

Extensive Needs Integrated Pathway | Backgrounder

About the program:

Launched in April 2023, the Extensive Needs Integrated Pathway (Extensive Needs Service, or ENS) prototype program is a specialized support program designed to provide highly specialized and individualized clinical services to children and youth with urgent and extensive care needs and their families.

Eligible families are connected to a team of health-care professionals, including physicians, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, dietitians and behavioural consultants who work together to provide support tailored to the unique needs of the child or youth and their families.

The prototype program is being delivered at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (Toronto) Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (Ottawa) and McMaster Children's Hospital (Hamilton).

The Extensive Needs Service will serve approximately 1,100 children/youth annually.

Why it's needed:

To address the needs of children with extensive clinical and developmental needs, as well as social vulnerabilities, this program provides wrap-around supports for these children and their families.

Without this program, children with urgent care and social needs have experienced frequent visits to emergency departments, avoidable acute care admissions, intensive coordination resources and repeat referrals to urgent or crisis services. They would have exhausted other services, but continue to have needs that are unmet.

The service is designed to reduce barriers for families, so they can access timely, evidence-based and trauma-informed treatment for some of the most vulnerable children in Ontario.

Who does it serve:

The program serves children and youth up to 18-years-old with extensive behavioural, developmental, mental health, medical needs and social vulnerabilities – and whose needs are not being met by other currently funded systems of care. (This means the child/youth has already accessed three or more providers across sectors and their needs are still unmet).

New partnership with partner organizations to promote equity and access to services:

Holland Bloorview will provide Extensive Needs Services across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA: Toronto, Peel, Durham and York). Over a million children aged 0-18 live in this large region that spans over 7000 square kilometers¹. The GTA is made up of multiple cities with many culturally and economically diverse communities. To promote equitable access to ENS and with a commitment to provide services that best meet the needs of unique communities, Holland Bloorview will work with system partners to deliver an integrated service delivery model across the region.

¹ <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

To this end, Holland Bloorview has partnered with **Grandview Kids, Michael Garron Hospital** and **Surrey Place** as the inaugural members of the Regional Network of Extensive Needs Service Partner Organizations

Demographic data have led Holland Bloorview to these initial strategic partnerships. Both Durham Region and parts of East Toronto have a high concentration of children and families who need this essential service. As Holland Bloorview continues its integration across the region, they will partner with organizations in the western part of Toronto and GTA in areas with the highest concentration of need.

Holland Bloorview's partnership with Surrey Place will provide seamless access to service through specialized coordinated service planning for children, youth and families who require the Extensive Needs Service program.

Partner organizations will work collaboratively with Holland Bloorview as the lead agency as well as across the developing Regional Network of Extensive Needs Service Partner Organizations within the GTA to develop a thriving and integrated community of practice.

Network partners will work collaboratively to share knowledge, expertise and resources. While each partner organization will design and operationalize a service model that reflects the unique landscape and needs of their community, all partners will share in guiding principles as established in the Extensive Needs Service's mission, vision and values of providing evidence-based, compassionate, trauma informed and individualized care to children, youth and families with extensive and unmet needs.

The Regional Network of ENS Partner Organizations will work collectively to meet the following goals:

- Provide the best possible care and clinical outcomes for children and families with extensive neurodevelopmental, behavioural and medical needs.
- Develop a strong community of practice of Extensive Needs Service providers across multiple organizations in the region.
- Enhance health system coordination, collaboration and promote effective resource stewardship.
- Measure and evaluate clinical outcomes to continuously improve the model of care delivery.

Holland Bloorview ENS Program - services and supports:

- Multi-disciplinary assessment and intensive treatment
- Specialized behaviour services
- Mental health assessment and treatment (e.g.: psychology, psychiatry)
- Social work, including supports for parents or caregivers
- Short-term respite services, concurrent with other services
- Medication management (psychopharmacology)
- Transition support and planning (e.g.: returning to community core services, school or transition to adult services) and community services consultation to support the capacity of local services

Holland Bloorview ENS team:

- Behaviour analyst and behaviour technicians
- Mental health professionals (psychiatry, psychology)
- Social workers
- Occupational therapists
- Speech-language pathologist
- Dietitians
- Coordinated service planners
- Registered nurses
- Developmental paediatrics
- Pharmacists
- Child life specialists

Funders:

The Extensive Needs Program is funded through The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

Holland Bloorview ENS Inaugural Partners:

- Surrey Place (Toronto)
- Michael Garron Hospital (East Toronto)
- Grandview Kids (Durham Region)