

Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition Program

The annual [Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition Program](#) celebrates and honours caregivers (family members, friends, neighbours, etc.) whose kindness, dedication, and support enables people to live at home despite the impacts of age, illness or disability. The program is designed to recognize caregivers that live the Ontario Health atHome Values of **collaboration, respect, integrity** and **excellence**.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the criteria for recognizing a caregiver through the Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition Program?

The following criteria must be met:

- The caregiver(s) lives in Ontario and is providing care to a patient who has recently received, or is currently receiving, services through Ontario Health atHome (formerly Home and Community Care Support Services).
- The caregiver is not a paid or registered volunteer.

2. How will caregivers be recognized?

There are now two ways to recognize caregivers:

- a. **General recognition:** Recognize a caregiver by name only. With their consent, we will acknowledge them by sharing their name during the event, within the event program and on the Ontario Health atHome website. All general recognition caregivers will receive a token of appreciation.
- b. **Category Recognition:** If you feel the caregiver you are introducing to us has a story that would inspire and add value to other caregivers, please select one of the categories detailed below and share a few more details (a short story or bullet points - maximum 500 words) with us. **Caregivers** selected for recognition under each of the recognition categories will receive special acknowledgement in addition to the general token of appreciation.

3. What are the recognition categories?

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Young Caregiver	This award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of a friend or family member under the age of 30 who has gone above and beyond to support the needs of a loved one.
Partner in Care	This caregiving partner has provided long standing and continued support to an individual in their home or community.
Caring with Courage	Through encouragement, empowerment and support, this caregiver has directly brought about positive change to their loved one's quality of life.
Caring and Sharing	This caregiver is giving back to their community by helping and guiding others through sharing the knowledge and experience gained from their journey.
Caregiver Team	Group of people (care team) that come together to support an individual in their home or community.
Caregiver Resilience	This individual has provided palliative and end-of-life caregiving to their family member, friend or neighbour. Please tell us about their story of resiliency in the face of loss and grief. How can their story inspire others or provide comfort to those that are currently supporting a loved one at end-of-life?
Caregiver Innovation	This caregiver(s) uses innovative and creative strategies to support an individual in their home or community.

4. Why are paid or volunteer caregivers not included?

While we recognize that all caregivers are important members of a patient's care team, organizations that have paid and volunteer caregivers often have their own recognition programs to honour those individuals. Our focus for this recognition program is to highlight the invaluable contributions of our patients' family, friends, neighbours etc., whose kindness, dedication, and support enables people to live at home despite the impacts of age, illness or disability.

5. Why do I need to get the caregiver's permission prior to submitting their name for recognition?

The purpose of this program is to recognize, honour and celebrate caregivers. To do that, we require the caregiver's consent so that we can contact them and share their stories/photos in the program materials, as well as on the Ontario Health atHome website and social media platforms.

6. If I'm not able to complete the online submission form, is there another way I can submit the form?

Those who are unable to use the online submission, or who need help completing the form can call us toll-free at 1-855-276-3096 or email us at engagement@ontariohealthathome.ca and one of our Ontario Health atHome Engagement team members will assist you.

7. What if there is more than one caregiver involved in caring for the patient, is there a way to recognize them all?

The Caregiver Team category was created to help recognize a group of people (care team) that come together to support an individual in their home or community.

8. What if more than one category applies to the caregiver?

If you feel that your caregiver may fit into multiple recognition categories, please feel free to select all that apply within your submission form and our evaluation committee will take that into consideration.

9. Where/when is the event taking place?

The 2025 Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition event will be held **virtually** on the afternoon of April 1, 2025. Caregivers and other participants from across the province are invited to join the live broadcast event which will include greetings and remarks from Ontario Health atHome leadership, general acknowledgment and celebration of all caregivers, stories for each category recipient and a facilitated engagement session, where attendees will have an opportunity to share learnings and resources with their fellow caregivers. A recording will also be made available afterwards for those who are unable to attend on April 1.

10. Will I have to speak at the event?

Participants will not be asked to speak during the Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition event. Caregivers will be recognized during the event by having their preferred name and city included in the presentation, and some recipient stories will be shared by event staff, with advance consent.

11. Will there be an opportunity for caregivers to connect with each other?

Yes – Following the formal event presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to share their learnings and experiences through a facilitated engagement session by way of the chat feature. These will be captured and added to our [Caregiver Learnings](#) webpage to share best practices, recommendations and inspire others.

12. Who were the caregivers and category recipients recognized at previous Above and Beyond Caregiver Recognition Events?

The list of caregivers and category recipients from our [past events](#), as well as more information about the program, can be found on our [website](#).

For further questions or more information, please contact us at 1-855-276-3096 or engagement@ontariohealthathome.ca.