



BRIEFING NOTE

The issue: Continued funding for The Allied Health Professional Development Fund (AHPDF)

We believe that the Government's agenda is to increase support for front-line health care workers. The AHPDF has been a valuable support for these workers in improving their ability to care for patients.

What does the fund do to support front-line health care workers?

The AHPDF is a HealthForceOntario initiative that reimburses fees for professional development activities to upgrade skills and enhance knowledge and leadership capacity among allied health professionals. In fiscal year 2017/2018, 6,380 workers were approved for grants, with an average reimbursement of \$546. This represents a total of \$3,482,370 in grant funding.

The AHPDF as a support for front-line service. The fund does not tell people how to do their jobs or add to needless layers of government management; it simply encourages front-line workers to acquire better skills to treat patients and stay current with new technology, procedures and skills.

We have been informed that a similar education fund that supports nurses in their upgrading of skill will not be cut. We are told that Nurses are front line workers and so their continuing education will be supported. The people who operate CT, MRI, x-ray and radiation therapy devices are also acute care, front line workers.

What needs to be done:

The \$3482,370 funding needs to be reinstated for 2020/2021 fiscal year.

What we can do to help:

- Ensure that our members are aware of all positive government actions.
- Work with government to make any changes necessary to improve the effectiveness of the fund.