

How the Long-Term Care Waitlist Works

Choosing Long-Term Care Homes

Once an Ontario Health atHome care coordinator confirms eligibility for long-term care, you may select up to five homes to apply to. If you need immediate admission due to a crisis, this limit does not apply.

If you accept a home that is not your first choice, you may remain on the waitlists for your preferred home. If you decline a bed offer, your file is closed and you are removed from all waitlists. Reapplying requires waiting 12 weeks, unless your situation changes.

How the Waitlist Works

The long-term care home waitlist is organized based on care needs and urgency – residents on the waitlist in Category 1 will be offered a bed before anyone in Category 2.

Placement Priority Categories

Every applicant is placed into a category that reflects their care needs, safety concerns, and personal circumstances.

Category 1: Immediate Need (Crisis)

For people who cannot be safely supported at home, people in hospitals during a crisis, or those in a long-term care home scheduled to close within 12 weeks.

Category 2: Spousal Reunification

For people waiting to join a spouse or partner already living in long-term care (both spouses must meet the eligibility criteria).

Category 3A

For people waiting for a cultural, religious, or ethnic-specific home who have high care needs but can remain at home with supports. Also people in a long-term care home seeking transfer to their home of choice.

Category 3B

For people waiting for a cultural, religious, or ethnic-specific home who have care needs but are managing at home with supports.

Category 4A

People who have high care needs but can still be supported at home.

Category 4B

People with care needs but are currently managing at home with supports.

Veteran Priority Access

Veterans with care needs but are currently managing at home with supports. They are applying to be placed into a Long-term Care Home with Veteran Priority Access Beds.



Navigate and compare over 600 long-term care homes in Ontario at elderado.ca.