

Who to Talk to...

Income Supports: Over age 16

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
Community and Social Services:
519 254 1651

Application for:

Adult Supports and Services: 18 years and older

(Passport, Day Support, Housing, Respite etc.)
Developmental Services ON Southwest Region

1-855 437 6797

NOTE: YOU CAN CONTACT THE DSO AFTER YOUR CHILD IS AGE 16 TO HAVE THEM REVIEW YOUR CHILD'S PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TO ENSURE THAT IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE ADULT APPLICATION PROCESS. YOU MUST APPLY TO THE DSO FOR ANY GOVERNMENT FUNDED ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

Special Services at Home: (under 18)

Family Respite Services :
519 972 9688

Talking to Other Families:

Autism Ontario: 519 250 1893
Ensemble: 519 776 6486, Ext. 225
Parents for Children's Mental Health:
kar4cmh@gmail.com
Up About Down: 519 973 6486
Windsor Essex Family Network: 519 974 1008



*Information is a
phone call away.*

Agencies Providing Services to Adults with Physical and Developmental Disabilities in Windsor/Essex County.

Access the following agencies and supports through Developmental Services Ontario.

- Community Living Essex County: 519 776 6483
- Community Living Windsor: 519 974 4221
- Christian Horizons: 519 253 3925
- Family Service Windsor-Essex: 519 256 1831
- Harmony in Action: 519 252 1207
- St. Francis Advocates: 519 828 3923
- Regional Support Associates: 1 800 640 4108
- Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports
519 966 8094

Other Supports: (Contact Directly)

Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario:
519 969 8188
Community Care Access Centre :
519 258 8211
Dual Diagnosis Program Windsor Regional
Hospital: 519 257 5111 ext. 76805

**Information about each program is also available on line at :
[www. 211WindsorEssex.ca](http://www.211WindsorEssex.ca)**

Planning Early for Your Child with Disabilities.... What You Need to Know NOW



***The Choices You Make Today
Will Impact Your Son or
Daughter's Life in the Future.***

*What Families Need to Know about
Government Funded Services for
Adults with a Developmental Disability.*

Planning

There are many children's services in place for families who have sons and daughters with developmental disabilities. These services might include funding to help families purchase in home supports, respite care services, summer or specialized programs and school.

Many families think that these services will continue on as their son or daughter makes the transition between services funded for children and the adult service sector. **Planning is important because this will not necessarily happen.** Early planning is necessary especially because school programs end by the time your son or daughter turns 21 years of age.



Services for your son or daughter will likely be much different

Just like any major transition, it is important to talk to others, gather information and think about what life will be like and what you will need to do to ensure that your son or daughter and you have a meaningful life in the community.

You are encouraged to plan ahead with your family. It will be necessary for you to plan to be involved both financially and emotionally to develop the life you envision for your son or daughter throughout their life.

Government/agency funded supports are not guaranteed for persons with disabilities.

Having a Vision

HAVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE

The biggest change in accessing services and supports in the "adult" system, is that it is founded on the principle that your son or daughter has the right to make decisions and be involved in developing any plans. The goal is to assist them to have a meaningful life.

WHAT ARE THE DREAMS OF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER?



What kind of life do you dream of for your son or daughter?

Some parents assume that when their son or daughter reaches the age of 21 or so, that they could move to a "group home" which is funded by the government. Others are looking for different kinds of support. There is limited availability for any of these kinds of supports. Many individuals and families will need to make other plans.

Like all of us, people with disabilities want to have opportunities to work, live with people they choose, participate in activities they like and have relationships with friends and family.

Families may need to use their own financial resources to make their vision come alive. Planning early is important.

Taking Charge

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Before Your Son or Daughter Turns 18:

- Support them to make friends and develop relationships with people
- Educate yourself and talk to legal advisors to get information about estate and will planning and other legal decisions.
- Talk to financial planners about the Registered Disability Savings Plan and other financial plans—even if you don't have money you can invest yourself there are plans you can access.
- Attend information sessions with agencies and family support groups.
- Develop a "circle of support"—trusted people who know you and your son or daughter who will help to develop ideas for supports, be involved and explore options and ideas.
- Talk to other parents who have been there so that you can hear about options and ideas.
- Apply for Special Services at Home
- Talk to contacts you have at children's services agencies to help with the transition.
- Access information and resources through your child's school.

What to Do as Your Son or Daughter Approaches the Age of 18 (or older):

- Apply for the Ontario Disability Support Pension (ODSP). This can be done six months before their 18th birthday.
- Complete an application for services and supports. These are available through Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). They complete an application to verify eligibility for services. Services are provided according to funding and resources available.
- Talk to the agencies to see what supports are possible.
- Talk to "Brokerage" for planning support. Windsor Essex Brokerage also has information about other opportunities in the community at large.