



**A network of
community allies
for older adults.**

**Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
EF&CM NETGroup
—
Social Prescribing**

May 2023

Did you know?

Over 80%
of a person's health
depends on **social
determinants
of health** like
adequate food,
housing, income,
and relationships
with others.¹



Social Prescribing²

+57%

Improves
patient rating
of health and
well-being*

-41%

Decreases the
number of
repeat clinic
visits**

*Three months post social prescription.
**Nine months post social prescription.

Nearly 100%
of Canadians aged 65
and older plan on
supporting themselves
**to live safely and
independently in
their own home**
for as long as possible.³



1. Hood CM, Gennuso KP, Swain GR, et al. *County health rankings: relationships between determinant factors and health outcomes*. Am J Prev Med 2016;50:129–35. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2015.08.024
2. Alliance for Healthier Communities. *Rx: Community - Social Prescribing in Ontario, Final Report* (March 2020).
3. *National Institute of Ageing (NIA)/TELUS Health Survey* (2020)

HOW DOES SOCIAL PRESCRIBING WORK?



Meet George

Last month, George sadly lost his wife of 50 years.



When George started losing his appetite and energy, he visited his family doctor. She identified a need for social supports to complement his medical care.

After discussing this with George, she made a social prescription to refer him to a Link Worker.

Step 1: Social Prescription

A primary healthcare provider fills out a form to make a social prescription (referral to a Link Worker).

The Link Worker met with George to assess his social needs.



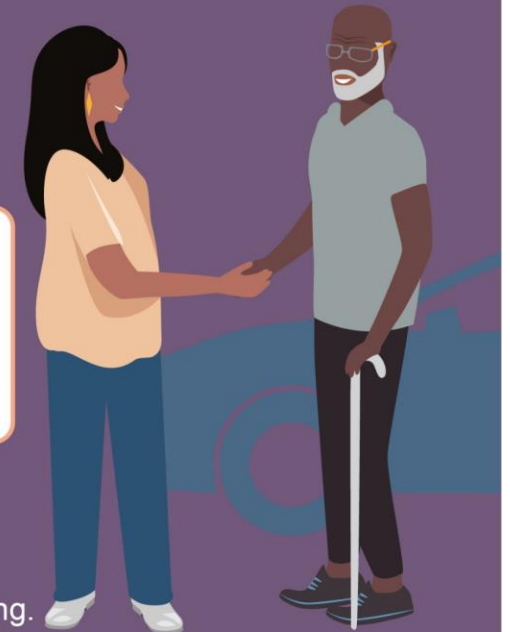
Step 2: Link Worker

A Link Worker* receives the referral and partners with the older adult to develop key health and social goals through community resources.

Today, George receives transportation support in his community so he can participate in a bereavement group. He is also enrolled in a local recreation program and consults with a dietitian regularly.

Step 3: Support

The older adult accesses community-based supports to improve their health and well-being.

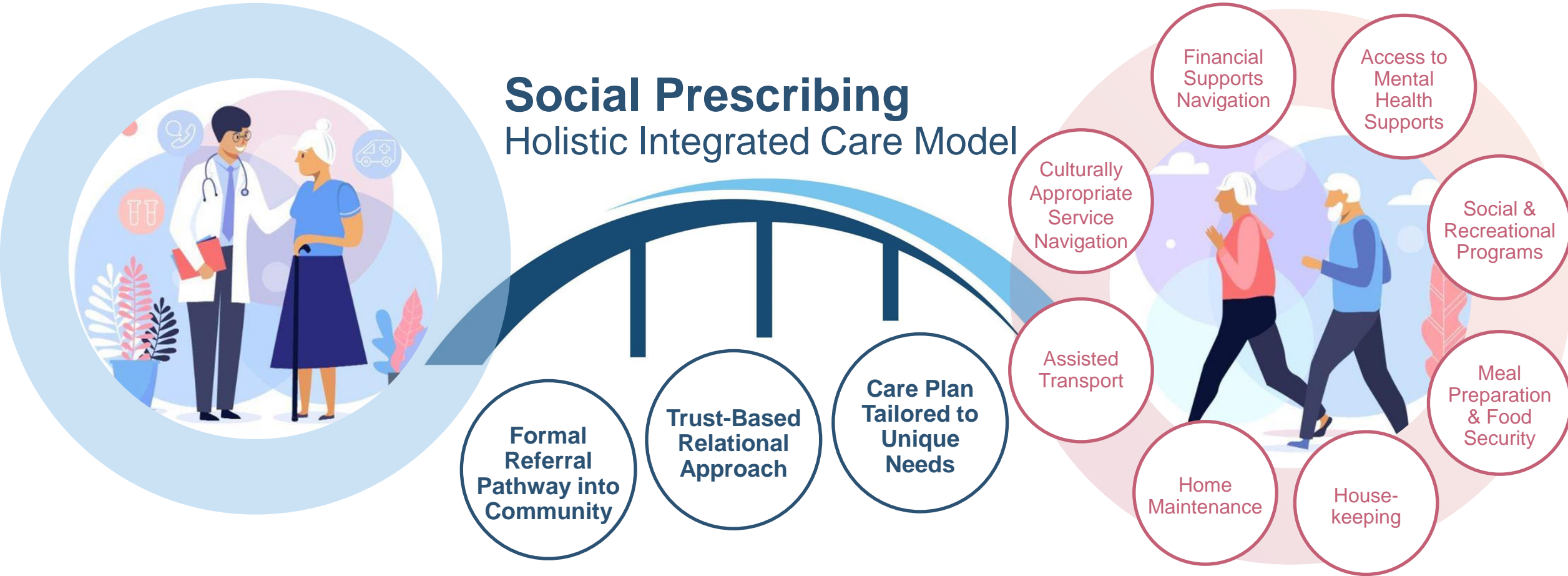


*A **Link Worker** is a non-clinical professional employed by a community-based, senior-serving organization. This individual builds relationships with older adults under their care and monitors their progress.

