

Start Early: Connect with Development Services Ontario (DSO) Plan ahead for when your family member turns 18 years old.

Step One "Get your eligibility documents ready"

- Submit documents to confirm: your age, that you are living in Ontario, and that you have a developmental disability which requires a psychological assessment.
- *The assessment must include:*
 - **information about your cognitive functioning** which means your ability to reason, organize, plan, make judgments, and identify consequences, usually done as an IQ test.
 - **information about adaptive functioning** which means the capacity to gain independence and apply skills in everyday life.
- If you don't have a psychological assessment with an IQ score and the other required adaptive information, then you will need to get one before eligibility can be confirmed.

<https://www.dsonario.ca/how-to-access-services/the-application-process>

Call Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)
South West Region at
519-945-3797
Or toll-free at
1-855-437-6797
to apply for:
**independent facilitation,
Passport funding,
individualized housing
support funds/options or
other services.**

A/ At 16 years of age

Using an existing psychological assessment:

You can provide an assessment from the past to confirm eligibility in advance.

If this confirms your eligibility, then you would be able to make a call to the DSO at 17 ½ years of age for an appointment to start the application process.

B/ 14 - 17 years of age

If you have to get a new psychological assessment:

If no psychological assessment has been completed or an existing one is not suitable, contact your school to see if they would arrange for one. If the school is not able to assist, you could contact a psychologist to complete the assessment. There is a cost to this option which may be partially covered with a private benefit plan. You could also contact the DSO to see if they are aware of any community resources offering this service at reduced fees.

If these options don't work, then you would need to wait until your family member turns 17 ½ years of age to get assistance for a psychological assessment through the DSO.

C/ At 17 ½ years of age

If eligibility has previously been confirmed:

Contact the DSO to make an appointment with a DSO assessor and **start the application process**. It will take at least two meetings - sometimes more.

If eligibility is not yet confirmed because you don't have a psychological assessment, you could ask the DSO to make a referral for an assessment that would be funded through the government. Ask the DSO about wait times.

**Start
Early**

What to do if you are NOT confirmed eligible after submitting your psychological assessment:

A review of the decision can be requested by writing the DSO within 25 business days from the date you get the letter stating that the person is not eligible.

http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/publications/developmentalservices/policy_application/3_directives.aspx

When you are confirmed eligible through the DSO:

You will automatically qualify for the disability portion of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), all other eligibility requirements must still be met (age, residency, and financial need).

You can apply for ODSP:

- Using the **Online Application for Social Assistance**
- By phoning 519-254-1651 or 1-800-387-7327
- In person at 270 Erie St. East, Windsor