Living Classroom:

Personal Support Worker & Practical Nursing Funding

September 29, 2026
12:00 pm

LET'S START ›

LIVING CLASSROOM

Land Acknowledgement

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we are on today. While we meet on a virtual platform, I would like to acknowledge the importance of the lands, which we each call home. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures.

Housekeeping

Introductions

Welcome and speaker introductions.

Recording Policy

Session recording guidelines and notice.

Q&A

Q&A to follow presentation. Please use the chat function.

Post-Session Resources

Slides and Q&A will be posted to the Living Classroom website's Fund page.

Agenda

01 Welcome and Acknowledgements

02 Overview of the Living Classroom

03 Wave 5 Funding: Call for Applicants (PSW and PN)

04 FAQs & Application Details

05 Q&A

Funding Acknowledgement

The Living Classroom program is funded by the **Government of Ontario** and led by the **Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA)** , in partnership with the **Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA)**.

The Living Classroom Fund (2026-2029)

Program Expansion

MLTC funding has **expanded** the LC model across Ontario for both PSW and PN student education.

Graduate Growth

Increase the number of **PSWs & PNs** graduating from LCs.

Recruitment & Retention

Goal to improve **PSW & PN recruitment and retention** in LTC homes.

Model Evaluation

Evaluate different models of LCs and their impact on **recruitment and retention** in LTC.

Funding Waves: Overview

Funding Wave	Cohorts	Eligible Programs
Wave 4 (complete)	Spring/Fall 2026	PSW and PN
Wave 5 (current)	Winter/Spring/Fall 2027	PSW and PN
Wave 6 (future)	Winter/Spring/Fall 2028	PSW (existing programs only)

* **Wave 5 is the last opportunity for new LC partnerships to apply. Wave 6 will be available for existing PSW partnerships only.**

What is a Living Classroom?

Integrated Healthcare Education

A model of learning and practice for healthcare education alongside residents, families, and team members in long-term care.

Practical Experience & Mentorship

Students build confidence and gain hands-on experience to grow their skills. Residents, families, and team members enjoy the extra support, and often become mentors themselves.

Vibrant Community

The Living Classroom is a vibrant space where learning and caring grow together, every day.

Benefits of a Living Classroom

Everyone involved in the Living Classroom benefits from their inclusion

Students

- Graduate with enhanced skills, greater confidence, and practical experience in caring for older adults.
- Access rewarding career opportunities in senior living, often in their own community.

Care Teams

- Grow professionally by mentoring the next generation.
- Collaborate with students to support resident care.
- Share and exchange knowledge through collaborative learning.

Residents

- Share their knowledge and wisdom with students and educators.
- Become partners in more compassionate care.
- Benefit from helping create work-ready, highly skilled graduates.

Foundations of a Living Classroom

Shared goals and values

Formal written agreements

Learning environment

Communication & coordination

Collaborative teams

Evaluation

Integrated learning

Sustained commitment

Personal Support Worker Programs: Call for Applications

PSW

Wave 5 Funding

Inviting applications for funding to support collaboration between long-term care homes and PSW education providers.

Eligible Cohorts

Funding is available for **Winter, Spring, & Fall 2027** cohorts.

Availability

Available to **new* or existing** Living Classrooms.

* **Wave 5 is the last opportunity for NEW PSW partnerships to apply.** Wave 6 will be available for **existing** PSW partnerships only.

Personal Support Worker Programs: Call for Applications

PSW

APPLICATIONS OPEN

Sept 21, 2026

CLOSING DATE 1

Nov 2, 2026

for

Winter & Spring 2027 Cohorts

CLOSING DATE 2

Mar 29, 2027

for

Fall 2027 Cohorts

You can apply for **multiple cohorts** in a single application if they are already planned.

Who Can Apply for a PSW LC?

Applications will be accepted from any of the following **Ontario** organizations, provided **both** partner types are represented in a **joint application**:

Long-Term Care Partner
(At least one required)

- **Long-term care home**
- **Long-term care corporate office**

+

PSW Education Partner
(At least one required)

- **Publicly-assisted college**
- **Career college**
- **Indigenous institute**
- **District school board**

Either partner can serve as the **lead applicant** or the **partner organization**.

Practical Nursing Programs: Call for Applications

PN

Wave 5 Funding

Inviting applications for funding to support collaboration between long-term care homes and PN education providers.

Eligible Cohorts

Funding is available for **Winter (closed), Spring, & Fall 2027** cohorts.

