

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) across Ontario Background Ontario Provincial Funding Ask

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) across Ontario

- RMHC across Ontario annually supports **14,464 families** from **1,128 communities** (2019)
 - **5 Ronald McDonald Houses** (Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Windsor)
 - **12 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms** (located within Ontario hospitals: SickKids, CHEO, McMaster Children's, London Health Sciences Centre, Markham Stouffville, Scarborough Health Network, Sudbury Health Sciences, Credit Valley Hospital)
- With just **6 pediatric specialty hospitals** in our province, the **reality is that 65% of Ontariansⁱ** do **not** live in a community with a children's hospital, making travel to obtain healthcare for their sick child essential.
- **RMHC enables critical access to children's healthcare across Ontario** in a caring, affordable, accessible, inclusive, and supportive environment that provides accommodation, meals, laundry, education, and overall family wellness supports, including mental health supports to families – all just steps from their child's hospital beside.
- Each year in Ontario there are an estimated 500,000 pediatric patients requiring hospital treatment. Of these, **17,000** are Ontario's most seriously ill and injured children **who must travel 100KM** or more to access pediatric healthcare.ⁱⁱ
- Sadly, due to demand that outpaces our supply of bedrooms, we are not able to support all the families who need us. Today, we are meeting just **20% of the total needⁱⁱⁱ** - **that's 4 in 5 Ontario families left to fend for themselves.**
- **We are turning away more than 1,100 families** in an average year, and we know that thousands more never make it on to our waitlists.

COVID has only made our situation worse due to lower capacity limits and health safety requirements

- The pandemic has resulted in inequalities for families with sick children, described by some as facing **two pandemics – COVID-19, and that of caring for a sick child:**
 - Today, pediatric hospitalizations are **highly acute** due to delays in medical treatments
 - We must prepare ourselves for **a surge** in need due to a backlog in surgeries that could take anywhere from 3-5-10 years to catch-up and normalize again; Even before the pandemic our demand was outpacing our supply of rooms available.
 - We are in a **mental health crisis** within our pediatric healthcare system: there has been a **61% increase in emergency room visits among children and youth for mental health conditions over the last decade^{iv}**
 - Further, parents of chronically ill children are **75% more likely to have depression**, and **40% more likely to have anxiety** than parents of healthy children.^v
 - **The patterns of care and the complexities** in pediatrics are changing. We are continuing to see more treatments over longer periods of time. With COVID-19, **average length of stay has increased**, with some families staying up to a year or more.

RMHC's Economic Impact

- In an average year, RMHC Houses **save Ontario families more than \$21M** in out-of-pocket expenses^{vi} - for food, accommodation, transportation, travel and childcare.
- A recent RBC Economic Impact Study showed that in just one year with a sick child, parents who must travel to Toronto can face **up to \$38,000** in bills for travel, accommodation, parking, childcare, and food.^{vii} This debt can take **up to 19 years for a family to pay back**.^{viii} In Ottawa, the costs for an average family are up to \$10,000!^{ix}
- In a study done by Canadian child health researcher Argerie Tsimicalis, of 99 Ontario families with a child who requires oncology treatment, the costs incurred by families within just the first three months following their child's cancer diagnosis are \$28,475. Total direct and indirect **costs ranged up to \$51,906 within the first three months**.^x
- Ronald McDonald Houses enable access to our children's hospitals but we also **enable Ontario Healthcare system savings** because patients receiving outpatient treatment can live at an RMHC House, and/or are often released early from the hospital to RMHC as part of their transition home.

It's time to build out our community & healthcare infrastructure to the next level!
The need is urgent and real

RMHC's Funding Ask of the Government of Ontario

- **Help us to continue to be there for Ontario families with sick children** by providing better access to pediatric healthcare to meet the needs of Ontario's families.
- **A one-time capital investment of \$67M** from the Ontario government will enable us to **grow from 177 bedrooms to 349 bedrooms**, creating a new level of capacity, and pandemic proofing our Houses.
- With RMHC's planned capacity expansion, we will save **Ontario families over \$51 million a year²** in out-of-pocket expenses (i.e. lodging, food, gas, etc.).
- Our total capital build costs are estimated at \$201M; our ask is for the Ontario Government to consider a 1/3 investment of \$67M, broken out as follows:
 - RMHC Toronto (*grow from 81 bedrooms to 200*): **\$47M**
 - RMHC Southwestern Ontario: London (*grow from 34 bedrooms to 65*): **\$12.8M**
 - RMHC Ottawa (*grow from 14 bedrooms to 36*): **\$6.2M**
 - RMHC Southcentral Ontario: Hamilton (*pandemic proof & retrofit to be able to operate its 41 full bedrooms*): **191K**
- RMHC will fundraise to cover the remaining amount from individuals, community fundraising, corporations including McDonald's Restaurants of Canada, and other levels of government.
- **RMHC will also continue to cover 100% of all operating costs** (projected to grow from \$12.6M to \$17.7M annually across Ontario).

