

What is Developmental Services Ontario (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.

When you turn 18, your children's developmental services such as Special Services at Home, Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities, and services through the Ontario Autism Program end. At the age of 16, apply through DSO to see if you are eligible to receive adult MCCSS-funded supports available in your community after you turn 18.

DSO will help you:

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

How to access services



1 Find your area DSO

There are nine DSO locations across Ontario to help you access the supports available in your community.

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



2 Apply online or call your area DSO

You can now apply online. For more information, visit **dsontario.ca**.

If you call your area DSO, the person you speak with will **ask you questions** and see if you are eligible for services.

Being eligible means you:

- have a **developmental disability**,
- **live in Ontario**, and
- are **18 years or older** (Call your area DSO when you turn 16 to learn about the services available to you after age 18).

There are certain services and supports available to you once your eligibility has been confirmed.



3 Complete an application

A DSO assessor will set up two meetings with you to help you complete an application package and determine the level of support you need.

Each meeting will be about three hours long and you will need to have at least two people who know you well with you at the meetings (e.g., parent, guardian, teacher, etc.).

Once the assessor knows your needs, you will be connected to services that are available in your area.



4 Stay in touch

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

- DSO Hamilton-Niagara
- DSO South West
- DSO Central West
- DSO South East
- DSO Central East
- DSO North East
- DSO Eastern
- DSO Northern
- DSO Toronto



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or visit

dsontario.ca

to find your area DSO



YOUR ACCESS POINT FOR adult developmental SERVICES

