break down the details

If you feel that the community is the right choice for you,, then it is time to get more detailed. A social worker may be able to help you:

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Create a realistic two week calendar of your caregivers shifts.

Ensure that the schedule is realistic. As an example, someone working fulltime cannot work all day and then provide care all night!

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Get the details from your Insurance Company.

If you have insurance - understand the details. For example what is the annual or lifetime amount of money. Are you required to hire only registered staff.

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Understand Home &

HCSS will provide the number of hours they will fund. Understand the details and what the

Community Supports (HCSS)

responsibilities are if there are no shows or sick calls.

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Understand the Funding Options available to you.

There maybe many options available to provide support. Understand what you are eligible for and the restrictions with each. For example, traditional HCSS Support, Family Managed Care or Direct Funding.

## **Be realistic and have an open discussion with the family.**

Living at home not only affects the patient but everyone involved. Many caregivers have families of their own, full time jobs, no additional space or bedrooms, or perhaps they live in another city, making it impossible to care for their loved one their home.

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**We recommend, for patients that are reliant on someone for all aspects of their care, having 3-5 caregivers in addition to those**

provided by Home and Community Care Support (HCCSS) worked best.

# What Funding Resources are Available for Equipment & Supplies?

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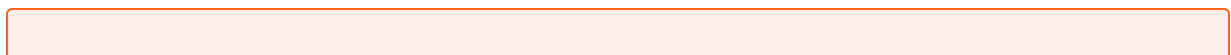
## Ventilator Equipment Pool

The Ventilator Equipment Pool (VEP) is a provincial service operated by Kingston Health Sciences Centre that provides life-enhancing equipment to thousands of patients across Ontario.

Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), the VEP is the central provincial depot of ventilators and related equipment for persons of all ages who require these devices at home and who have been approved under the ministry's Assistive Devices Program.

All eligible adult patients moving into the community may receive **(at no charge)**:

- 1 Up to 2 ventilators
- 2 Battery and charger (incase of power failure)
- 3 Humidifier
- 4 Ventilator circuit(s)
- 5 Mechanical in-exsufflators (cough assist device)







[Click Here to Learn More About the Ventilator Equipment Pool](#)

## Respiratory Equipment Funding

The Ministry of Health as part of the Assistive Devices Program provides funding to cover costs related to respiratory equipment that is not provided by the Ventilator Equipment Pool.

ADP covers approximately 75% of the ADP price for respiratory equipment, including cardiorespiratory monitors, suction devices, medication compressors, high output air compressors, airway clearance devices, and PAP systems.

Patients are responsible for the remaining 25% of the ADP price.



If you are receiving financial assistance from Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program or Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities, ADP will cover 100% the cost of the respiratory equipment.

## Tracheostomy Equipment and Supplies, and suction device supplies

For these supply items, you can apply to receive an annual grant. It is paid out in four installments, as follows:

- \$180 per year (\$45 paid every three months) for portable/stationary suction machine supplies
- \$900 per year (\$225 paid every three months) for tracheostomy tubes
- \$420 per year (\$105 paid every three months) speaking valves

- \$1,500 per year (\$375 every three months) for other tracheostomy supplies

You must pay any costs over these amounts.



[Click Here to Learn More About ADP Funding](#)

## Other Equipment

You may require additional equipment such as ramps, bed and ceiling lifts. Speak to your social worker who can provide you with additional information and agencies which may be able to provide assistance.

# What Funding Resources are Available for Hiring Caregivers?

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## Home Care Services

Your local HCCSS has built relationships with trusted service provider partners and have a rigorous process to select the most qualified health-care providers to care for you in your community.

Some of the care and services HCCSS provide include:

- Nursing
- Personal support such as bathing and getting dressed
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech-language therapy
- Social work
- Nutritional counseling
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Information about and referral to additional health and social services in your community.

## Family Managed-Care

Through the program, eligible patients, or their substitute decision-makers, will receive funding that they can use to purchase home care services or employ care providers. Patients or substitute decision-makers are responsible for managing their care providers and reporting to Home and Community Care Support Services Central.

Patients must first have an assessment to determine their needs, must meet the eligibility requirements for traditional home care and must have a plan of service developed by your Care Coordinator.

If the patient has a substitute decision-maker, the substitute decision-maker will also be assessed by your Care Coordinator to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements to take on the required responsibilities under the program, including managing and coordinating the patient's care and managing and reporting on funding.



[Click Here to Learn More About HCCSS and the Services They Offer](#)


## Direct Funding

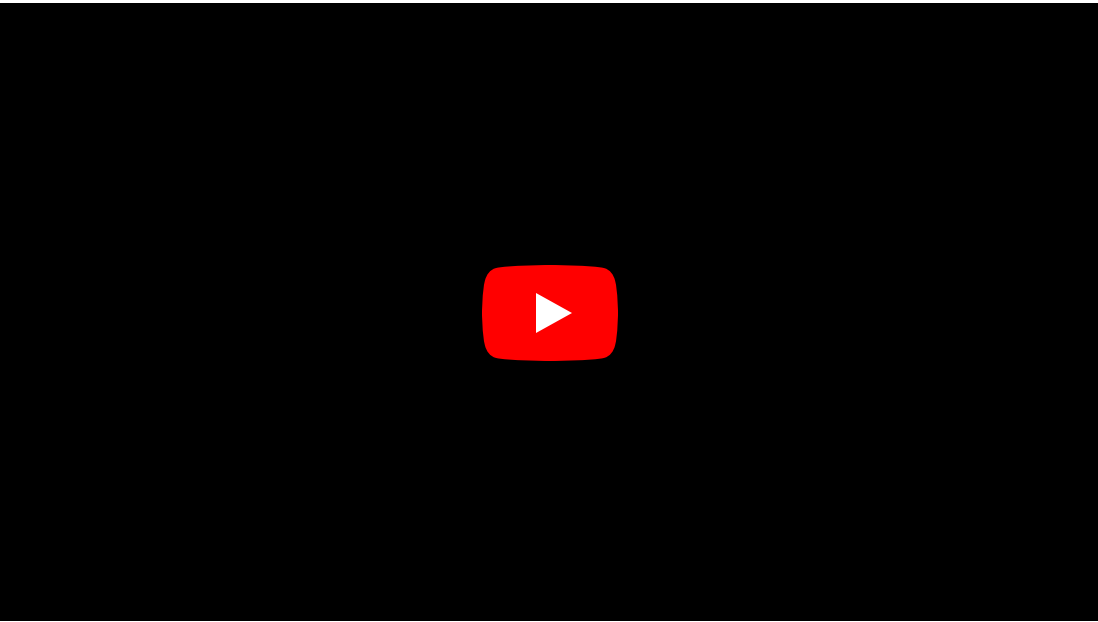
Direct Funding is an innovative program enabling adults with physical disabilities to become employers of their own attendants.

Attendants assist with routine activities of living, such as dressing, grooming and bathing.

As employers, participants are fully responsible for managing their own employees within a budget that is developed on an individual basis.

Available province wide, the Direct Funding Program enables adults with physical disabilities to receive monthly funds for attendants of their own choosing, to schedule as they please - whether their needs are at home, at work, or in the community. Individuals self-manage their lives, making their own choices with greater flexibility and control.

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 [Click Here to Learn More About Direct Funding](#)