

What is a developmental disability?

A developmental disability is a lifelong condition that starts in childhood and affects how the brain works. This leads to challenges in areas like learning, language, behaviour, or daily living.

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.

DSO Application Process

OVERVIEW

Apply to your DSO to see if you are eligible for Ministry-funded adult developmental services.



After DSO **confirms if you are eligible**, you will receive your **eligibility letter** from your DSO.



After you receive your eligibility letter, you will be **connected to a DSO staff person in your area**.



Once you agree to a **DSO support needs assessment**, your DSO will **schedule the assessment**.

Helpful Tips



- To apply for DSO, you can use an ODSP statement of direct deposit to prove you live in Ontario. Please review the DSO application process for other documents you need.
- You can also use the DSO eligibility letter you receive as part of your ODSP application.



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

CONNECT WITH US!



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



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 people to available services and supports so that they can become more independent and actively involved in their communities.

Does DSO deliver services and funding?

DSO does not deliver any services or funding but it is the **access point** for MCCSS-funded adult developmental services and supports. This means DSO **helps connect you** to services and supports that are available to you through your community.

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.

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 after you turn 18, when they are available.

I am approved for services with DSO, what supports can I access?

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

You are also automatically eligible for Passport program funding. Please ask your area DSO to request a referral.

When will I receive support?

It may take some time before you get your services and supports. In the meantime, update your area DSO if any of your information or situation changes, such as change in your support needs, caregiver support and/or address.

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

Anyone who is eligible to receive developmental services meets the **disability** requirement for ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program). However there are other criteria to meet to be approved for ODSP funding, such as financial eligibility.

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. Contact your ODSP office to get help with your application.

