

# How to apply for services and helpful tips to help you get the most out of your application package



## What we will cover in today's webinar

- DSO overview and how to apply
- What to expect—the application process and package
- Tips to help you get the most out of your assessment
- Top 5 ways you can use your application package beyond applying for funded services





## **DSO Overview**

### **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.

There are 9 DSO agencies across the province.



## The DSO will help you:

- **understand and complete** the application process.
- **determine** the kind of services and supports you need.
- **get access** to MCCSS funded services and supports that you need when they become available.
- find **information** in your community.



## **Services you may be able to apply for include:**

- specialized supports,
- Passport program,
- housing supports,
- community participation supports, and
- caregiver respite supports.

# How to apply for services



## 1. Get your eligibility documents ready

- Proof of age, proof of residency and a psychological assessment.



## 2. Call your area DSO

- Call 2-1-1 or visit [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca) to find contact information.



## 3. Complete an application

- Meet with a DSO staff person to complete the application package.



## 4. Stay in touch

- Let your local DSO if your information changes.

# What to expect--the application process and package

## The application process

- If you are eligible to receive MCCSS funded services, you will be connected to a DSO staff person in your area.
- They will set up 2 meetings with you to help you complete an application package and determine the level of support you need.
- You will need to have at least 2 people who know you well (e.g., parent, guardian, support worker, etc.) with you at the meetings.

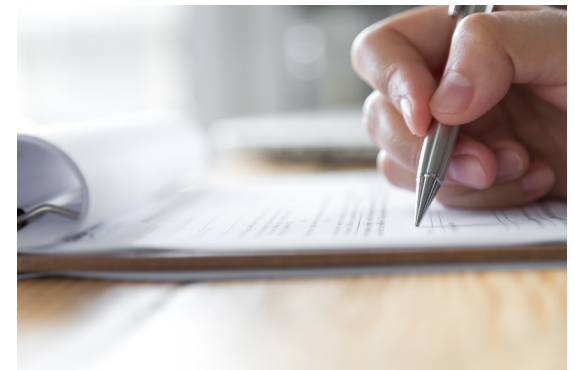


## The application package helps identify your needs

To make sure that we understand and identify the right services and supports for you, we look at your needs in 2 ways. We complete the Application for Developmental Services and Supports (ADSS) and Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) with you.

The ADSS and SIS help us understand your needs in some of the following areas:

- communication,
- current living situation,
- likes and dislikes,
- dreams and goals, and
- what is important to you.





## Application for Developmental Services and Supports (ADSS)

This part of the application helps us get to know you a little better. We will ask you questions that focus on some of the following topics:

- your current services and supports and the one's you're requesting;
- medical and/or behavioural needs;
- financial status; and
- caregiver concerns.



## Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)

This part of the application tells us about the level of support you need to be successful in a variety of areas:

- Home living
- Community activities
- Lifelong learning
- Employment
- Health and safety
- Social activities
- Protection and advocacy



# Service Registry

Once we complete the application package and review your needs, we identify available services and supports in your area.

For services and supports that are not currently available, we place you on a service registry.



# Tips to help you get the most out of your application package

The information you provide will identify the supports and services that fit your needs, now and in the future.

## Make sure you:

- give us as much information as possible.
- tell us about activities you may want to participate in.
- express what you want now and in the future.
- provide accurate and realistic suggestions, because it may impact the services and supports you access in the future.



# Top 5 ways you can use your application package



1. Set personal goals and plan for the future.
2. Create a support plan.
3. Track your progress overtime.
4. Share information about your needs with current and future service providers to avoid repeating your story.
5. Share your goals and needs with new or existing supports or caregiver(s), so they can better understand, or learn something new about you.

## Further benefits of the application

- Starts the conversation with your caregiver(s) about the future and what needs to be done to support your long-term success
- Brings your support people together (support network) to share information and ideas for supports you may need in different settings and scenarios.



## Further benefits of the application

- Outlines your support needs in 7 different areas of community participation, as well as, your current medical and behavioural support needs
- A DSO staff person can provide you with information on programs, services and supports that you may benefit from (e.g. planning and locating a community resource or information session on a topic of interest)



# How do I get started?

Call 2-1-1 (toll-free 1-877-330-3213) or visit [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca) to find contact information for your area DSO.

Talk to your area DSO to find out what services and supports are available and are right for you.







**Thank you!**

**CONNECT WITH US!**  
**dsontario.ca**

