

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 York Region – a description of accessing adult services in the York 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 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.



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 look at serving those persons in their community

who are “most in need”. 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.

Accessing services in the adult system is slightly different for each of Toronto and York Region. It is important to note that in both communities, if you are thinking of requesting a day or residential program you really only need to make one phone call as the agencies operate in a coordinated way for these services.

The following information identifies the process for each area.

Access in Toronto

There are currently more than 30 agencies in Toronto serving people with a developmental disability that have organized themselves in an effort to make access to the adult service system easier for families. A family may call any one of the agencies who participate in the coordinated access and each agency will have the capacity to do the following:

- **Provide information about services and the system.** Regardless of which agency is called, the family should be able to receive information on what types of services and support are available throughout the community.
- **Determine eligibility for service.** The telephone conversation will confirm whether the person seeking service is eligible. If not, they will be redirected.
- **Document the initial referral information including the types of service and supports that are being requested.** The information regarding the family member seeking service will only need to be provided once even if the family or individual is looking for more services than those provided by the agency initially called.
- **Provide some short-term support.** If the family would like short-term help in considering services or other types of support options this will be provided most often through a series of meetings. The family can decide on the focus of this short term

help. Short term support does not change a family's request for service. Some examples may include:

- assisting 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-centred planning to clarify the interests and desires of the person with the disability and their family members. The outcome of this may lead to some innovative or alternative plans that perhaps the family hadn't been able to imagine previously.
- **Make the link to a lead agency.** The family will be asked to identify a lead agency that will be responsible for managing the family's referral to the service system. The choice of lead agency is up to the family. Families may want to consider an agency that offers the type of service they are looking for; it may also be an agency that they have some familiarity or comfort with based on personal or cultural preferences; it may be an agency that offers some other informal supports that they would like to receive such as a newsletter or participation in parent groups.

Once this initial contact is complete the lead agency is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the referral or service request information and for bringing a family's name forward when there is a vacancy in a program somewhere in the system. A person will be selected for that vacancy based on the most appropriate match of person to the service, and level of urgency in the family situation.

For example,

A family may originally call Community Living Toronto (CLT), complete the initial information and referral process for residential services and decide to stay with CLT as the lead agency. Then an opening becomes available at Reena. Based on the factors of best match and urgency of need, the family is offered the placement at Reena. The family can take the Reena opening or decline the service and continue to wait for one that may (or may not) come available at some point in the future at Community Living Toronto.

The family is responsible for keeping in touch with the lead agency. The family needs to let the lead agency know if there are any changes in circumstances that may have an impact on the referral for service – whether increasing or decreasing the need.

The following agencies participate in the Toronto access process. More information on access and these agencies can be found at www.dsto.com

Addus	Montage Support Services
Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf	MukiBaum Treatment Centres
Christian Horizons	New Leaf: Living and Learning Together
Common Ground Cooperative	New Visions Toronto
Community Living Toronto	Operation Springboard
CORE (Centre for Opportunities, Respect and Empowerment)	Participation House Toronto Parent Association
COTA Health	Pegasus Community Project for Adults with Special Needs
Family Service Association of Toronto	Reena
Geneva Centre for Autism	Safehaven Project for Community Living
Griffin Centre	
Harmony Place Support Services	Salvation Army. Broadview Village
JVS Toronto	Society of St Vincent de Paul
Kerry's Place Autism Services	Surex Community Services
L'Arche Toronto	Surrey Place Centre
Mary Centre of the Archdiocese of Toronto	VITA Community Living Services
Meta Centre	WoodGreen Community Services York Community Services

tip #17

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 below:

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

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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.

