



# Financially Assisted Social Prescribing (FASP) Quarterly Update

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September 2025

Year 2, Issue 1

## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, FASP!

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) has been collaborating with the [Greater Hamilton Health Network](#) and the Social Prescribing Service Coordination Community Collective (aka 'The Collective'), to develop Financially Assisted Social Prescribing (FASP). FASP is an innovative approach that will bring social prescribing to residents in Municipal wards 2, 3, and 4 in Hamilton, Ontario. The goal of the initiative is to increase health equity and informed care and services by bringing health, and community and social sectors together. On September 16, 2024, the FASP initiative officially launched its phased approach and began to develop a shared understanding of social prescribing within the community.

## Community Health Fund - Interim Findings \$323,000 earmarked for distribution by end of 2025

In March 2025, the Canadian Red Cross' FASP Community Health Fund (CHF) opened its first-ever application period. Until 2028, the CHF will annually invite organizations involved in the Collective to deliver financially assisted social prescribing to people living in Hamilton's wards 2, 3, and 4.

This has marked a pivotal moment in the rollout of the FASP initiative, as frontline community groups identified existing funding gaps that prevented them from being able to provide non-clinical resources their clients needed. Whether it was transportation, access to cultural activities, or tools to reduce social isolation, the CHF helped fill those gaps in funding and make those supports a reality. Interim reports have started to roll-in as we are now halfway through implementation of this initial testing period. To date, here are some things we've heard from CHF recipients so far:

"FASP resources were allocated to a young mother (17 years of age) for the purchase of a breast pump. The young woman was struggling with breast feeding her newborn. This small, one-time investment has benefitted both mother and baby's health. Mother reports feeling more confident about meeting baby's nutritional needs and about her abilities as a parent."

"If I had been given a pass to the RBG [Royal Botanical Gardens] 20 years ago, I wouldn't have had to take so much medication."

"Back home I was an artist. Being able to sit and do this with other women has been good for my mental health. It has meant a lot to me to attend these workshops. I'm looking forward to the next one."

Review the full list of the 2025 Community Health Fund recipients [HERE](#).

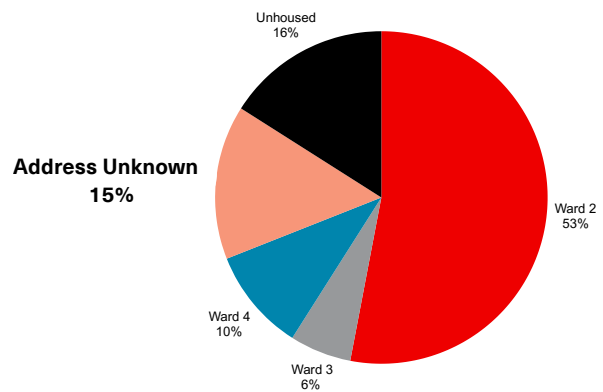
## Community Feedback

Members of The Collective had shared that there are Hamiltonians who are unable to devote themselves to a particular address for long enough to receive government-issued identification. These individuals, who are recipients of the CHF, have been classified as 'Address Unknown'. This may include people who are transient and moving from community to community or home to home, individuals who may be afraid to share their address out of fear for their safety, and also those who have experienced lost identification due to theft or other reasons.

Currently, the City of Hamilton is witnessing a number of volunteer-run initiatives supporting people who are experiencing homelessness. These initiatives have the common goal to ultimately connect unhoused individuals to services. One of these volunteer opportunities includes 'tent guarding' - guarding a tent for a period of time so that person living in it may use the washroom, shower facilities or line up for basic needs items being distributed like food, water, wound care etc, without fear of theft. Community service workers have shared with volunteers that a number of thefts are reported daily by people experiencing homelessness and have included: mobility devices like scooters or walkers, pets, and bedding, amongst everything else and in between.

It can be concluded that there are some individuals who will never be able to hold an address long enough to receive government-issued identification. This gap should be further explored to identify recommendations and possible solutions as it affects receiving any services, especially services related to Financial Assistance.

## Number of Clients Served by Ward – CHF 1 Based on Interim Reports as of July 31, 2025



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## FASP Team Updates

A very bittersweet announcement that Francis Tabu, Senior Project Coordinator, has left the FASP team, having received a prestigious spot in the new Queen's University advanced graduate diploma program in Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Management and Innovation. Francis has been instrumental in launching the first Canadian Red Cross Community Health Fund, a fund that will deliver \$323,000 to 19 organizations in 2025. Thank you and Goodbye, Francis!

An additional goodbye to David Saldanha, Project Assistant for the 2025 Summer semester. David was integral to the work the team was able to complete regarding both the Social Prescribing and Financial Assistance Service Inventories. Thank you, David!

Welcome to Adam Kazmi, Project Assistant for the remaining months of 2025. Adam attends the University of Guelph and brings passion for public policy and community engagement. Welcome, Adam!



*Francis launching the first Community Health Fund to the Collective, Feb 2025*



April 2025 SPSCCC Meeting #7 at Sir Winston Churchill Recreation Center



May 2025 SPSCCC Meeting #8 at Bernie Morelli Recreation Center

## Upcoming Events

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Community Fair at the Gasworks on July 31. It was great to see so many familiar faces and meet new ones from across the Collective, Working Group, Advisory, Volunteer teams. Your energy, ideas, and presence made the space feel electric. We are so grateful for the time, care, and conversation you brought to the gathering. These moments of connection - sharing ideas, stories, and laughter - remind us why we do this work and how much stronger we are together. We hope that you will continue to join us for some upcoming FASP events:

### **Member Social 'Salsa Night' - Friday, September 26**

Join us for a lively evening where we bring social prescribing to life. Meet the other members of FASP and share a beginner-friendly salsa class followed by pizza and good conversation. Come move, mingle, and explore how dance can foster wellbeing and community. No partner required, or, bring a plus one! Open to FASP members. Please register by contacting Leah.Fuller@redcross.ca by Wednesday September 24.

### **Annual General Meeting - October 30**

We are celebrating a full year of connection, collaboration, and community impact and we would love to have you join us. It is a chance to reflect, share stories, and continue shaping the future of FASP together. The AGM will take place at Gasworks on Thursday, October 30 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attend in-person or virtually by registering [here](#) before October 27.

### **Social Prescribing Community Fair - Take II Thursday, March 26, 2026**

After the success of the first Community Fair earlier this Summer, we heard that the community needs another, larger one! Place this as a reminder in your calendar to come to Hamilton from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Location TBD.

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### **Get Involved**

If you would like this newsletter translated to French or are interested in knowing how you can get involved by joining as Advisory Committee Member, Community Collective Member, Working Group Member, or Volunteer, please contact us:

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