A working farm where every part of life is designed to support recovery.

For young adults with serious mental illness and the people who care about them, we are the only long-term therapeutic community in Canada that integrates clinical care, meaningful work and belonging.

Time to build a life

Recovery takes time. Eli's Place gives Guests the time to build the skills, routines and relationships that last beyond a crisis. Guests live in residence for about six months. If Eli's Place proves not to be a good fit during the first week, the fees paid are refunded in full.

As the stay goes on, Guests take on more responsibility in work and community life and begin planning their move home with the team. Transition support continues for about eight months as they move into housing, education and work in their home community. From the start of their stay on the farm until they finish transition support, each Guest moves through the program at their own pace, based on readiness rather than a fixed duration.

The Eli's Place Model is adapted from Gould Farm, a long-established therapeutic community on a working farm in Massachusetts that has shown positive long-term outcomes for the people it serves.

Life on the farm

We call the people who live here Guests. They are adults who choose to be part of the community, and they are known as people rather than defined by a diagnosis. Guests live together at Loyola House, a dedicated residence on the grounds of Ignatius Jesuit Centre, a 600-acre working farm and conservation property north of Guelph. Eli's Place is a secular organization, open to Guests of all faiths and none. Families and support people stay connected through visits and family sessions.

Each day follows a familiar rhythm of shared meals, a morning meeting and tea together when work ends. Weekdays centre on real work in farming and horticulture, conservation and restoration and care of the trails and grounds, as well as Maker Projects such as woodworking, repair and food processing. Guests work in small teams of five to ten, each led by an Eli's Place Work Team Lead who works alongside them and shapes each person's work around their abilities and therapeutic goals.



Interdisciplinary team

Clinical care is delivered on site by regulated health professionals who maintain a presence in the community. Eli's Place also works with each Guest's existing psychiatric, hospital and community providers throughout their stay.

Clinicians

Full-time on site, drawn from psychotherapy, social work and occupational therapy, with training that includes cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT) and motivational interviewing

Nursing

Full-time on site, leading day-to-day medical care and monitoring

Psychiatry

Psychiatrist on site weekly to assess and support Guests from admission through to discharge

Pharmacy

A local pharmacy team with mental health expertise reviews each Guest's medications at admission, joins the weekly clinical review and arranges and delivers prescriptions

Care Coordinators

First contact for prospective Guests and families, providing case management from the first enquiry, through the stay on the farm and through transition support in the home community

Residence Advisors

On site 24 hours a day and trained in first aid and mental health crisis response, supporting daily life, activities and social time in the residence

Work Team Leads

Trained in first aid and mental health crisis response, working alongside Guests on every team to connect their work with their therapeutic goals

Who Eli's Place is for

Eli's Place is for young adults past the acute stage of their illness and ready to use a long stretch of time to build a life. The model works when the community is made up of people it is designed to serve. The criteria below identify those who can benefit most from a long stay in a therapeutic community and who are ready to take part fully in its daily life and work. Every Guest chooses to come here, and that choice is an essential first step in the work of recovery.

Who is eligible

To be considered for admission, a prospective Guest:

- Is between 18 and 35 years of age.
- Lives with a serious mental illness.
- Is coming voluntarily and is not subject to involuntary detention.
- Is willing and able to take part in community living, shared activities and the outdoor work program.
- Can manage basic daily living independently, including leaving the residence unassisted in an emergency.
- Has settled any co-occurring substance use, so it is neither active nor primary.
- Has at least one family member or support person who will take part in treatment and transition planning.
- Lives in Canada lawfully, with status to receive treatment here for the length of the program.

When Eli's Place is not the right fit

Eli's Place is not equipped to serve people who:

- Have significant cognitive impairment, such as dementia.
- Have a substance use disorder, an eating disorder or certain personality disorders as their main condition. These may be present alongside a serious mental illness, but cannot be the primary reason for seeking care.
- Have unmanaged symptoms of psychosis or mania.
- Are in acute suicidal crisis, or a level of crisis that cannot be safely supported in an open, voluntary residence.
- Have recent or ongoing violent behaviour, or a history of arson or sexual offences.
- Have unresolved legal matters.
- Are looking for a short-term program.

These criteria reflect what an open, voluntary residence can safely support. Eli's Place is a mental health program and does not provide acute treatment. The clinical team considers each application individually. Questions about how these criteria apply to a particular person are best discussed during our pre-admission assessment.

Admissions

Eli's Place is launching a new program and will build its first community with care. The community will grow gradually over the coming months, welcoming a small number of Guests at a time until it reaches full capacity. We are now accepting applications from prospective Guests.

To learn more or to begin an application, visit **www.elisplace.org** and go to Admissions.

How to apply

Prospective Guests apply to Eli's Place directly, often with help from family or a support person. An application may include a referral from a doctor or other health professional. A referral is helpful but not required. Eli's Place is initially accepting applications from Ontario residents. People from elsewhere in Canada are encouraged to register their interest for the future.

Family and support people

Family and support people visit and stay engaged in treatment and transition planning. Guests are adults, and each Guest decides with the team how their family is involved and what is shared. Each Guest is assigned a Clinical Lead and a Care Coordinator for continuity of care and consistent, timely engagement with family and support people.

Practical details

Location Loyola House, 5420 Highway 6 North, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6J2, about 60 minutes west of Toronto
Capacity Growing to 28 Guests
Website www.elisplace.org

The shape of the week

At Eli's Place the week, not the appointment, is the unit of the program. Work, community life and clinical care fit together across each day, and steady routines and daily rituals do much of the work of recovery.

