

5. TRANSITION IN THE COMMUNITY

This section outlines transition planning in the community system through a discussion of the following:

- Adult system reality – this is not an entitlement system and you need to be prepared;
- Access in Toronto – a description of accessing adult services in the Toronto Region; and
- Access in Central East Region – a description of accessing adult services in the Central East Region.

The service system is complex, there are many people accessing the services available and many waiting for supports. The transition to adult life may be a confusing time. Your child will likely have to leave behind some of the supports, if not all, they have become familiar with as an adolescent. You may need to develop a whole new set of activities, supports and services that are consistent with your child’s preferences and interests as they begin their life as an adult. There may be some services that will continue to the age of 18 and even beyond (e.g. Special Services at Home) and some that will not continue (i.e. Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities). There are different supports and services available to a person over the age of 18 - such as the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

You need to become knowledgeable about services for adults and how or if your child will fit into it. This is a time for asking questions. Be sure you know what is going to happen to services and supports your family is currently receiving and what new services you may be eligible for as your child becomes an adult. Use this information as you begin your transition planning process.



An important note about the adult system: As you make your plans for the future it is important to remember your child is entitled to service through the publicly funded education system. Adult services are not based on a system of entitlement. Both the increased demand for service and government policies have required agencies to make difficult decisions in determining who they can serve.

Practically this means that while your son or daughter might be eligible for service in the adult system, they may be on a waiting list for some time. Being prepared is key to a successful transition, but it is not a guarantee of receiving the supports and services that you might expect from the system.

The following descriptions will help you understand how access to ministry-funded services and supports currently works in each of the communities in Toronto and Central East Region. It is important to note that this current system of access may change over the next year or two. The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) has been consulting on changes to the system that are designed to create a more accessible, fair and sustainable system of community-based supports. One of the planned changes is the creation of application entities – one in each region. An application entity will be the first place people will go to apply for developmental services. It will give people with developmental disabilities a single point of access to services and supports, as available.

The following information identifies the process for each area.

Access in Toronto

You need to contact only one agency to apply for any of the developmental services and supports in Toronto. The first step is to call one of the agencies listed below. Someone will either help you to complete a request for service form or connect you to someone who can.

Once you have completed a request for services you will be offered the option of being connected to the Interim Support Team or being connected directly to a Lead Agency.

Many services and supports in Toronto have waiting lists. In an effort to provide immediate support to individuals and families waiting for service, the sector offers short-term “interim support” to those who are new to the sector. “New to the sector” means that you are not currently registered with what’s referred to as a Lead Agency (see below). Interim support may include:

- assistance in developing a personal plan;
- help in getting connected to community programs and services;
- information on government programs and support for completing applications.

The Lead Agency is the agency that helps you while you are waiting for service. The Lead Agency:

- ensures that you are registered for service;
- acts on your behalf when the requested service or support becomes available;
- provides you with a point of contact should your individual's or family's circumstances change;
- keeps the individual and/or family informed by forwarding appropriate communications.

You are free to choose the agency that you would like to be your Lead Agency.

Many of the developmental services and supports in Toronto are in high demand. Decisions about who gets services next are made by a team of professionals based upon clear criteria, so that everyone is treated fairly.

You can get information online at www.dsto.com . Visit the website to view "Agency Listings" and "Agency Programs" suitable to your needs. The website also has information on support groups for self-advocates and families, government programs, and up-coming events.

The following agencies participate in the Toronto access process.

Addus	JVS Toronto
Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf	Kerry's Place Autism Services
Christian Horizons	L'Arche Toronto
Community Living Toronto	Mary Centre
CORE	Meta Centre
Common Ground Cooperative	Montage Support Services
COTA Health	Muki Baum Treatment Centres
Family Service Toronto	New Leaf
Geneva Centre for Autism	New Visions Toronto
Griffin Centre	Operation Springboard
Harmony Place Support Services	Participation House Toronto

Pegasus	Surrey Place Centre
Reena	Vita
Safehaven	Woodgreen Community Services
St. Vincent de Paul	York Community Services
Salvation Army Broadview Village	
Surex	

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Contact information for each of these agencies in Toronto is provided in Part 2:
Tools & Resources under Service Resources.

Access in York Region

The agencies in York Region are committed to a community planning process to work together to identify individuals who are most in need. All agencies are required to participate in the Community Response Committee in York Region to ensure that access to services occurs at the community level and not at a single agency level.