Availability

Available to **new* or existing*** Living Classrooms.

* **Wave 5 is the last opportunity for new or existing PN partnerships to apply.** Wave 6 will be available for existing PSW partnerships only.

Practical Nursing Programs: Call for Applications

PN

APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED

Sept 21, 2026

for

Winter 2027 Cohorts

CLOSING DATE 1

Nov 2, 2026

for

Spring 2027 Cohorts

CLOSING DATE 2

Mar 29, 2027

for

Fall 2027 Cohorts

You can apply for **multiple cohorts** in a single application if they are already planned.

Who Can Apply for a PN LC?

Applications will be accepted from any of the following **Ontario** organizations, provided **both** partner types are represented in a **joint application**:

Lead Applicant

Public colleges

or

Indigenous Institutes

Partner Organization

Long-term care (LTC) homes

or

Their corporate offices

Practical Nursing programs that offer **PSW to PN bridging streams** will also be considered.

Lead Applicant and Partner Organizations

Fund Management
Lead Applicant

The **lead applicant** is the organization that will receive and manage funding for the Living Classroom.

Includes disseminating funding to the **partner organization(s)** as agreed upon.

Accountability
Lead Applicant

The lead applicant is accountable for **reporting on how the funds are spent**.

Must be completed in direct **consultation** with their partner organization.

Shared Duties
Both Partners

Both lead applicant and partner organization are responsible for:

- **Funding application** completion
- Program reporting & meetings
- Program evaluation requirements

Additional Applicant Requirements

Career Colleges
MCURES & NACC

Career colleges must provide proof of current approvals such as the **MCURES site inspection approval** and **National Association for Career Colleges** approval (if applicable) to integrate their PSW program into the Living Classroom model.

School Boards
CESBA Standards

School boards must meet the **Personal Support Worker Quality Assurance** requirements set out by The Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA).

All Educational Institutions
Insurance Coverage

Educational institutions are responsible to ensure their **student insurance** covers the location of the Living Classroom.

Funding Categories

01

Implementation Funding

02

Student Wraparound Supports

"The funding has been instrumental in both establishing and sustaining our PN Living Classroom program. It enabled us to create the learning environment and infrastructure needed to seamlessly integrate classroom and clinical learning, giving students a rich, practice-based educational experience."

— **Algonquin College** (PN Living Classroom Pilot)

Implementation Funding

Funding is **cohort-based** and may be applied to direct expenses across these pillars:

STARTING

Expenses directly contributing to launching your Living Classroom.

ENHANCING

Upgrading and expanding existing infrastructure and programs.

SUSTAINING

Long-term operational support to maintain ongoing educational impact.

Implementation Funding Categories

01
Renovations

02
Equipment & Supplies

03
Technology

04
Staffing Costs*
For operations of the Living Classroom

05
Marketing & Recruitment

*Inclusive of evaluation and reporting costs (previously a unique category)

Funding Notes

Planning Grants

Planning grants are **not** available for this wave of funding.

Tuition Restrictions

Funding **cannot** be used to pay student tuition costs.

Alternative Funding

Consider **PREP LTC** funding for LTC staffing costs related to preceptors or student-placement coordination.

Student Wraparound Supports

Funding is **cohort-based** and aims to reduce barriers for students to participate in and/or complete the PSW/PN program.

Wraparound Funding Categories

- Transportation
- Housing support
- Academic or course-related costs
- Food/meal support
- Child care support
- Emergency assistance fund/needs-based
- Support with health or medical-related costs
- Mental health supports
- Cultural activities/supports

Wraparound: Funding Notes

Applicants are responsible for either:

Option A:

Distributing funding to students directly.

Option B:

Spending funding on services/materials that will reduce student barriers.

Funding <u>cannot</u> be used to pay student tuition costs.

Funding Amounts

PSW

New Partnership

Preliminary amount: **$50,000**

Implementation / cohort: **$40,000**

Wraparound / cohort: **$15,000**

Existing Partnership

Implementation / cohort: **$40,000**

Wraparound / cohort: **$15,000**

*__New__ Personal Support Worker applicants will receive a **preliminary funding** amount to support initial program set-up.

Funding Amounts

PN

New Partnership

Preliminary amount: **$125,000**

Implementation / cohort: **$160,000**

Wraparound / cohort: **$30,000**

Existing Partnership

Implementation / cohort: **$160,000**

Wraparound / cohort: **$30,000**

*__New__ Practical Nursing applicants will receive a **preliminary funding** amount to support initial program set-up.