A typical week

Every day	Guests who take medication check in with the nursing team as their care plan requires.
Monday to Friday	About 30 hours of work in Work Teams, with clinical appointments fitted into the workday.
Tuesday and Thursday	The morning work block ends early for a wellness group.
Midweek	A whole-community meeting.
Later in the week	A Guest-only meeting.
Evenings and weekends	Shared meals, household time, and activities and social time with Residence Advisors.

A typical weekday

7:30	Breakfast starts
8:05	Morning community meeting
8:30	Work Teams gather
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Afternoon work
4:00	Work Teams wrap up
6:00	Dinner
8:30 to 10:00	Social time and evening snack

Times are indicative.

Wellness groups

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Guests leave work early for wellness groups. The groups are organized around mind, body and heart. They run in cycles of four to six weeks, and Guests choose a new set at the start of each cycle based on their interests and goals.

Possible options include meditation, hiking, exercise, nutrition, creative writing, skills groups and groups informed by cognitive behavioural and dialectical behaviour therapy. Ongoing groups include a recovery group, transition skills and peer support meetings such as AA and NA. Staff often take part alongside Guests, and people from outside the community sometimes lead groups in their areas of expertise.

Clinical care in the day

Clinical appointments fit into the workday rather than being set apart from it. Individual therapy is more frequent early in a stay and settles to a weekly session. Psychiatric review happens every few weeks as needed. Regular meetings bring each Guest together with their clinician, Work Team Leads and residential staff.

Work through the seasons

Work continues year-round, and the mix changes with the seasons. Summer brings the growing season on the farm and in the gardens. In the colder months, more of the work moves into sheltered spaces such as the greenhouse and workshop, but trail and property maintenance continue.

Support day and night

Clinical staff are on site through the program day, and nursing is on site full time. Residence Advisors are on site 24 hours a day. Guests can come to the front desk for help at any hour.

Keeping care safe

Every Guest is assessed with standardized screening at admission. Each Guest builds a personal safety plan with their Clinical Lead, and the plan is updated as their stay goes on. Staff are trained to recognize distress early and respond calmly. When a Guest needs more care than an open residence can provide, the team arranges it directly with the hospital or the Guest's own providers.

An open community

Eli's Place is an open, voluntary community. Guests are adults who choose to be here, and no one is ever held or prevented from leaving. That freedom comes with responsibility. Guests may occasionally leave the property as part of planned outings and activities. A Guest who leaves outside of these is likely to be discharged from the program.

Staying connected

A Care Coordinator is the main contact for families throughout a Guest's stay. With the Guest's consent, family or support people take part in family sessions and in planning for the move home.

What a stay costs

Eli's Place is the only long-term therapeutic community of its kind in Canada. Most Canadian mental health programs are publicly funded housing or hospital services, so there are few programs here to compare it with on price. Eli's Place is a registered charity with no investors. Any surplus goes back into developing the program and sustaining it for the long term.

About $17,800
a month in residence

$1,200
a month in transition support

A stay costs approximately $120,000, based on an average of six months in residence and eight months of transition support. **Length of stay and transition period vary by Guest.** Stays are a minimum of three months with no set maximum, because each Guest's stay follows their therapeutic progress rather than a fixed program length. This is a hallmark of the Eli's Place model. Cost also depends on each Guest's choice of a private room with an ensuite or a shared washroom. Fees shown are for 2026-27 and are adjusted each April.

What the fee provides

Every part of the program depends on trained people working closely with Guests every day. That is what the fee pays for.

Clinical Care

Regulated health professionals on site, led by a Clinical Director, with at least one clinician for every ten Guests. Individual therapy is more frequent early in a stay, and the team meets regularly to review each Guest's progress and coordinate with their outside providers. Full-time nursing, a psychiatrist on site weekly and medication oversight complete the team. Medications are not included in the fee. Guests pay for their own prescriptions, including co-payments and items their drug plan does not cover. A local pharmacy works with our nursing team to arrange and deliver prescriptions.

Belonging

Residence Advisors are on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Guests have a private room, three shared meals a day, wellness groups and community meetings.

Meaningful Work

Work Team Leads and farm coordinators plan and prepare each day's work and shape it around each Guest's abilities and therapeutic goals. Teams of five to ten Guests let leads work alongside each person. Work runs year-round, with sheltered spaces for the colder months, and tools, materials and protective equipment are provided.

Transition Support

The team stays with each Guest after they move home. Their Care Coordinator acts as a case worker, collaborating with local services on housing, education and work and staying engaged with family and support people. Guests continue regular check-ins with their clinicians, including psychiatry, while local doctors and providers take over their care.

How the fee compares

The programs most like Eli's Place are long-term, farm-based therapeutic communities in the United States. Like Eli's Place, each combines a residence, a year-round work program and clinical care, though some bill psychiatry separately. Monthly residential fees in Canadian dollars:

Program	Location	Monthly fee
Eli's Place	**Ontario**	**About $17,800**
Gould Farm	Massachusetts	About $22,300
Spring Lake Ranch	Vermont	About $23,200
CooperRiis	North Carolina	About $39,200

Paying for a stay

Eli's Place is funded through Guest fees set to cover the cost of care. The program is not currently covered by government funding or insurance, and we are not yet able to offer subsidies or income-based fees. We are pursuing accreditation and working with the Province on future funding options.

Fees are paid monthly in advance. If Eli's Place proves not to be a good fit during the first week, the fees paid are refunded in full.

US fees converted at 1.40 CAD per USD from each program's published fees as of October 2026.