



Financially Assisted Social Prescribing

A Year In Review 2025

The past year has been a year of growth, learning, and collaboration for the Financially Assisted Social Prescribing (FASP) Project. Together with our community partners, dedicated volunteers, and the invaluable contributions of the Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG), Advisory Committee (AC), and the Social Prescribing Service Community Coordination Collective (SPSCCC, or “the Collective”) we have taken important steps to strengthen health equity and expand access to social prescribing opportunities across Hamilton’s wards* 2, 3, and 4. As we reflect on the past 12 months, we are proud of the progress, and grateful to our partners for their engagement with FASP and continued collaboration. FASP’s journey continues, and our experiences in 2025 have laid a strong foundation for innovation, collaboration for social prescribing in Hamilton.

Launch of the Community Health Fund (CHF) Application

March

2025

The Community Health Fund (CHF) opened applications, inviting community groups from the Collective to propose innovative projects that support the wellbeing of their service participants through social prescribing.

CHF recipients initiated their interventions

June

2025

A group of 19 applicants were selected for the CHF. Utilizing the \$300,000 fund, each brought unique approaches to improving community health and social needs through financially assisted social prescribing.

With a \$25,000 contribution from the City of Hamilton – ward* 4, we were able to extend the reach of FASP initiatives, ensuring residents living within this ward were able to access more social prescribing supports.

Additional funding from City of Hamilton - ward 4

August

2025

The year is concluding with learnings and findings from an evaluation of the CHF; 9 interviews and 7 focus groups conducted with over 52 individuals from the Collective, the Advisory Committee, Working Group and FASP Team. These stories of successes, challenges, and valuable lessons learned will help guide the next phase of FASP, inform continuous improvement, and strengthen our collective impact.

Focus Groups, final reports, & learnings

December

2025

*wards refer to municipal divisions of the city that are represented by elected councillors. To see a description of the wards in the City of Hamilton, click [here](#).

Social Prescribing Service Community Coordination Collective:

As of December 1, 2025, the Collective has increased in size from 29 to 40 organizations representing health, community, and social services across Hamilton. Throughout the year, members have met monthly to explore and develop social prescribing pathways within their organizations and share strategies to better connect health and social supports for people and communities.

40
Organizations



Collective meeting # 7, April 24, 2025 at Sir Winston Churchill Recreation Center



Collective meeting # 10 - November 27, 2025 at Bernie Morelli Recreation Center



Collective meeting # 11, December 15, 2025 at Gasworks

Date of Collective Meeting	Meeting topic and activity
Jan 23, 2025	What is Financial Wellness & Who is the CHF for?
Feb 27, 2025	Developing the Financial Assistance Toolkit & Introducing the CHF
Mar 27, 2025	Sustainability & Governance of the Collective
Apr 24, 2025	Ontario 211 Network Spotlight: Community Connections
May 29, 2025	Integrating Healthcare
Jun 26, 2025	Collective Training: Serving Equity Deserving Populations, focusing on Two-Spirit LGBTQIA+
Jul 31, 2025	1st Annual Social Prescribing Community Fair
Aug 2025	Summer Break
Sep 25, 2025	Developing a social prescribing training toolkit for community
Oct 30, 2025	Annual Meeting, presenting the findings of 2024
Nov 28, 2025	Visioning the future of the Community Collective for 2026 and beyond
Dec 15, 2025	Reviewing the first Community Health Fund and planning ahead

Team Updates:

Project Assistants

In 2025, we were fortunate to welcome three dedicated Project Assistants: Lilian Altajjar, David Saldanha, and Adam Kamzi. Each spent four months embedded within the FASP team, contributing their skills, knowledge, and energy to advance our initiatives. We extend our sincere gratitude for their hard work and the positive impact they made during their time with us.



Lilian Altajjar



David Saldanha



Adam Kamzi

Senior Project Coordinator

We are delighted to announce Vanessa Raj has joined as the newest member of the FASP team. Vanessa brings fresh perspectives and enthusiasm and we look forward to the exciting contributions she will make as we continue to grow. Vanessa will be responsible for the Community Health Fund and supporting the project team as we move into the launch of the new Canadian Red Cross service providing direct supports to individuals receiving financial assistance to access social prescribing initiatives within their community.



Vanessa Raj

Sr. Project Coordinator

Vanessa.Raj@redcross.ca | 365-883-3864

Social Prescribing Community Fair

Save the date:
March 26, 2026

On International Social Prescribing Day, join the Hamilton community for their 2nd Annual Social Prescribing Community Fair. The community fair will:

- Showcase social prescribing initiatives in Hamilton
- Highlight members of the Social Prescribing Service Community Coordination Collective
- Celebrate recipients of Financially Assisted Social Prescribing, an initiative led by the Canadian Red Cross

Click here to register or save the date: [International Social Prescribing Day](#)
For more information contact: Leah.Fuller@redcross.ca

Happy Holidays!

As 2025 comes to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support of the FASP project. This year has been one of growth, collaboration and meaningful impact and we could not have done it without you!

We look forward to 2026 and the opportunities it will bring for advancing health equity and social prescribing in Hamilton. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a new year filled with good health, happiness, and prosperity.

Mirela *Adam*
Vanessa
Leah
Valentina *Le-Tien*

