

Municipality of Clarington

2024-2027 Budget – Special Request

Community Care Durham (CCD) is requesting an additional \$148,647* to purchase an accessible passenger bus for use in the Municipality of Clarington.

CCD's transportation service continues to be a necessary and important support to Clarington residents, ensuring that they can access **medical appointments** (within and outside of Durham Region), **vaccination clinics**, attend CCD's **Adult Day Program**, and go shopping for groceries or other necessities. In 2022-23, CCD's transportation service provided **6,906 drives** in Clarington – a higher number than any other municipality. Clarington is the only municipality with a dedicated CCD accessible bus and we're proud to have been offering transportation services to residents with an accessible bus for well over 20 years.

Many residents, especially those with physical and/or cognitive challenges, rely on CCD's transportation services as options for **safe, accessible, and affordable transportation** are very limited. As Durham Region Specialized Transit moves towards an integrated model for passengers with conditional eligibility involving transfers between vehicles for trips greater than 3km, CCD continues to provide **door-to-door service** for all our clients. As required, CCD's transportation service may also include an **attendant** to ensure the comfort and safety of all passengers during the trip. This is particularly important for the independence of passengers with physical and/or cognitive challenges and it means that family members/care partners are not required to accompany their loved ones on scheduled trips. CCD also partners with other organizations in Clarington to provide accessible transportation to support their events and programs.

The CCD accessible bus currently providing transportation in the Municipality of Clarington has been in use for nearly a decade and will need to be replaced as part of CCD's Capital Replacement Policy. In the past 21 months, almost \$20,000 of maintenance and unexpected repairs were needed on the bus. A new bus would **provide accessible transportation for Clarington residents for the next ten years**. It is important to note that CCD will ensure that costs related to maintenance, staffing, and operation of this vehicle are covered. Also, transportation services were included in CCD's modernization initiative which was implemented earlier this year. This initiative will result in more efficient scheduling and overall operations to **maximize the number of residents** able to use CCD's transportation services each day.

*Please refer to attached quote for further details and specifications of this accessible bus with capacity for 10 passengers and 2 passengers using wheelchairs.