Expansion and Pandemic Proofing Estimates and timelines, subject to confirmation post funding:

RMHC Chapter	RMHC Southwestern Ontario	RMHC South Central Ontario	RMHC Toronto	RMHC Ottawa	
Location of House	London	Hamilton	Toronto	Ottawa	Totals
Current Bedroom Capacity:	34	41	81	14	170
New Bedrooms To Be Added:	31	-	119	22	172
Future Bedroom Capacity:	65	41	200	36	342
Amount Requested Ontario Provincial:	\$12,868,480.83	\$191,991	\$47,821,349	\$6,291,577	\$67,173,398
Project Budget:	\$38,605,443	\$959,959	\$143,464,046	\$18,874,732	\$201,904,180
Construction Start Date:	Q3 2023	Immediate	Q4 2024	Q2 2023	
Construction End Date:	Fall 2025	Immediate	Q4 2028	Q3 2024	
Build Details:	New Build	Retrofit	New Build	New Build	
Families served (in average year)	1100	700	700	200	
Families served (with new build)	14000	13000	28000	4000	

The Impact of Government dollars for Ontario Families

- An investment in Ronald McDonald Charities Canada, is an investment in Ontario families.
- The services and support provided by RMHC represent a multi-ministerial approach and impact, including:
 - **Healthcare:** RMHC enables access to and savings for Ontario children's hospitals
 - **Social Infrastructure:** Through our essential community and healthcare infrastructure, we are helping to end hallway healthcare
 - **Housing:** We provide temporary Housing and shelter for families with sick children across the province
 - **Children and families:** Parents strongly believe staying at a Ronald McDonald House helped to support the best possible health outcomes for their child, improved their child's recovery, and shortened the amount of time their child stayed in the hospital^{xi}
 - **Finance:** Having a sick child in Ontario should not bankrupt a family. A \$38,000 out-of-pocket expense to address a child's healthcare needs represents 57% of the average Canadian family's disposable income.^{xii} Costs exceeding 5-15% of yearly gross income are considered an unfair burden, with the upper limit a sign of a catastrophic burden.^{xiii}
 - **Mental health and wellbeing:** Hospital administrators report that a Ronald McDonald House stay reduces feelings of isolation, helps parents get enough sleep, and helps reduce stress for the parents, siblings, and the sick child^{xiv}
 - **Accessibility:** RMHC is a longtime partner of the Rick Hansen Foundation, and we will continue to follow the highest level of accessibility standards for new House builds
 - **Education:** RMHC Toronto is the only House in Canada with a fully accredited school for siblings and the sick child for grades JK – 12.

ⁱ Statistics Canada, 2016

[†] Estimate using CIHI DAD and NACRS data, 2018.

[‡] Estimate using CIHI DAD and NACRS data, 2018.

[§] Canadian Institute for Health Information.

[¶] Health Outcomes of Parents of Children with Chronic Illness, Cohn et al., 2020

^{||} RBC Economic Impact Study, 2019.

^{¶¶} RBC Economic Impact Study, 2019.

^{¶¶¶} RBC Economic Impact Study, 2019. Based on RMHC Toronto data.

^{¶¶¶¶} RBC Economic Impact Study, 2019.

^{¶¶¶¶¶} Argerie Tsimicalis, Costs Incurred By Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with Cancer in Ontario, A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing University of Toronto, 2010

^{¶¶¶¶¶¶} Ronald McDonald Houses Lead to More Positive Hospital Experience for Parents. Franck et al., 2015

^{¶¶¶¶¶¶¶} RBC Economic Impact Study, 2019.

^{¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶} Argerie Tsimicalis, Costs Incurred By Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with Cancer in Ontario, A thesis submitted in conformity with the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing University of Toronto, 2010

^{¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶} Hospital Leadership Perspectives On The Contributions of Ronald McDonald Houses. Lantz et al., 2015