In York Region, access to adult developmental services is coordinated by York Support Services Network through the Service System Response Unit (SSRU). The function of the SSRU is to manage funded vacancies in an equitable way and provide the community and the Ministry with a snapshot of needs within York Region for future planning purposes.

Individuals and families wishing to access funded day program supports are required to make a referral to the Community Needs List (CNL). This referral can be made directly by the individual or family or through any of the developmental service agencies listed on the next page:

Christian Horizons	Reena
Community Living Newmarket and Aurora District	Safehaven Project for Community Living
Community Living Georgina	Vita Community Living Services
Independent Living Residences for the DeafBlind	Community Living York South
Kerry's Place Autism Services	York Support Services Network
L'Arche Daybreak	Behaviour Management Services of York and Simcoe
Mary Centre	Children's Case Resolution
Meta Centre	Children's Case Coordination (MCSS/MCYS)
MukiBaum Association	Children's Treatment Network
New Leaf: Living and Learning	
Participation House	

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Contact information for each of these agencies in York Region is provided in Part 2: Tools & Resources under Service Resources.

Once the SSRU receives this referral, they will complete an intake interview to:

1. Ensure the individual is eligible for service;
2. To determine the type of need and prioritize the individual based on the information received on the CNL.;
3. Provide an overview of the service system; and
4. Provide immediate resources that may assist the family with their needs.

The SSRU can also assist the family or individual with resource information and assessment/prioritization for other supports offered by the developmental services sector including accommodation services, respite planning and resources, case management and case coordination.

When an agency in the community has a vacancy in a program they advise York Support Services Network. The vacancy in the program is offered to a person on the community needs list based on a match between the need of that person/family and the type of program that has the vacancy. This means that while a family may call a particular agency to establish a referral for service that request is not considered by that agency alone. It is reviewed along with all the other individuals requesting services in York Region. When service is offered to a family or individual it will be offered by the agency that has the appropriate vacancy at that time.

Once the referral has been made, it is up to the family or individual, to advise the Access Worker at York Support Services Network, of any changes in family circumstances (positive or negative) that may affect the referral. Some examples of such changes include:

- a family member has become ill and cannot care for the person with the disability; or
- the person with a disability has found a job and a day program is no longer needed.



Access in Simcoe County

There are currently 11 agencies in Simcoe County serving people with a developmental disability that participate in a One-Stop process that is designed to make access to the adult service system easier for families. Using the toll-free One-Stop phone number, you may call an agency supporting your home community, or a central information line for the county. Each agency will be able to:

- provide information about services and the service system;
- determine eligibility for service;
- assist with the initial referral for service, including directing the referral to other agencies, if required;
- enter the information into the database which tracks the residential and day program wait list;
- include the individual for placement on the county's priority list for accommodation and community participation services; and
- provide some short-term assistance.

Some examples of short-term assistance may include:

- assisting the individual and the family in understanding how the service system works and what other services and supports may be helpful to them; and
- assisting the family in person-directed planning to clarify the interests and desires of the person with the disability and their family members. This may lead to some innovative or alternative plans that perhaps the family hadn't been able to imagine previously.

While on the wait list, you are responsible for keeping in touch with the agency, and providing updates when your circumstances change. When there is a vacancy in a residential program or day program in one of the participating agencies, that agency presents the vacancy to the Service Coordination Committee. The committee will then follow its procedure, which includes reviewing the priority list and identifying individuals who are in urgent need of service and whose needs match the service available, and will recommend candidates for the vacancy to the agency. The agency will then contact you and/or your support network to determine if there is a match.

For more information on access in Simcoe County and the participating agencies visit the website at:

www.simcoedevelopmentalservices.ca/
(and click on Service Coordination Committee).

The following agencies participate in the Toronto access process.

Behaviour Management Services of York and Simcoe	Community Living Huronia
Camphill Communities of Ontario	E3 Community Services
Catulpa Community Support Services	Kerry's Place Autism Services
Central East Network of Specialized Care	Mental Health Centre Penetanguishene, Bayview Dual Diagnosis Unit
Christian Horizons	Ministry of Community and Social Services
Community Living Association for South Simcoe	Simcoe Community Services
	Simcoe County Children's Aid Society

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Contact information for each of the agencies in Simcoe County is provided in Part 2: Tools & Resources under Service Resources.

