

Issue at a glance:
**Sustaining the Community
Paramedicine Program**



The City of Guelph calls on the Ministry of Health to provide top-up CPLTC funding to maintain service levels in 2026-27, index CPLTC funding to inflation moving forward, and provide future capital renewal funding to support the continued provision of essential community health services.

Across Ontario, the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care program (CPLTC) is a highly successful and cost-effective method to support individuals requiring long-term care who are living in the community.

The recent move to make this program permanent across the province recognizes the essential role that it plays in the healthcare continuum. However, with no funding increases since the program's inception in 2020, it is no longer possible to maintain existing levels of service, and service cuts will be necessary in the near future.

**GUELPH-WELLINGTON
PARAMEDICS**



Benefits of Community Paramedicine

The CPLTC program has demonstrated province-wide success in stabilizing individuals with long-term care needs, reducing emergency department visits, and improving the quality of life for patients and caregivers outside of traditional long-term care facilities. Guelph-Wellington Community Paramedics supported 650 individuals with regular visits in 2025, providing diagnostic and monitoring services, medical treatment, chronic illness education, and other wellness services to vulnerable individuals living in the community. This program is recognized as an essential pillar of healthcare in the community, with hospitals, doctors and family health teams often referring their patients to the community paramedic program.

Across the province, this program was found to cost **\$8.40/client/day – which represents just 13 per cent** of the government-funded cost of a basic LTC home bed.

Testimonials From Patient's Families:

"We sincerely appreciate every visit, phone call and remote monitoring that kept Mario independent and happily at home for the last few years of his life.

Mario looked forward to every monthly visit as your team was not there only to see how he was doing physically but took the time to chat with Mario who loved the company and ability to discuss life that was beyond his medical condition. Dad loved the ability to control and manage his health daily and always shared the morning call he received with the Paramedic team when he was having a bad day."

"My mum wasn't feeling well for a few months, Guelph Wellington Community Paramedic Andrew did monthly house visits. He knew what she needed. After a couple of hospital visits mum received a pace maker. Today mum said to Andrew "thank you for saving my life" one of my favorite moments ever."



Funding shortfalls and long-term sustainability.

The recent transition of CPLTC to a permanent funding model is fantastic news for Guelph Wellington Paramedic Services (GWPS) and other paramedic services across the province. This is a recognition of the essential role that community paramedicine plays in the broader healthcare system, and supports long-term planning and capital investments needed to provide a high level of service. The City greatly appreciates the provinces attention to advocacy by municipalities and paramedic services, and looks forward to the rollout of permanent funding.

Unfortunately, annual CPLTC allocations have not kept up with inflationary pressures, remaining static over the past 4 years. Driven by rising staffing costs, maintaining the existing level of CPLTC service into 2026-27 is expected to result in a **\$200,000** deficit for GWPS, unsustainably shifting the burden onto municipal tax payers.

Notably, this deficit only reflects ongoing operating costs. With several vehicles and cardiac monitors and defibrillators imminently approaching end-of-life, there are future capital costs on the horizon which are critical to maintain operations, to the

tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The province previously provided one-time funding in 2020 to support start-up capital costs, but there has been no indication of any future capital renewal funding.

In light of the \$200,000 projected deficit, and with no indication of additional operating funding above the 2026-27 allocation, GWPS will be reducing service levels starting as early as September 2026. GWPS anticipates a reduction of 200-300 home visits annually, and the need to de-roster 100 remote monitoring patients, which will have direct impacts on the ability of vulnerable patients to access timely preventative care.

The City of Guelph and Wellington County are considering cost-sharing arrangements to maintain current service levels. However, with a continuing increase in overall paramedic call volumes (8.36 per cent from 2023 to 2025), and ongoing challenges related to paramedic compensation, the overall paramedicine budget is already under strain, and may not be able to support additional discretionary spending on CPLTC.

