

# **Provincial Closure Strategy for ARCs and RRCs**

Service Provider Briefing - April 2024

# Agenda



1. Background
  - i. Remedy Overview
  - ii. Community Transition Targets
2. ARC/RRC Closure Strategy
3. System Enablers
4. Service Providers Supports
5. Resources for Staff & Participants
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# **Background | Remedy Overview**

# Background | Remedy Overview



## Remedy For the Findings of Systemic Discrimination Against Nova Scotians with Disabilities:

- Human Rights complaints were filed by 3 DSP participants who resided in Emerald Hall. The complaints alleged that the province discriminated against these individuals and all persons with disabilities in Nova Scotia by not providing supportive housing in the community.
- In October 2021, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the plaintiffs.

## The Disability Rights Coalition (DRC) summarizes the ruling around four grounds:

1

### Unnecessary Institutionalization

There has been unnecessary institutionalization in purpose-built institutions for persons with disabilities as well as in other institutional settings such as psychiatric hospitals

3

### Denial of Community of Choice

Persons with disabilities have often been 'placed' in settings distant from their families/friends, and not within their community of choice

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### Right to Assistance

The right to assistance when needed has been denied to eligible persons with disabilities

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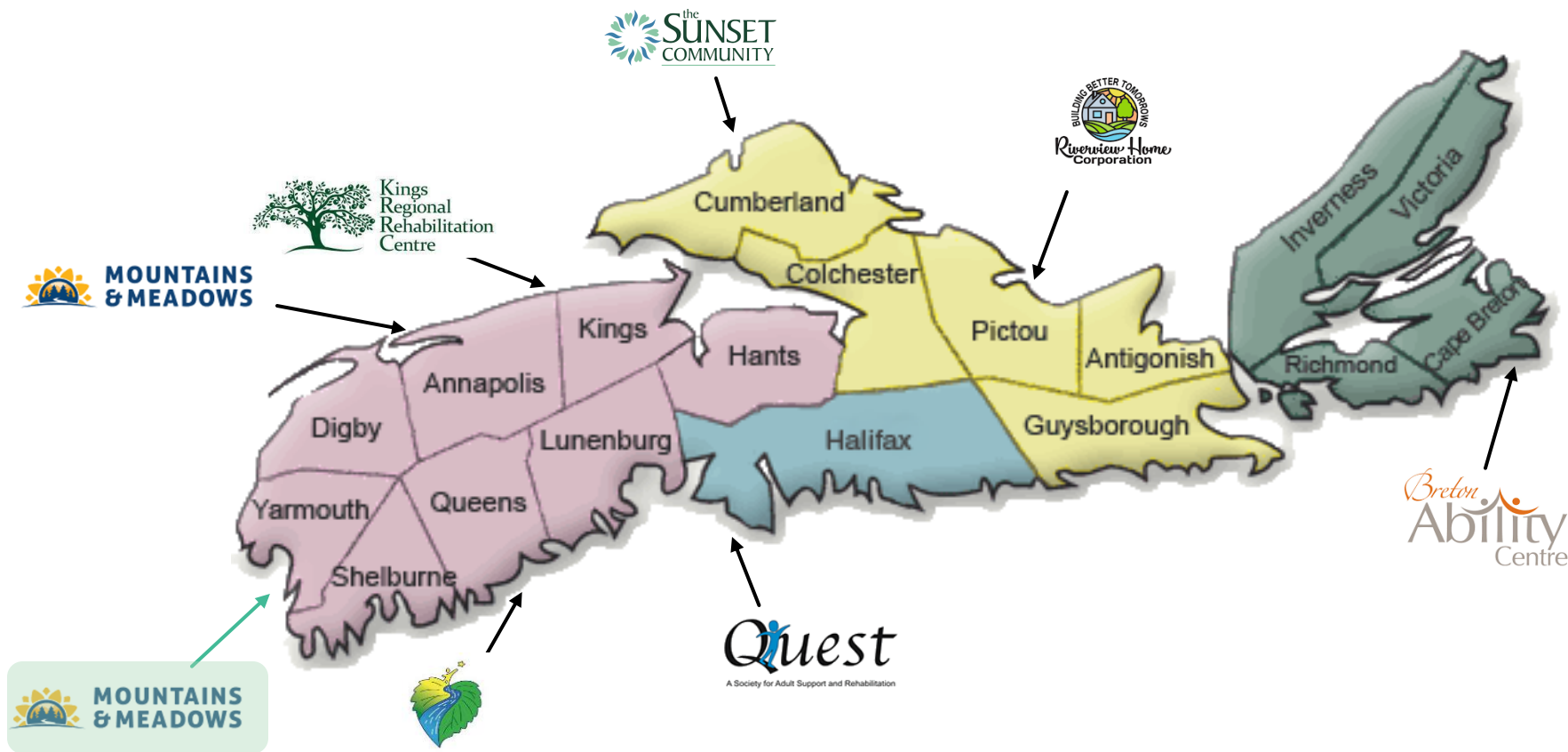
### Delays in Assistance