Access in Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR)

Your first step is to call one of the HKPR Partner Agencies. An intake can be completed for individuals who are requesting adult services and are six months from their 18th birthday and/or over the age of 18. You need to contact only one agency to apply for any of the developmental services and supports in HKPR. This helps families and individuals by only having to share information once. An Intake Worker will complete a HKPR Intake Form and determine your eligibility for programs requested.

The agency that completes the intake will maintain a case management role until you receive the supports requested or a referral to a more appropriate agency is completed. Services can also assist with resource information and prioritization for other supports offered by the developmental services sector in the area.

Many services and supports in HKPR have waiting lists. In an effort to provide immediate support to individuals and families waiting for service, the intake case management agency will assist you with:

- getting connected to community programs and services;
- finding information on government programs and provide assistance with completing any application forms;
- ensuring that you are registered for service;
- acting on your behalf when the requested service or support becomes available; and
- providing a point of contact should your individual's or family's circumstances change.

HKPR has a website that provides information on how to access developmental services, links, training opportunities and other resources. Please visit www.dsn-hkpr.ca for further information.

The HKPR partner agencies include the following:

Peterborough County
Adult Protective Services

Alternatives Community
Program Services (Pt.) Inc

Canadian Mental Health
Association

Christian Horizons Central East
District Office

Community Living Peterborough

Peterborough Communication
Support Systems

Tri-County Community Support
Services

City Of Kawartha Lakes

Adult Protective Services

Community Living Kawartha
Lakes

Tri-County Family Home
Program

Haliburton County

Adult Protective Services
Community Living Haliburton

Northumberland County

Access Community Services Inc.

Community Advocacy Services
Cobourg

Community Living
Campbellford/Brighton

Community Living West
Northumberland

Northumberland Family Respite
Services

Tri-County Community Support
Services

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Contact information for each of the agencies in HKPR is provided in Part 2: Tools & Resources under Service Resources.

Access in Durham Region

There are currently 9 agencies in Durham Region serving individuals with a developmental disability that have organized themselves in an effort to make access to the adult service system easier for individuals and or families. You may call any one of the agencies who participate in the coordinated access and each agency can assist with the following:

- Providing comprehensive information about services and supports in the current system. Regardless of which agency you called, you should be able to receive information on what types of services and supports are available in the region and in the local community. The agency called can assist you by directing you to an appropriate lead agency.
- Determining eligibility for service. Each agency uses the same criteria for determining eligibility and can share this information with you.
- Making the link to the lead agency. You will be asked to identify a lead agency that will be responsible for managing your referral to the service system. The choice of the agency will be up to you. You may want to consider an agency that offers the type of support that you are looking for, it also may be an agency that you are familiar with or have some comfort with based on personal or cultural preferences. Each agency can connect you with the waitlist for funded options on residential and day supports.

The lead agency is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the referral or service request, also ensuring that the system is aware of the individual in need. The lead agency is also responsible for assisting you when a vacancy is identified and supporting you and your family member with the transition. An individual will be selected for a vacancy based on the most appropriate match of the person to the service offered, the level of urgency and family situation. The vacancy may not be a service provided by the lead agency.

For example:

A family may originally call Community Living Durham North (CLDN), complete the initial information and referral process for residential services and want to stay with CLDN as their lead agency. Then an opening becomes available at Christian Horizons. Based on the vacancy being a match and the urgency of the situation the individual/family is offered the placement. The individual/family can choose to accept the placement and CLDN will assist with the transition or the individual/family can choose to wait for a vacancy at CLDN.

Another example:

An individual originally called Adult Community Support Services (ACSS), completed initial information and referral process for case management. While receiving case management the individual's needs changed and they are in need of residential support. The ACSS worker can assist the individual by placing them on the waitlist for residential supports and advocate when a vacancy is announced. Then a vacancy with Community Living Oshawa/Clarington (CLOC) is announced. With support from the ACSS worker the individual chooses to accept the vacancy offered by CLOC and the ACSS worker can assist with the transition to supported living.

An individual or family may call any one of the following agencies who participate in the coordinated access in Durham Region:

Christian Horizons	Kerry's Place
Community Living Ajax, Pickering and Whitby	Lake Ridge Community Support Services
Community Living Durham North	Participation House Project (Durham Region)
Community Living Oshawa/ Clarington	The Regional Municipality of Durham, Adult Community Support Services
Durham Association for Family Respite Services	

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Contact information for each of the agencies in Durham Region is provided in Part 2: Tools & Resources under Service Resources.