

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES ONTARIO (DSO) Website: www.dsontario.ca/ Service and Support for Adults with Developmental Disabilities DUFFERIN COUNTY

Developmental Services Ontario helps adults with developmental disabilities connect to services and supports in their communities. There are nine agencies across Ontario to serve you. Our organizations are funded by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

DSO Central West Region serve the following areas: Peel Region, Halton Region, Wellington County, Dufferin County and Waterloo Region.

DSOs are single points of access to adult developmental services across the province.

Functions include provision of information on services and supports, confirmation of eligibility, completion of application and needs assessment, service navigation, and referrals to services and supports.

Wherever you live in Ontario, you or someone you care for can get help to connect with available residential supports

- residential supports
- caregiver respite
- community participation supports (like recreation, volunteering, employment, or in-home supports)
- professional and specialized services
- person-directed planning
- other supports to help people with developmental disabilities become more involved in their communities

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES IN ONTARIO

Developmental Services Ontario agencies can help adults with developmental disabilities find services and supports in their community. We can also provide information and help you or someone you care for with planning for the future. The agency in each region will help individuals access the supports that are available in their community

PROVIDES:

- Residential Services and Supports
- <u>Community Participation</u> <u>Supports and Passport</u>
- Caregiver Respite
- Person-Directed Planning
- Adult Protective Service Workers
- Specialized Supports

1120 Victoria St N Kitchener, ON N2B 3T2 1-888-941-1121

Fax: 519-821-4422 Email: dso@dscwr.com Hours: 9am-4:30pm

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY/ELIGIBILITY

A developmental disability

- is present at birth or develops before 18 years of age,
- affects a person's ability to learn,
- is permanent,
- can be mild or severe

People with developmental disabilities often requires more help to learn, understand or use information than others. This can affect their language and social skills. It may also mean that they need help with daily life as well as other assistance to be as independent and successful as possible.

People with a developmental disability can still participate fully in their communities. They can be great athletes, artists, workers, advocates, neighbours and friends. They're an important part of the community and contribute to the strength of our province

APPLYING FOR SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Developmental Services Ontario agencies can provide you with information about services and supports in your community that help adults with developmental disabilities. We can also tell you about other community programs that might be useful or interesting to you

There are many ways you can get this information—over the phone, during a face-to-face meeting with one of our team members, through our newsletters or through our website

Confirming Eligibility for Adult Developmental Services

Adults who access services and supports through Developmental Services Ontario must have a developmental disability as defined within the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act (2008).

To confirm if a person has a developmental disability, we will need to review a copy of a psychological assessment. We will also need to confirm your age and your Ontario residency.

When you call your Developmental Services Ontario agency, we can provide you with information and answer any questions you might have about the eligibility confirmation process

Dufferin/Wellington Direct Line:

P: 519-821-5716 F: 519-821-4422

DSO Central West Region Administered by Sunbeam Centre 2749 Kingsway Dr Kitchener, ON N2C 1A7 Phone: 519-893-6200 Fax: 519-893-9034

Eligibility for Developmental Services and Supports

What does a person need to apply for developmental services?

Before a person can apply for adult developmental services, Development Services Ontario will need to make sure that they are eligible. To do this, we need documentation confirming age, Ontario residency, and a psychological assessment. We need to ensure that each person meets a cognitive, an adaptive, and an age of onset criterion

If a person has already obtained an assessment through their school, a hospital, or another organization, you can give us a copy of this assessment. We will review it to make sure that they are eligible

If a person doesn't have a psychological assessment, someone at your Developmental Services Ontario agency can help you find out how and where to get an assessment done. Some assessments are publicly funded, which means you won't need to pay. Or, you can choose to pay a psychologist to do one

Please <u>contact us</u> for more information on eligibility confirmation at Developmental Services Ontario

Determining Service and Support Needs

Once we have confirmed that a person is eligible for Ministry-funded services and supports, we will begin the process of completing the application package with them and their family and/or caregiver(s). This application package is completed in two separate meetings

The first meeting is with an assessor who will help the person with a developmental disability and their caregiver(s) to complete the Application for Developmental Services and Supports (ADSS). This part of the application process helps us get to know the person a little better. We will begin with some general information about their referral, medical conditions, capabilities and background information which will help us get a good understanding of their needs. We will then move to a section called, "Getting to Know You." In this section, we will talk about things that the person likes and dislikes, as well as about their dreams and future goals

Next, we will schedule a time to complete the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). This part of the application tells us about the level of support a person needs to be successful in a variety of areas. These areas include: home living, community activities, lifelong learning, employment, social activities and protection and advocacy. We will also talk about support the person might need for different medical or behavioural issues

Preparing for Meetings

An assessor will be assigned to each person requesting an application package. They will

• set a time and location for two meetings

- confirm that the individual will be part of the application process
- confirm that two respondents will be available for both meetings
- confirm that an authorized person will be able to provide consent, either before or during the meetings

Meetings can be scheduled at flexible times and in different locations, so long as the setting is private and allows for comfortable seating. Each meeting will take approximately two hours, depending on the needs of the person and the amount of information shared

The information in this section of the website can help you prepare for the kinds of questions we will ask during our meetings

Click on the <u>link</u> to read up on Consent * the application form * getting to know you * care and caregiver concerns * the supports intensity scale * linking people to services and supports * after your application * information management practices at the DSO * waiting lists/prioritization * passport