

**What is Developmental Services Ontario (DSO):**

A government entity that supports people to access provincially funded services for adults in Ontario that have Intellectual Disabilities. The DSO provides information, confirms eligibility for services and supports, helps to determine specific supports needs through an assessment process, connects people to other service agencies and will administer direct funding options.

**DSO Offices**: DSO South East Region services Frontenac, Hastings, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, and Prince Edward counties.

**Developmental Services Applications** for those eligible may begin at the age of 16 to receive Passport Funding to purchase services as an adult. The application process should begin at 16 to allow time for the process and possible wait lists. Once the individual has been deemed eligible they will receive a letter and a call for an assessment from Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). Individuals may now use their DSO eligibility when applying for ODSP in replacement of the medical package previously required with the application.

**What is Passport Funding?**

Passport is a funding program that adults with Intellectual Disabilities can use to pay for community participation, activities of daily living, person centered planning, caregiver respite services and to hire support workers and administration. Passport funding can include assistance with the transition from childhood to adulthood, activities for personal development encourage learning and social involvement and provide respite for parents and caregivers.

**Special Services at Home**

Special Services at Home (SSAH) is a funding program for children under 18 with a developmental and/or a physical disability. The SSAH program is focused on meeting needs broadly described as Personal Growth and Development and/or Family Relief and Support.

**Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)**

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD) is for children under 18 with a developmental and/or a physical disability. ACSD provides a monthly benefit to eligible families to help offset the ongoing extraordinary costs associated with the care of a child who has a severe disability. Eligibility is based on four factors; the age of the child, household income, the extent of the child’s disability, and the extra expenses related to the disability.

**Am I Eligible for DSO Supports?**

In order to be eligible for Developmental Services, a person must have significant limitations in cognitive and/or adaptive functioning, be 18 years of age or older, live in Ontario and be able to provide supporting documentation in regard to the above mentioned.

**ODSP Applications:** The Ontario Disability Support Program provides individuals with disabilities financial support. Applications are usually recommended six months before an individual’s 18th birthday, however if individuals have an eligibility letter from the DSO they may apply as late as 6 weeks before their 18th birthday.

**Post-secondary Applications** usually begin in January and February of the year the individual is graduating. CLNF and your school may assist with this.

**Community Living North Frontenac** helps with person centered planning and personal goal setting as well as employment support (job training and co-op placement for secondary students), and community involvement through activities and social events. CLNF can also assist with application forms and paperwork for children and families in regard to Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (funds specialized equipment and products) and Special Services at Home (respite services) and link families to services for Registered Disability Saving Plans and Disability tax credits.

Community Living can also assist individuals to access other **Community Based Services** and make referrals as needed.

**Housing** can be a challenge in rural areas- CLNF can assist with applications for public housing as well as individual rental searches.