

What is DSO?

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) in Ontario. We connect individuals to available services and supports so that they can become more independent and actively involved in their communities, and ultimately live more meaningful lives.

Some of those supports can include case management services, housing supports, community participation supports, caregiver respite supports, and more.

What is a developmental disability?

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions that cause people difficulties in certain areas of life, especially in learning, language, independent living, or behaviour. These conditions begin early on and persist throughout the person's lifespan.

Some people with a developmental disability were born with Down syndrome. Some have autism. Others may have had an illness or accident before they turned 18, which limits their intellectual development.

People with a developmental disability participate in and contribute to their communities. They are great employees, artists, athletes, advocates, and friends.



Call 2-1-1
(toll-free 1-877-330-3213)
or visit
dsontario.ca
to find your area DSO

CONNECT WITH US!



March 2022

**If you receive
ODSP, you may be
eligible for
Developmental
Services**



**People with developmental
disabilities may be able to access
ministry-funded adult developmental
services through DSO**



How do I apply to DSO?

If you have

- a developmental disability
- live in Ontario
- and are 18 years old

apply through DSO to see if you are eligible to receive adult ministry-funded supports available in your community.



There are nine DSO locations in Ontario. Talk to your area DSO to find out what services and supports are available and are right for you.

Call 2-1-1 (toll-free 1-877-330-3213)
or visit www.dsontario.ca

Does DSO offer adult developmental services?

No. DSO does not deliver any services or funding. It is the **access point** for MCCSS-funded adult developmental services and supports.

DSO **helps connect you** to services and supports that are available to you.

When should you apply to DSO?

It is good to start planning early so the best time to apply to DSO is at 16 years of age. However, you can only access services when you turn 18.

If I'm eligible to access developmental services, will I also be eligible for ODSP?

Anyone who is eligible to receive developmental services automatically meets the disability requirement for ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program). However you will need to meet other criteria for ODSP funding (i.e. financial eligibility). You are also automatically eligible for Passport Program funding.

When should you apply to ODSP?

The best time to apply for the ODSP is at 17 ½ years of age.

Can I apply for ODSP through DSO?

No, it is a different process to apply for ODSP. However, you can use the DSO eligibility letter you receive as part of your application for income support with the ODSP. If you're not sure, contact your ODSP office.

When will I receive support?

It may take some time before you get your services and supports. In the meantime, tell your area DSO if any of your information or situation changes.

