



A renewed commitment to Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities in the 2018 Budget

The 2018 Budget includes, if passed, \$1.8 Billion in increased new funding over three years for developmental services, the largest one-time investment in the province's history.

For the first time, every eligible adult with a developmental disability, including youth turning 18 and transitioning to adult services, will get at least \$5,000 a year in direct funding through Passport to help with connecting in their community and respite for caregivers.

This vital investment would ensure that hundreds of people living in places like hospitals, shelters and long term care homes find new, more appropriate, safe homes in their community – where they would receive the right supports for their particular needs.

Relief and support to caregivers would be provided through increased in-home support. New residential spots would also be created through capital investments and working in creative partnerships with families and agencies to create unique residential settings.

The government values the important work that the approximately 360 developmental services agencies across the province do, day in and day out. This investment includes approximately \$300M over three years so that agencies can continue to provide high-quality services to individuals and their families.

This funding would make a significant difference in the lives of people we serve, working towards an Ontario where all people with developmental disabilities are fully included in their communities.

In addition, Budget 2018 would also deliver immediate help to adults with developmental disabilities through the first phase of income security reform.

Income security reform would mean more money in the hands of those on social assistance through a 9% increase to rates over three years, changes to income exemptions, a new standard flat rate, and the elimination or simplification of a range of overly complex rules.

The proposed plan will immediately benefit about 75,000 adults with developmental disabilities who rely on ODSP. For example, starting this year:

- Adults with developmental disabilities who live with their parents will now get higher basic needs and shelter supports instead of lodging rates – the difference between current maximum basic needs and shelter versus board and lodge rates is \$270 per month for a single person receiving ODSP.
- Individuals who are working will be able to earn \$400 per month without reducing their assistance – that is double the current earnings exemption.
- Asset limits will be fully eliminated for those receiving ODSP
- Individuals on ODSP will have access to mandatory vision and hearing benefits

By 2020-21, a single person with a developmental disability could receive \$108 more each month from ODSP if they are currently renters and \$378 more per month if they are currently boarders or lodgers.

We know how important our programs are to individuals and families who rely on them. The ministry has worked closely with developmental services sector partners to improve the system of services and supports being provided to people with developmental disabilities and their families. We will continue to listen to the individuals and families who rely on our programs as well as our agencies. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to make our programs and supports better. ■

Province boosting Passport Program funding supports

Part of the latest developmental services Budget investments is a renewed commitment to provide assistance to people with developmental disabilities through the Passport Program.

Subject to the passage of the Budget, for the first time, every eligible adult with a developmental disability in the province, including youth turning 18 and transitioning to adult services, will be eligible for at least \$5,000 per year in direct funding through Passport.

Additionally, those who are currently receiving less than \$5,000 in Passport funding will receive be eligible for funding up to \$5,000. We are also making further investments that will mean many other people will receive their full allocation of Passport funding.

This increased investment in Passport would help over 42,000 adults with developmental disabilities get more support by 2020-21.

We know that the transition from youth to adult programming can be a challenge, which is why this direct funding will be beneficial and aims to eliminate “the cliff” for young people transitioning to adult services and supports. This builds on steps we have taken to make access to ODSP easier for people with developmental disabilities.

To read more on the Passport Program, visit the ministry’s [website](#). ■



Developmental Disabilities Justice Toolkit available across Ontario



The Ministry of Community and Social Services, in collaboration with partner ministries including the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the Ministry of the Attorney General have developed a new toolkit for the justice sector, to increase awareness and help support people with developmental disabilities who come into contact with the justice system.

Led by the Eastern Community Network of Specialized Care and developed in consultation with experts in the field, the online toolkit was created to be used by professionals in the justice system, such as police, corrections, probation and parole officers, crown attorneys, and others. The toolkit aims to raise awareness within the justice sector about individuals with

a developmental disability and contains useful information on how to identify and communicate effectively with people with developmental disabilities, and is accompanied by a webinar and training videos, in both English and French, which illustrate situations and strategies involving a person with a developmental disability. The toolkit will be updated and refreshed every two years.

The toolkit is a practical resource for professionals working in the justice system to be more aware of the special needs of this population, and how to access community resources available to support their needs. This will ultimately help improve the outcome of interactions between justice sector staff and people with developmental disabilities. To learn more and to download the toolkit, visit the Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee [website](#). A webinar on the toolkit is also available [here](#). ■

Ontario launching new program supporting improved health care

The Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care have developed a new program to help improve health care for adults with developmental disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities Primary Care Program (DDPCP) is helping to address the unique and complex physical and mental health care needs by publishing and promoting updated clinical practice guidelines and new training resources for primary care providers, including family doctors.

The guidelines include recommendations for person-centred approaches to care, online training tools and other crucial information on the health care needs of adults with developmental disabilities. The guidelines and resources developed in Ontario will be available to primary care providers across Canada.

The ministry has partnered with Surrey Place Centre to lead the program. This program will help to improve access to appropriate, comprehensive and continuous health care,

and improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

For more information, check out the [news release](#). ■



The new Developmental Disabilities Primary Care Program serves as a credible resource for primary care providers caring for adults with developmental disabilities. We develop and promote clinical practice guidelines and other resources that are informed by ethics, empirical studies, expert knowledge, current research on health care systems and the perspectives and experiences of people with developmental disabilities and their caregivers.”

— Dr. William F. Sullivan,
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