Health care providers
PCNs, family physicians, hospitals

Community & Home Supports
Non-Medical Supports

Social Prescribing Holistic Integrated Care Model



Healthy Aging Alberta

Foundational to facilitating investment and coordinating provincially

Social Prescribing in Alberta - Snapshot

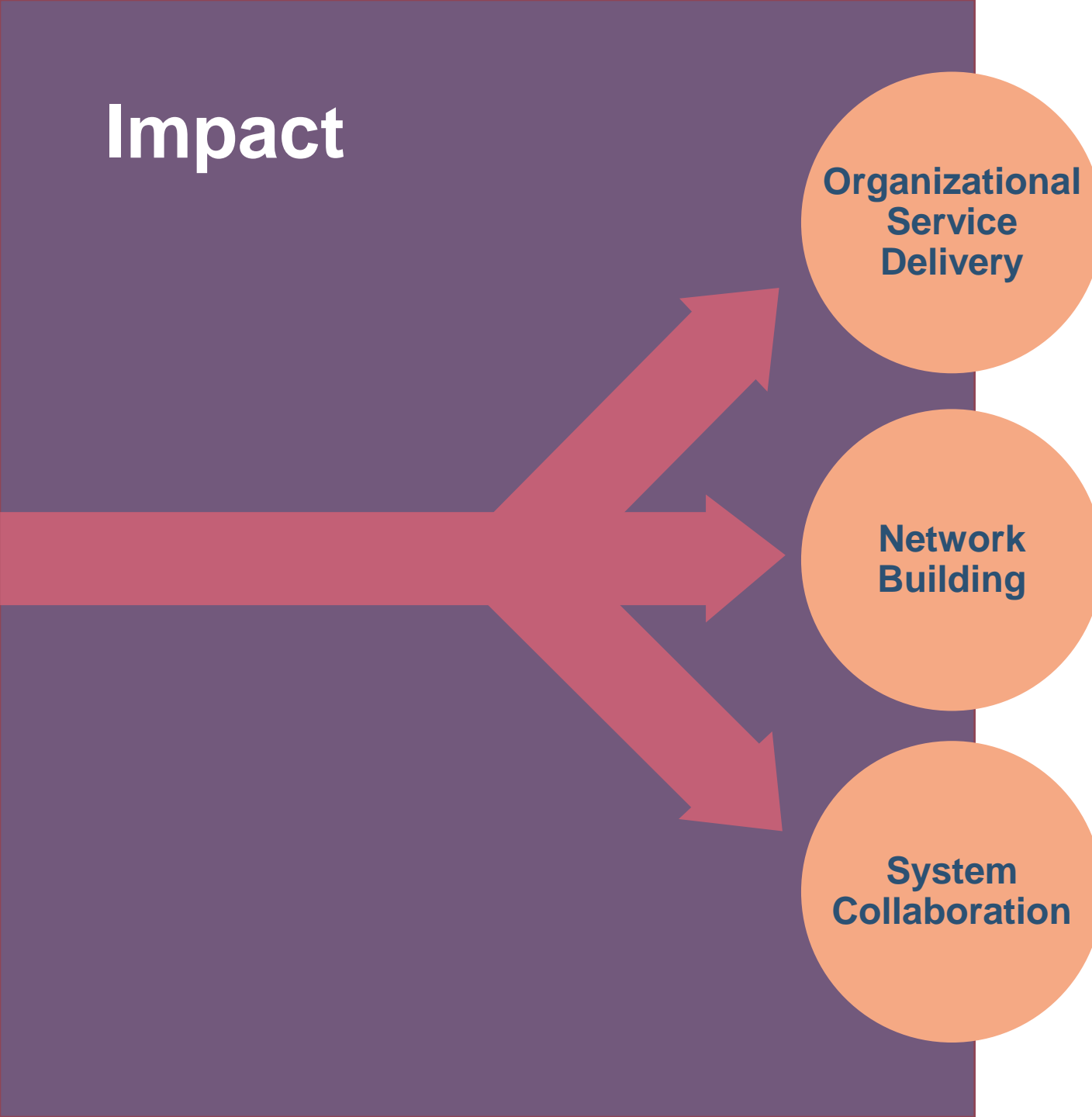
- 3 Regional Projects
 - Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge
- Network Coordinators
- Link Worker Curriculum Development



HAA's Key Objectives with Social Prescribing

- Act as the backbone for regional service delivery programs
- Establish a provincial social prescribing approach that is recognized and respected by systems such as health and housing
- Integrate social prescribing initiatives into other CBSS programmatic initiatives
- Advocate for, and facilitate, future investment in social prescribing provincially
- Establish common language
- Facilitate role clarity

Impact



**Organizational
Service
Delivery**

**Network
Building**

**System
Collaboration**

- Older adults are supported to access programs and services
- CBSS organizations are well resourced to deliver these programs and services
- Increased capacity for evaluation, data collection and information sharing
- Social prescribing network expands and is sustained
- Practitioners report improved trust in referral pathways and working relationships
- Reductions in program and service gaps within communities