Persons with disabilities have experienced frequent, indefinite, extended delays in the provision of assistance (waitlists) despite statutory entitlement

# Background | ARC/RRC Current State



- DSP currently supports **7 active ARC/RRCs**, which provide residential support to approximately 400 participants with varying support needs. Over the past few years, DSP has been taking active steps to reduce occupancy across the sector
- Over the established Remedy timeline, DSP is required to close all ARC/RRC/RCFs and **transition participants to community-based** residential supports.



Facility	Occupancy
KRRC	148 residents
Sunset ARC	53 residents
REL ARC	43 residents
Riverview ARC	29 residents
BAC	70 residents
The Meadows ARC	31 residents
Quest RRC	21 residents
Harbourside ARC	Closed in 2023

# Background | What We Learned From Harbourside



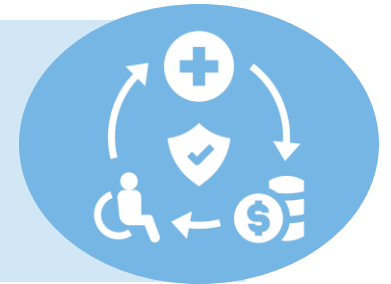
**Ability for ARC/RRC residents to successfully transition to community.** Though the closure of Harbourside Lodge took time and came with its unique challenges, DSP successfully supported 40 participants' transition into community-based supports from institutions with limited impacts to other partners in the health and social services sectors.



**Successful support planning takes time.** DSP has invested in new FTEs to support individualized planning, ensuring that comprehensive transition plans are established for participants as they move to community. These plans will clearly outline the personal, social, and medical needs required for an individual to be supported in moving to community.



**DSP participants' needs vary.** The majority of DSP participants don't require additional medical support to live a life in the community. They are able to live a healthy life while accessing community health supports that all members of society have access to. Through the newly established Allied Health Director Role, DSP will work with the sector to better understand and expand access to health-related supports for DSP participants.



**Accessing Primary Care.** As participants from Harbourside and other facilities have transitioned to community-based support, their Service Providers have worked to understand and support their medical needs. This has resulted in participants maintaining their current GPs, finding new ones as they move to new communities or being placed on the *Need A Family Practice Registry*.

