



Business Plan

2023-24

Addictions and Mental Health

**NOVA SCOTIA**

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Budget 2023-24: Business Plan
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Office of Addictions and Mental Health

2023-24 Priority Actions in Support of Government's Business Plan

Health system transformation is a priority of the OAMH in this fiscal year. Through [Action for Health \(novascotia.ca\)](https://novascotia.ca) the government has articulated a multi-year roadmap to transform the health system. Action for Health provides a framework for the priorities this year, in partnership with DHW, the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment (OHPR), NSHA and the IWK. Action for Health outlines solutions for creating a world class health system that will be ready when Nova Scotians need it, is responsive to their needs and provides reliable care they can count on.

Fully achieving Action for Health will take time, however, it will provide Nova Scotians with better access to addictions and mental health services when and where people need them.

2023/24 Priority Actions

The 2023/24 fiscal year will be a critical year for progress in priority areas of Action for Health. The following actions represent the OAMH priorities for the year.

Strengthen Workforce

- Add a new stream to the nursing program at Dalhousie University to increase the number of nurses who graduate with specialized mental health and addictions training.
- Increase professional development and practice support in the Mental Health and Addictions program.

Increase Access to Mental Health and Addictions Services (community and hospital)

- Open three more mental health day hospitals (Cape Breton Regional, Colchester East Hants, Valley Regional).
- Continue to integrate mental health and addictions services into the virtual health program for all Nova Scotians.
- Establish a community wellness framework to guide long-term funding for community organizations working to improve community wellness.
- Continue to work with the Federal Government and other partners to introduce a three-digit mental health crisis line (9-8-8).
- Expand our investments in harm reduction initiatives including sobering centre, managed alcohol programs, mobile outreach street health.

Build in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into OAMH supported Programs and Services

- Improve patient experiences by offering culturally relevant mental health and addictions services.
- Establishing an Afrocentric model of Mental Health and Addictions services designed by the African Nova Scotian community. Communities served will include Beechville, Cherry Brook, East Preston, Hammonds Plains, Lucasville, and North Preston.
- Working with Tajikeyimik to improve coordination and collaboration of indigenous mental health and addictions services to address gaps in service.
- Enhancing data collection to better understand the health of our communities to guide policy and investment decisions and support prevention efforts.

New Models of Care and Expansion of Services

- Test new models of care to enhance interactions between police and persons experiencing Mental Health and Addictions crisis in community.
- Implement and expand access wellness support services, peer support lines, recovery support centres as well as the integrated youth services model.
- Implementation and evaluation of Universal Mental Health and Addictions Care pilots.

Financial Summary

Departmental Expenses Summary (\$ thousands)			
<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2022 -2023 Estimate</u>	<u>2022-2023 Forecast</u>	<u>2023-2024 Estimate</u>
General Administration	191	188	186
Strategic Direction and Accountability	2,436	2,352	2,894
Service Delivery and Supports	266,004	286,303	303,775
Total – Departmental Expenses	268,631	288,843	306,855
Ordinary Recoveries	5,108	5,608	5,778
<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	21.0	19.4	24.0

Note:
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1

