



Fall Update on Developmental Services

A Message from Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek

Making a Difference

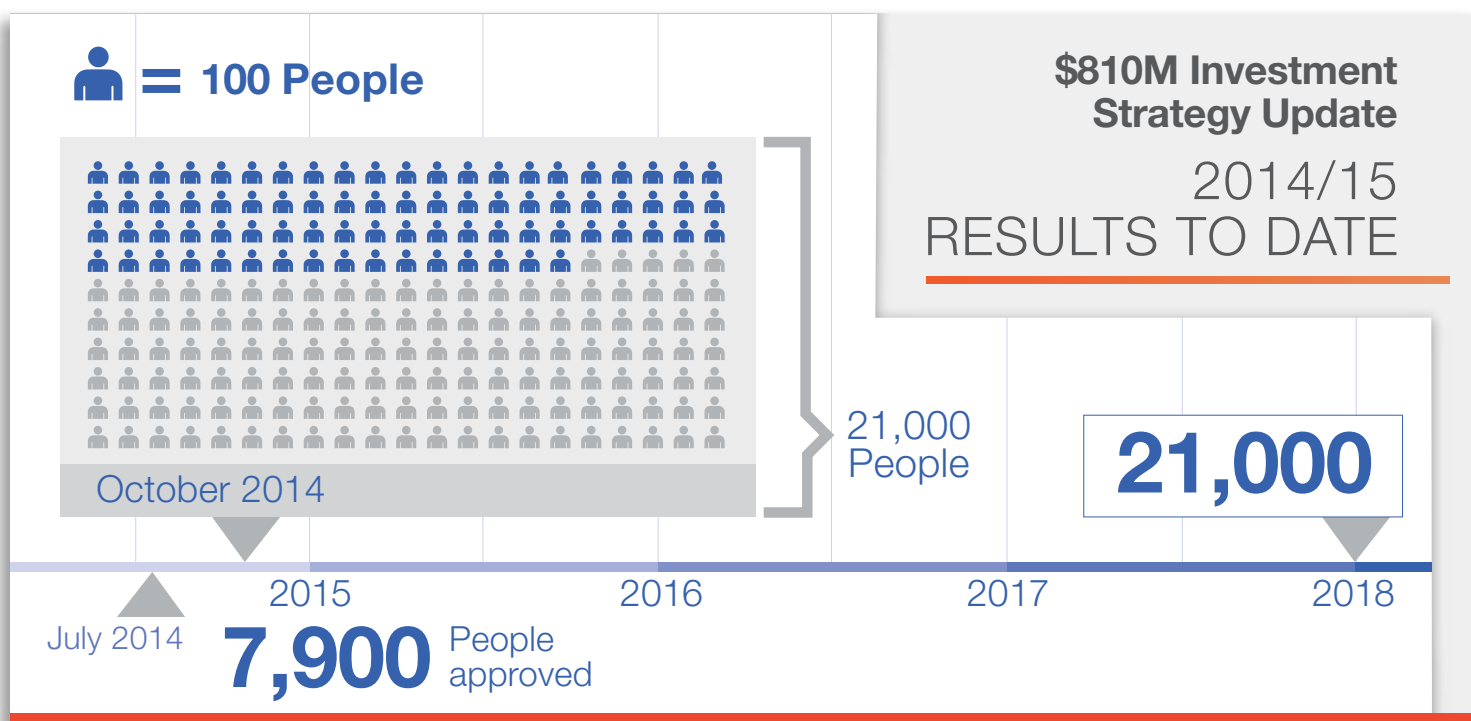
It has been three months since the Ontario legislature approved the 2014 Budget and with it, the **\$810-million** investment in community and developmental services that will support the further transformation of developmental services, expanding services to thousands more individuals in the coming years.

Thanks to the huge efforts of our community partners and ministry staff, our Budget investment is already helping thousands of

Ontarians. I'd like to give you an update on our results to date.

I am pleased to report that in the past few months, we have already approved **more than 6,000 children** and their families for new direct funding through the Special Services at Home program and nearly **1,900 adults** through Passport. For families, this means being able to pay for their child to learn new skills and later help with their transition to adulthood. Hundreds of adults will find it easier to participate in their community, and many caregivers will be able to pay for needed respite.

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We have also approved new residential supports for **350** adults so far this year, and people are already beginning to transition to their new homes. This includes people who have been on our adult community waitlist for residential supports as well as a number of vulnerable young adults who are moving from children's services into services for adults.

I want to thank our developmental services community agencies for their partnership in making these Budget commitments a reality for so many people.

Thanks in particular to our Passport agencies which are doing a great job getting approvals and funding to so many applicants so quickly.

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Moving Forward with Developmental Services Transformation

Our recent Budget investment is making a difference for so many people already, but equally important is its role in furthering our multi-year plan to transform developmental services and to build up the service system.

Direct funding through Passport is a tool to promote inclusion, independence and choice. Our new Employment and Modernization Fund will help us evolve services to be more individualized and responsive to the people we serve. It will also help us foster a culture change in our employment programs, in order to make integrated employment in the community the preferred outcome for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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Employment and Modernization Fund

The submission period for the Employment and Modernization Fund has just passed.

We are looking forward to reviewing some great ideas on how we can improve services and employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. The review process begins this week and we will be letting you know as soon as possible about the approved projects.



The Budget investment provides \$200 million over three years which will support frontline workers in agencies that provide services to vulnerable people. We are working with employers and bargaining agents to discuss an approach for this significant investment that supports a service system for the future while promoting labour stability and a qualified workforce.

Housing Task Force

I recognize there is still much more work to do on residential supports and to make our communities more inclusive. The Developmental Services Housing Task Force will help us discover broader, more inclusive housing options for people with developmental disabilities. This will be a multi-year journey, collaborating across governments and with community partners to find innovative housing solutions.

At the same time, we must continue to make sure that the way we deliver services is as efficient and responsive as possible. Together, we must continue to improve the foundation of

our developmental services system so we are working at full capacity to help as many people as we possibly can.

“I recognize there is still much more work to do on residential supports and to make our communities more inclusive.”

I see our Budget investment as a great opportunity: The opportunity to help thousands today and the opportunity to build up the developmental services system. We hope all of you are as excited about it as we are.

You can count on my unwavering support as we work together to promote inclusion, choice and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister

Responding to the Select Committee on Developmental Services

I wanted to let you know that our government has now tabled its response to the final report of the Select Committee on Developmental Services.

The committee's report reflects concerns that the government has heard and is taking steps on many fronts to address. Our response works across government ministries. It reflects our belief that partnerships – across government and throughout our communities – are crucial to building a truly inclusive province, where people with developmental disabilities are fully integrated in the fabric of society and live as independently as possible. I'm pleased that MPP Soo Wong, my Parliamentary Assistant, will be guiding the inter-ministerial work needed to implement key recommendations of the Select Committee's report.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to appear before the committee and provide written submissions. Your voices will continue to play an important role in our ongoing dialogue about inclusion for Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister



Ministry of Community and Social Services
Community Supports Policy Branch

Tel: 416-327-4954 ▪ Fax: 416-325-5554 ▪ Toll-free tel: 1-866-340-8881 ▪ Toll-free fax: 1-866-340-9112

Email: DStransformation.css@ontario.ca ▪ Read more about developmental services at ontario.ca/community

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