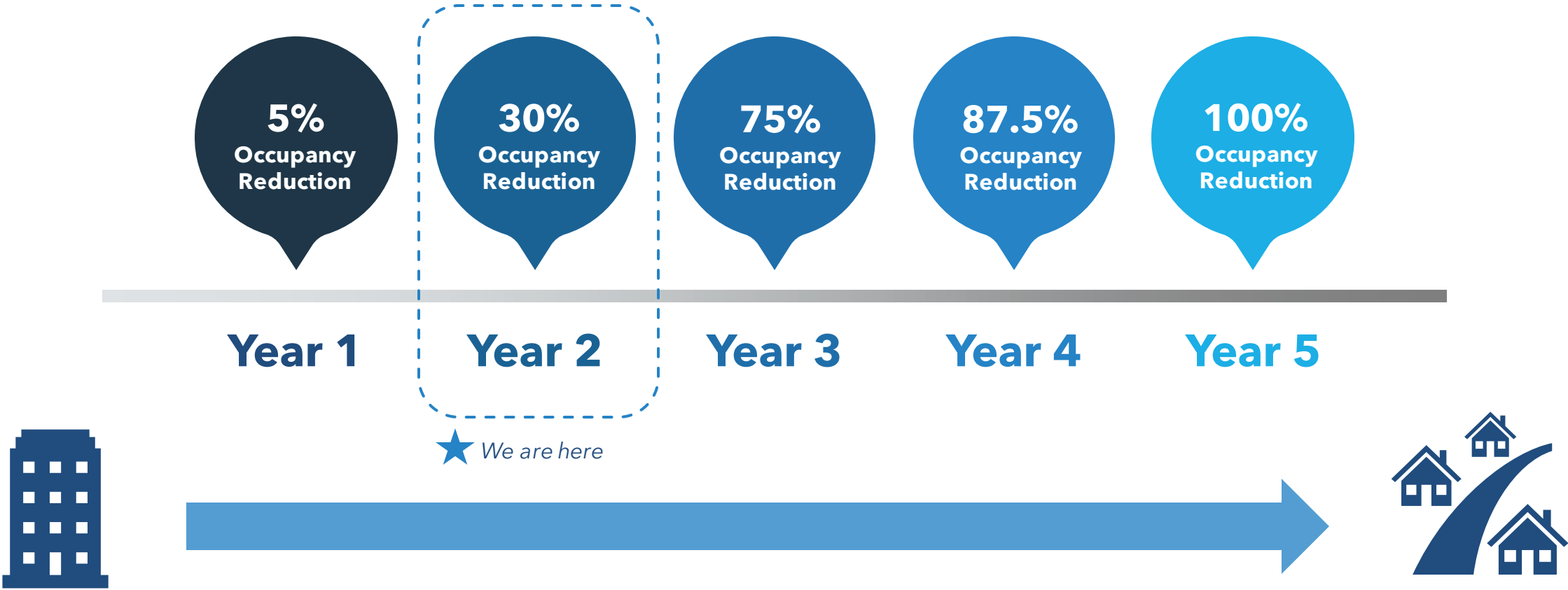


# Background | Community Transition Targets



Below community transition targets and timelines for ARCs and RRCs as required by **Remedy Key Direction #2: Closing Institutions.**

DSP is required to support approximately **395 ARC/RRC Residents** to move into community over 5 years.





# **ARC/ RRC | Closure Strategy**



# ARC/RRC Closure Strategy | Approach



This Strategy establishes closure timelines based on facility size, while supporting all participants' transition to community as they are ready.

## The Approach:

- ✓ Prioritizes **individual determination** and **participant agency**
- ✓ **Promotes equity across institutions** by starting all closures simultaneously allowing for provincial coordination across regional teams
- ✓ **Sets closure timelines around the institution's** size/number of occupants
- ✓ Allows for a **substantial number of community transitions in year two**, enabling extended community transitions to occur in years 3-5, if needed

**Small Institutions: 12 Months**



**Medium Institutions: 24 Months**



**Large Institutions: 36 Months**











# ARC/RRC Closure Strategy | Closure Timeline



- Implemented by DSP **Regional Closure Teams** across the province.
- The timelines for transitions and facility closures **initiate in November 2024**, once the Regional Hubs are established and IPSCs begin transition planning with DSP participants.
- Extended transition timeframes** account for some outliers that may occur due to support complexity or community housing constraints.



		12-Month Transition Timeline	24-Month Transition Timeline	36-Month Transition Timeline	Extended Transition Timelines
	<b>Harbourside</b> 22 Residents <b>Closed July 2023</b>				
	<b>Quest</b> 21 Residents	Target Timeframe	Extended Transitions		
	<b>Sunset</b> 53 Residents	Target Timeframe		Extended Transitions	
	<b>Meadows</b> 31 Residents	Target Timeframe		Extended Transitions	
	<b>REL</b> 43 Residents	Target Timeframe		Extended Transitions	
	<b>Riverview</b> 29 Residents	Target Timeframe		Extended Transitions	
	<b>BAC</b> 70 Residents	Target Timeframe			Extended Transitions
	<b>KRRC</b> 148 Residents	Target Timeframe			Extended Transitions
<b>Expected Community Transitions:</b>		184 Community Transitions	211 Community Transitions	61 Community Transitions	Outstanding Transitions

## Legend:

Central Region Facility

Western Region Facility

Northern Region Facility

Eastern Region Facility



# **ARC/RRC Closure Strategy | System Enablers**

# System Enablers | Overview



DSP is actively working to establish system enablers to ensure successful closures of institutions.

