

IS STARTING A GROUP RIGHT FOR ME?

INTRODUCTION TO CORE ALBERTA

CORE stands for Collaborative Online Resources and Education. The [CORE Alberta](#) platform is a free member-based digital knowledge and learning hub designed to support provincial sector coordination and strengthening by connecting **Community-Based Senior-Serving (CBSS) organizations** to each other and their allied partners. CORE is primarily a network and sector building tool aimed at supporting the vision of the [Healthy Aging Alberta](#) provincial initiative.

CORE is a powerful knowledge mobilization and sector-development tool designed to:

- Provide up-to-date information, resources, and training opportunities
- Make it easier to communicate, coordinate, and collaborate to build sector capacity
- Galvanize the sector to develop a collective and cohesive systems voice

WHAT IS HEALTHY AGING ALBERTA?

[Healthy Aging Alberta](#) (HAA) is a provincial systems change initiative focused on bringing together a network of **Community-Based Senior-Serving (CBSS) organizations**. We aim to develop a coordinated sector committed to identifying and addressing healthy aging priorities in the community and making Alberta one of the best places for folks to grow older. We believe that through a unified provincial network with a common framework for action, we can create collaborative relationships with one another and our allies in health and other sectors, work towards cross-sector integrated services for seniors, and advocate for healthy aging at a systems level. A strong and structured sector would allow CBSS organizations, which are best positioned to deliver critical services to seniors in the right place and at the right time, to do so in a better coordinated and resourced way, as well as at a larger scale, ultimately enhancing health and wellbeing outcomes for older adults in the province.

WHAT ARE CORE EVENTS?

[CORE Alberta](#) and [Healthy Aging Alberta](#) (HAA) host a variety of online and in-person events throughout the year. Some of these events are planned directly by the CORE/HAA team and some events are created by CORE Group leaders from CBSS organizations. CORE Events are posted on our CORE Alberta platform and promoted in our weekly newsletter to folks across the senior serving sector in Alberta. CBSS representatives from across the province register for these events and they are wonderful capacity building and collaboration opportunities.

WHY SHOULD WE HOST AN EVENT?

Organizations that host events get the opportunity to showcase the work they are doing in the field. They can present their findings, research, programmatic initiatives and best practices to a group of like minded individuals that are interested in the same topics. They have a chance to push forward topics of interest and collaborate on issues important to them.

- An open forum to talk about your work and what you do best!
- A chance to meet and chat with other like minded service providers serving older Albertans
- Opportunities to educate and share information with folks in other areas of senior service
- Talking circles to discuss emerging issues you are seeing
- Opportunities to present your findings, best practices and emerging information
- Community Partner Outreach opportunities to make more people aware of your work and programs

WHAT ARE CORE EVENTS?

HOW DO WE BOOK AN EVENT?

Events are booked by the HAA Communications Team month to month. CORE/HAA team members may reach out to your organization directly to suggest an event that addresses emerging issues they are seeing across the province and a need for information sharing around a certain subject. Events can also be initiated by **individual organizations** or by a **CORE Group**. Events can be run in correspondence to special days of the year or can be scheduled for any time in the year. Typically we don't like to offer multiple CORE events on the same day, so that our audience has a chance to attend more than one session. Email info@healthyagingalberta.ca or your direct CORE/HAA team member to book an event!

1. Think of an Event topic or collaborate with an CORE/HAA team member on an event idea
2. Select a date and time for the event
3. Decide what content you will present and refine your presentation materials
4. CORE/HAA Team will promote the event across their platforms and networks
5. Present
6. Receive valuable feedback from attendees, surveys and statistics from audience, and work towards additional offerings!

WHAT IS A CORE GROUP?

One of the key features of the CORE platform is **Groups**, which are digital spaces for CORE members to come together around a particular topic, area of practice, or collaborative work. CORE Groups are community-led and managed, and can perform different functions to support the work of CBSS organizations.

CLOSED AND OPEN GROUPS

- An **open** group is accessible and open to ALL CORE members. CORE members can see any resources and discussions shared in the group as well as participate and join or leave the group at any time.
- A **closed** group is suitable for group activity that may include documents (meeting agendas, reports etc.), and discussions that are more private or focused on a specific project. Hosting a closed group on CORE makes it convenient for members to access all group-related information in one place. Membership to a closed group is by invitation or *requests to join* must be approved by group managers.

CURRENT CORE GROUPS TYPES

1. **Discussion Group**
 - Information and learning focused, members share and discuss the latest resources, training, and research while seeking out answers to your questions on a topic/theme.
2. **Community of Practice**
 - Expanding a practice area by collaborating with others, sharing innovative practices, and hosting trainings/workshops.
3. **Working Group**
 - Groups working on specific projects can use the platform to host their documents and collaborate to achieve their goals and objectives.
4. **Training Group**
 - Groups interested in offering cohort-based training opportunities can use closed or open groups to offer this to members.

IS A CORE GROUP RIGHT FOR MY WORK?

With the CORE platform ultimately being designed with sector-building in mind, please go through the following checklist to see if your CORE group is aligned with the goals of the Healthy Aging CORE Alberta Initiative. Additionally, to ensure accountability and success, there are some expectations for all CORE groups.

- ☐ The work of the Group is provincial in scope and focused on *Alberta* seniors.
- ☐ CORE Group leaders are committed to managing the group (content, continuous engagement) and moving the work forward. They will communicate their role as CORE Group leaders to new and existing members. They will delegate additional roles as needed.
- ☐ CORE Group will establish and capture their purpose, objectives and goals in some form e.g. Terms of Reference and a workplan with key activities/deliverables identified.
- ☐ CORE Group is committed to diversity of membership e.g. rural, urban, under-served, equity-seeking communities such as Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, culturally diverse.
- ☐ Commitment to share relevant knowledge and learnings with the wider CBSS sector whether you are an open or closed group, for the purpose of capacity building and cross-collaboration through webinars, discussion forums and content development.

HOW WILL THE CORE ALBERTA TEAM SUPPORT ME?

The CORE/HAA Team is committed to building reciprocal relationships with CBSS members that support sector strengthening and development. The following expectations are shared between both the CORE/HAA Team and the CORE members.

- ☐ CORE Group and Team will maintain open communication to ensure that the CORE platform continually grows and adapts to the needs of CORE Groups and members of the sector. CORE Team will be included on key updates and activities for the purposes of reporting and to link where appropriate to broader sector work.
- ☐ CORE Team will promote CORE Group and CBSS organization events through the CORE Newsletter, email engagement, and by leveraging existing networks. CORE Team will feature CORE Group work in future provincial community consultations and summits, as well as at any national opportunities related to CORE.
- ☐ CORE Team will provide technical support to ensure CORE group leaders and members are comfortable with the platform and engagement.
- ☐ Responsibility of hosting events, webinars, and activities belong to CORE Groups; however, for the first initial *Group Launch Event* (for open groups), the CORE Team will assist in coordinating and promoting the establishment of the CORE Group. CORE members not in a group will receive more support on planning and hosting a CORE led event.