FAQs

Could a LTC home apply with two educational partners: one for PN and one for PSW training?

Yes. Two separate applications are required. For PSW programs, either the LTC home or education partner may act as the lead applicant. For PN programs, the PN education partner needs to apply as the lead applicant with a LTC home.

FAQs

Can an application include multiple long-term care homes?

Yes. A Living Classroom partnership can include more than one long-term care home. Student cohorts may be distributed or rotated among long-term care Living Classroom sites to support localized community needs, student recruitment, long-term care staffing/preceptor capacity, and program sustainability.

The lead applicant will receive and manage funding for the Living Classroom, including disbursing funds to the partner organization(s) as agreed upon between the lead applicant and the partner organization(s). Partners will be responsible for reporting and evaluation requirements for each Living Classroom site.

Separate applications for unique sites/unrelated partnerships can still be submitted.

FAQs

Do all clinical placement(s) and consolidation have to occur at the Living Classroom long-term care site?

No. The Living Classroom program recognizes that each program is unique and may offer a variety of required or optional placement settings. Acute and community placements can continue to be offered.

As a program aimed at improving recruitment and retention within long-term care, Living Classroom partners should endeavour for students to complete their consolidation placement within a long-term care setting.

FAQs

What if the long-term care home does not have the capacity to support all Living Classroom students for clinical placement or consolidation?

Partners may engage in multi-home partnerships as described previously if this model supports community and student needs.

Education providers can also partner with one long-term care Living Classroom partner for funding and integrated learning, and engage additional homes to support placement capacity.

FAQs

What does the timing for follow-up after application look like?

Within two weeks of the closing date for each application phase, viable partnerships will be invited to attend an online meeting to discuss their application.

All PSW applicants will receive final notification on the status of their funding on:

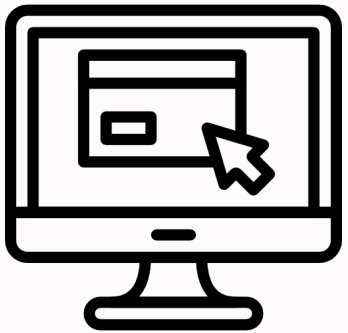
- November 3, 2026 for Winter 2027 funding
- December 7, 2026 for Spring 2027 funding
- May 11, 2027 for Fall 2027 funding

All PN applicants will receive final funding status notification on:

- December 7, 2026 for Spring 2027 funding
- May 11, 2027 for Fall 2027 funding

Application Overview

- ✔ Lead Applicant details
- ✔ Partner Organization details
- ✔ Living Classroom Program details
- ✔ Funding Request
- ✔ Agreement & Attachments
- ✔ Integration Activity Plan



Applications are open on the Living Classroom website.
A **detailed application guide** is available.
Selected applicants will be invited to an **interview.**

Integration Activity Plan

Integration Activity Plan Template: intended as a starting point for conversation between partners

- For each term, provide examples of integration activities
- For each activity:
  - Provide a description
  - Identify the curriculum alignment
  - Describe the assessment
- Be prepared to discuss in interview

Reporting and Evaluation Requirements

- ✔ **Baseline evaluation survey** to be completed at the start of the funding period
- ✔ **Mid-year narrative and financial report,** and **mid-year evaluation survey**
- ✔ **Year-end narrative and financial report,** and **year-end evaluation survey**
- ✔ **Bi-monthly meetings with Outreach Team**
- ✔ **Support with distributing student baseline surveys**

Details to be provided in a Letter of Agreement upon successful application.

Living Classroom Support

Pre-application

Questions or Support
livingclassroom@the-ria.ca

Informative Resources
Living Classroom Resources

Fund Page
Funding Information

Post-application

Outreach & Coaching
Dedicated ongoing support and bi-monthly meetings to guide your progress.

Living Classroom Connections
Collaborative networking and peer learning sessions.

Q&A

Please use the Chat box or raise hand to ask questions.

- If we don't have time to answer all questions today, we will post **Q&As** to the website.
- Presentation slides will be shared.
- Contact the Support Team – we're here to help!

LIVING CLASSROOM

Thank you,
from the Living Classroom team.

The Living Classroom program is funded by the Government of Ontario and led by the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA), in partnership with the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA).

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RIA Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging *Enhancing Life*

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