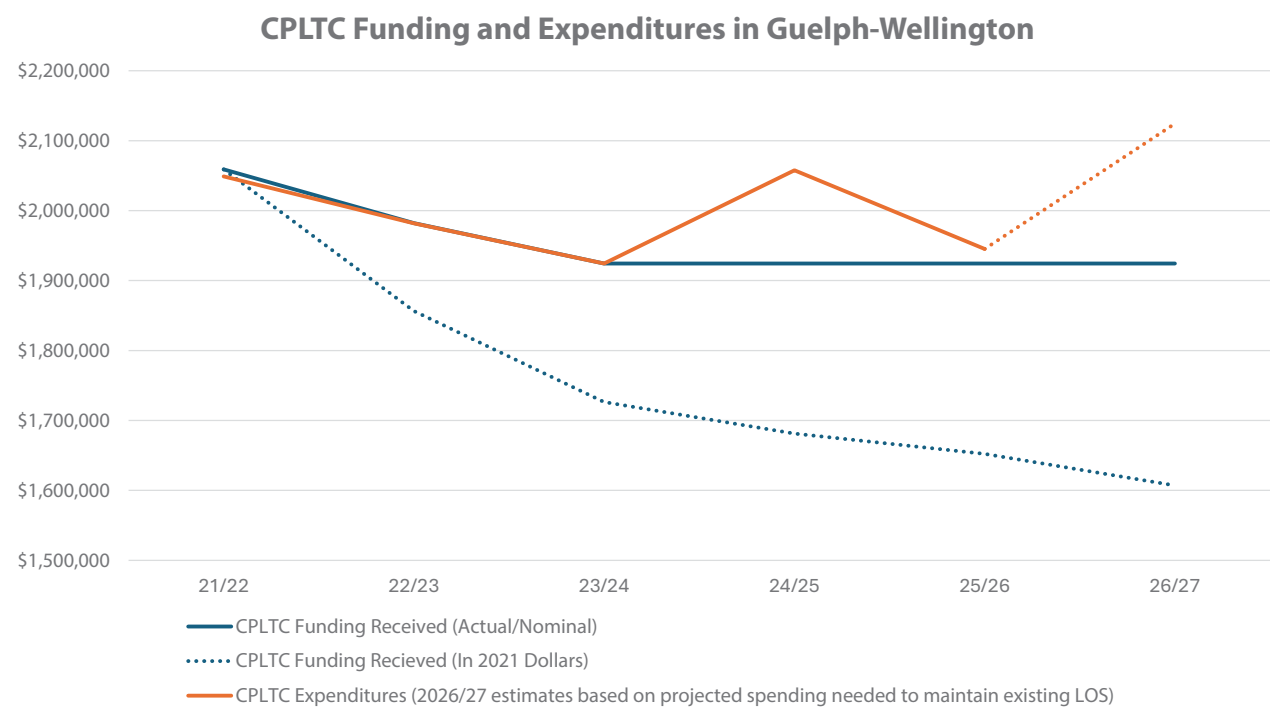


Figure 1: Comparison of CPLTC funding received by Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Services compared to the actual program expenditures. When adjusted for inflation, funding has been on a steady decline since the program's inception.

Key facts

CPLTC is cost-effective:

CPLTC offers 87 per cent cost savings to the province per patient as compared to traditional long-term care homes, and reduces pressure on overburdened 911 services and Alternative Level of Care (ALC) beds.

CPLTC supports a growing number of individuals waiting for traditional long-term care:

as of March 2026, each of the LTC facilities in Guelph had over 900 individuals on their waitlists, with the waitlists exceeding facility capacity by 3.8-7.9 times. These numbers have grown since 2025, and demonstrate the need for alternative care models.

CPLTC funding has not kept up with inflation:

since the inception of CPLTC, annual funding has remained largely static, and has been on a steady decline when adjusted for inflation. Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Services is expecting a \$200,000 operating deficit in 2026-27 should existing service levels be maintained, not counting aging assets that will require replacement in the near future.





1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca
guelph.ca

Accessible formats available upon request.