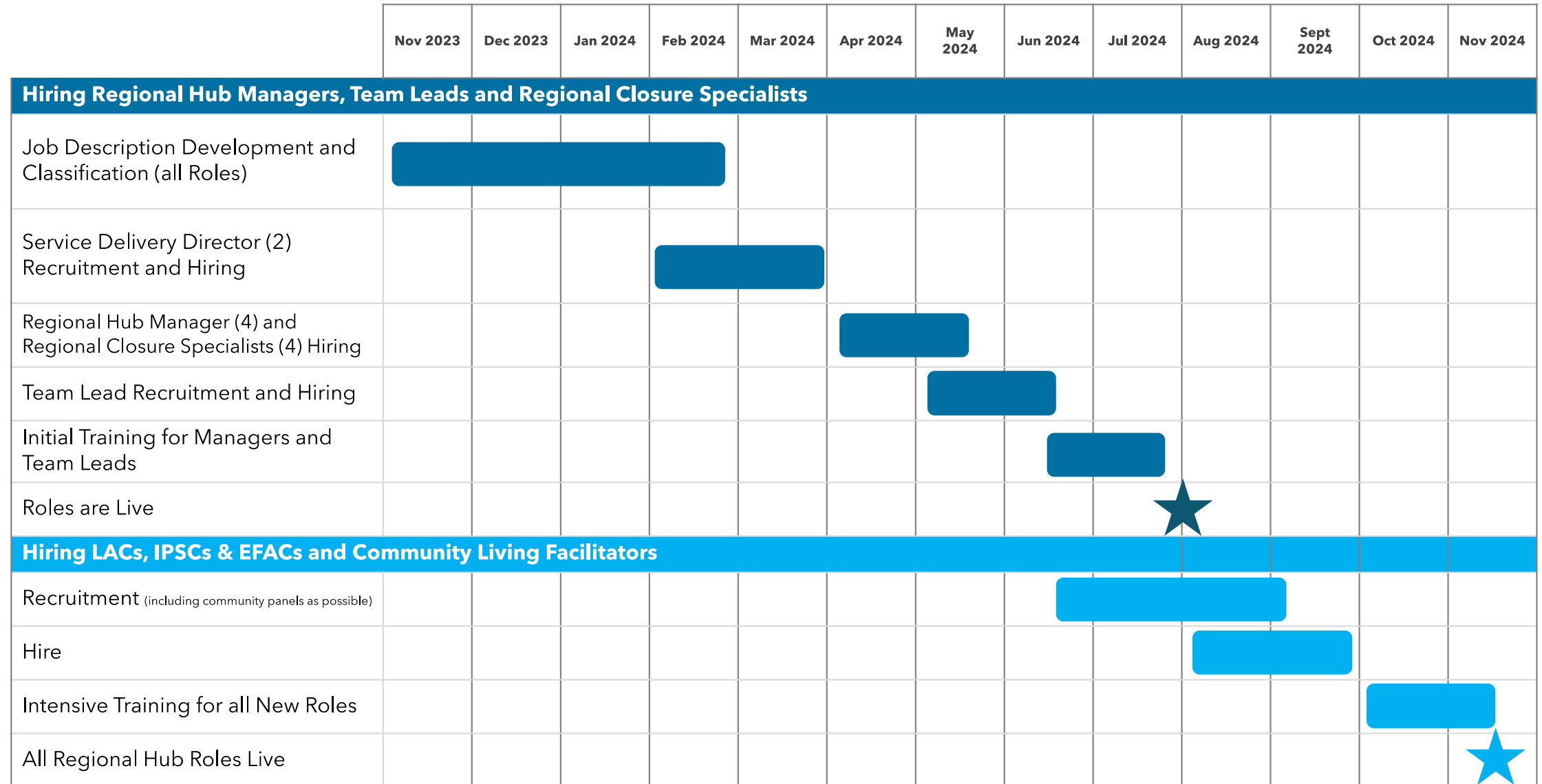
## System enablers include:

