

Transition Timeline

High school entry

Check with your school to see if you have a psychological assessment already on file for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). Update your transition plan and Individual Education Plan (IEP) with your school team.

Age 16 or earlier

Gather your documents to show that you live in Ontario, have a developmental disability, and confirm when you will turn 18. Explore day programs and/or post-secondary options with your school team.

At age 16

Adult developmental services start after turning 18 but apply early at age 16. Apply online at dsontario.ca or call 2-1-1 Helpline to find your area DSO.

Confirm eligibility

Submit your documents. You can upload your documents to your online profile or connect with your area DSO.

Application package

Once confirmed eligible, you will be connected to a DSO assessor in your area to help you complete an application package and determine the level of support you need.

Stay connected

With all the correct documents, you can be confirmed eligible for adult developmental services at age 16, although the services will not start until after turning 18. Tell your area DSO if your information or situation changes.

CONNECT WITH US!
dsontario.ca



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Preparing Students with Developmental Disabilities for

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



Transition planning for students

Aiden, 15, is an aspiring web developer with a developmental disability. He loves spending time in his high school community. Aiden, his family and his support network are very excited about his upcoming 16th birthday. But they are also nervous about his future.

When youth turn 18, services such as Special Services at Home, Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities or services through the Ontario Autism Program, end. At the age of 16, youth and families can apply through Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) to see if they are eligible to receive government-funded adult developmental services through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) after turning 18.



What is DSO?

DSO is the access point for adult developmental services. DSO connects people to available services and supports in their community so that they can become more independent and actively involved in their communities.

Some of the services that may be available in their community include housing supports, caregiver respite, supports to help people take part in the community, specialized and clinical supports, the Adult Protective Service Worker Program, and the Passport Program.

Why develop a plan?	Transition planning is important, it is your opportunity to plan for your future.
Your role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a voice, your opinion matters • Be involved as much as possible • Think about your goals for the transition and your future
Who can help with transition?	You can select someone from your family, school, community agency or respite worker
How can your family help?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps develop your goals during the transition • Helps advocate for you, making sure your voice is heard
How do you prepare?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about your upcoming transition • Identify who can help you in the process • Choose a lead (you, a professional, or a person you trust and rely on) • Make sure you have the required documents for the application process
How do you transition?	<p>Step 1: Find your area DSO by calling 2-1-1 Helpline, or visit dsontario.ca</p> <p>Step 2: When you turn 16, call your area DSO or apply online to see if you are eligible for services</p> <p>Step 3: Complete an application package and get connected to available services</p> <p>Step 4: Stay in touch so we can keep your file updated</p>