



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Association des malentendants canadiens

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New funding received from the Government of Canada Fostering Inclusive Communities for Seniors

On July 23, 2025, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) announced the launch of the Fostering Inclusive Communities for Seniors (FICS) with Hearing Loss project, a five-year initiative aimed at promoting social inclusion and reduce systemic barriers faced by vulnerable seniors, including those who are hard of hearing, particularly in underrepresented communities across Ottawa. The Fostering Inclusive Communities for Seniors (FICS) with Hearing Loss project is funded by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program.

The FICS Project is devoted to supporting a demographic often marginalized in health discourse: seniors with hearing loss from underrepresented communities in the Greater Ottawa Area. This includes a diverse and vibrant spectrum of individuals: immigrants who have made Canada their new home, newcomers still navigating the complexities of resettlement, BIPOC individuals who face the intersection of racial and age-related disparities, Indigenous peoples carrying the weight of historical injustices, LGBTQ+ seniors who often confront social stigma, and seniors living with disabilities who encounter multifaceted barriers in their daily lives.

"Canada is a better country when pillars of our communities are adequately supported. That is why the New Horizons for Seniors Program is so important in helping seniors across the country access services they need. Local organizations like the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association know best what their needs are, to ensure seniors are connected, supported, and included in their communities. This program promotes social inclusion, enhances quality of life, and support seniors to age with the dignity they deserve." - The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

This \$2.5M initiative will involve working collaboratively with nine (9) not-for-profit community partners who serve the senior community. By acknowledging and addressing these multifaceted barriers, the FICS Project seeks to create pathways for these seniors to re-engage with their communities, access necessary resources, and enjoy the social connections that enrich human life. We aim to restore opportunities for interaction, collaboration, and contribution, reinforcing the fabric of an inclusive society that values all its members.

"This funding is a significant recognition of the challenges faced by seniors with hearing loss. It allows us to create targeted, sustainable solutions that foster genuine inclusion. We are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Program for partnering with us to ensure the voices of hard of hearing seniors are heard and their needs are met within communities." - Ann McSweeney, National Executive Director, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association

The FICS Program began March 2025 and will conclude February 2030.