- **No New Admissions Policy** for DSP facilities larger than 4 beds. **Effective 01 January 2025** for ARC/RRC/RCFs. Will go into effect for Group Homes and Developmental Residences in 2026.
- **Service Development Transition Fund** providing one-time funding to support DSP service providers realize changes in culture, capability and infrastructure.
- New **Occupancy Funding Model** to provide Service Providers with financial predictability and stability as admissions cease and occupancy decreases.
- **Regional Hubs and Regional Closure Team resources** to support closure efforts (to be fully staffed and operational by November 2024 including provincial, regional, and local DSP staff resources).
- **Crisis prevention and community response procedures** to proactively prevent crises from occurring and provide resources and pathways if a response is required.
- **New Allied Health Director Role**  
DSP is hiring a new Director to integrate and support the Allied Health field into the disability sector and DSP operations. This position will work with teams in the health and service provider sectors once in place.
- **New DSP Regional Multidisciplinary Teams and Provincial Mental Health Supports**  
DSP is working collaboratively with government partners in the mental health and health sectors to have ensure appropriate supports are available, beginning with an OAMH-led gap analysis this quarter.

# System Enablers | Regional Hub Timelines



Once the Regional Hubs are fully established, transition planning will begin with participants.





# **Service Providers Supports**

# Service Providers | Advancing with DSP



DSP is committed to supporting Service Providers to ensure participants are successful in transitioning to community.

## Supports for Service Providers:



### Financial Support

- New funding models provide Service Providers with financial predictability and stability as admissions cease and occupancy decreases and assistance with moving to a community-based support model.



### Expanding Housing Opportunities

- DSP is working to develop new and innovative community-based residential opportunities, such as Home Sharing, and working with Department of Housing and Municipal Affairs to expand access to their programs for person with disabilities.



### Closure & Transition Guidebooks

- DSP is developing reference materials for key partners including DSP staff, facilities staff, service providers, individuals with disabilities, and their families. That will provide guidance throughout the facility closure and the community transition process.



### More Sector Training and Staff Support

- A workforce strategy is being developed for June 2024 and will include a training component as well as recruitment and retention information and career advancement pathways.



### New DSP Transition Support Staff

- Each region will have a Regional Closure Team comprising of Regional Closure Specialist, Community Living Facilitator, Individual Planning and Support Coordinators, and others to aid in participant transition planning and the administrative side of facility closures.



# **Resources for Staff & Participants**





# Resources for Staff & Participants

Following today's briefing you will receive the following resources to support the communication of closure within your organization (e.g., to staff and participants):

- Front line staff will be briefed with a **similar presentation** and be provided with a **follow-up FAQ document, communication resources, and information** on where to learn more
- Participants will have options for how they would like to interact with this closure information (e.g., **one-on-one conversation, one-pager, video**, etc.)
- A webinar session for family members will also be **provided in May**, further details will be shared once the session is booked
- There will be resources and information available to individuals at your facility to support them in understanding and communicating this change.
- Additionally, there will be **a website** with up-to-date information available for all.



# What's Next?

# Next Steps | ARC/RRC Communications Schedule



- ✓ **April 17<sup>th</sup>**: Brief DSP Service Delivery, Intergovernmental Round table and DSP Advisory Committee on Communication Plan
- ✓ **April 18<sup>th</sup>**: Brief ARC/RRC CEOs and Board Chairs on the Facility ARC/RRC Facility Closure Strategy
- ✓ **April 18<sup>th</sup>**: Brief RCF EDs on the RCF Closure Strategy
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>**: In-Person sessions at each ARC/RRC to communicate with:
  - Persons with Disabilities Living at Facility (& Families/Support Networks)
  - Facility Leadership
  - Frontline Service Provider Staff
- **After May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Release of Facility Closure Strategy
- **Mid to Late May**: In-Person sessions with RCFs to communicate with:
  - Persons with Disabilities Living at Facility (& Families/Support Networks)
  - Facility Leadership
  - Frontline Service Provider Staff