

## Transition Resource Guide

### **Know Before You Go!**

#### **Developmental Services Ontario (DSO):**

Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS)

DSO helps adults with developmental disabilities connect to services and supports in their community. They can also provide information and help you or someone you care for with planning for the future.

DSO agencies are the primary contact point for people who need information about services and supports in their community, and the single access point for people who want to apply for Ministry-funded adult developmental services and supports. There are nine Developmental Services Ontario Agencies in Ontario.

Developmental Services Ontario - South West Region (DSO-SWR) is a division of the Community Services Coordination Network. There are nine DSO agencies across Ontario.

- You **can register at 16** but will need to wait to 18 to access the funded services.

Supports may include:

- Residential services and supports
- Community Participation Supports and Passport funding
- Caregiver Respite
- Person Directed Planning-help with goal setting and planning
- Adult Protective Service Workers

**Website:** [www.dsontario.ca](http://www.dsontario.ca) or call 1-855-437-6797

- Visit DSO online to find your local office. Call to ask which assessments are needed to confirm eligibility. This is best done in late elementary school years.
- If DSO determines you are eligible for services they will book two meetings: Application for Developmental Supports and Services and a Support Intensity Scale assessment to determine your support needs.

## **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP):**

ODSP offers financial assistance with essential living expenses, benefits including prescription drugs, dental services and vision care and help finding and keeping a job.

Income Support: Financial assistance provided each month to help with costs of basic needs, like food, clothing and shelter. Income support also includes benefits like drug coverage and vision care for clients and their eligible family members.

Employment Support: Services and supports to help clients with disabilities find and keep a job and advance their careers.

- Start application process 6 months prior to your child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You can start online or go in-person to your local ODSP office. Go online to locate your local ODSP office.
- Your local ODSP office will book an appointment to determine if your child is financially eligible once the initial application has been reviewed.

**Website:** [www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/odsp](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/odsp)

## **Community Care Access Centres (CCAC):**

CACs are local agencies that provide access to community-based health, Long-Term Care Home Placement Coordination and Information & Referral services.

This can include occupational therapy home assessment, ADP authorizers for wheelchair prescriptions, Personal Support Workers for assistance with bathing, dressing and other tasks or case management.

CCAC case managers will develop a custom plan based on your care needs.

CCAC manages the needs of children and adults differently.

- If your child is currently with CCAC, when they turn 18 they will be transferred to an adult care coordinator and reassessed.
- Your child can remain in school until they are 21 years old.

**Website:** [www.healthcareathome.ca](http://www.healthcareathome.ca)

**Phone:** 310 - CCAC (2222)

## **Community Networks of Specialized Care (CNSC):**

CNSC are mandated to support people who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs and/or challenging behaviours (i.e. dual diagnosis) in the communities where they live. They have also in the past provided some support in cases where the young person has medical needs in addition to a developmental disability. There are four networks in Ontario and you can find the coordinator for your region on the website.

**Website:** [www.community-networks.ca](http://www.community-networks.ca)

## **Epilepsy Ontario:**

Epilepsy Ontario and affiliated local chapters provide information, counseling, support, and advocacy services to assist people with epilepsy to live independently, with dignity, as full participants in the community.

**Website:** [www.epilepsyontario.org](http://www.epilepsyontario.org)

**Locate your regional Office:** [www.epilepsyontario.org/agency/?region=ontario](http://www.epilepsyontario.org/agency/?region=ontario)

## **Independent Living Centers (IL Centres):**

IL Centers can assist individuals with physical disabilities in accessing services in their own communities. There are nine Independent Living Centres across Ontario including Alfred, Collingwood, Kapuskasing, Kingston, Kitchen, London, Ottawa, Parry Sound, St. Catharine, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Toronto. See the Independent Living Canada website for a list of contact details and local websites.

**Website:** [www.ilcanada.ca](http://www.ilcanada.ca)

## **March of Dimes Home and Vehicle Modification Program:+**

This program provides funding for basic home and/or vehicle modifications.

**Website:** [www.marchofdimes.ca](http://www.marchofdimes.ca)

**Find your office:** [www.officelocator.mcass.gov.on.ca](http://www.officelocator.mcass.gov.on.ca)

## **Respite Services:**

There are limited options for youth with medically complexity for respite either in home or out of home and it is advisable to research options for adults locally in advance of a person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Website: [www.respiteservices.com](http://www.respiteservices.com)

### **Health Care Connect:**

A program that can assist you in finding a family doctor. They can provide referrals to specialists, complete paperwork needed for “proof of disability” and take care of basic health care needs.

**Website:** [www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner](http://www.ontario.ca/page/find-family-doctor-or-nurse-practitioner)

**Phone (toll free):** 1-800-445-1822 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.)

### **Transition Planning for Education:**

Young people can stay in the school system until 21 years of age. Your teen may wish to pursue post-secondary education.

Here you will find lists of support services, campus accessibility, contact lists and more for every publicly funded post-secondary institution in Ontario.

**Website:** [www.transitionresourceguide.ca](http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca)

If you're completing your teen's Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) application make sure to indicate that he/she has a disability as they may qualify for the Bursary for Persons with Permanent Disabilities- find out more at [www.disabilityawards.ca](http://www.disabilityawards.ca)

### **Estate Planning and Henson Trusts**

Leaving an adult with an inheritance may end up disqualifying them from social assistance programs such as ODSP. Henson Trust ensures your child will not be disqualified from ODSP and will still be able to benefit from their inheritance.

- Contact other parents who've set up Henson Trust for referrals
- Contact The Law Society Referral Service and ask to be referred to a lawyer that specializes in trusts and estates.

**For more information search *Henson Trust* on Website:** [www.mcass.gov.on.ca/](http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/)