



# FAMILY SUPPORT AND INCLUSION TOOLKIT FOR ADULTS

WELCOME TO THE TRENTON MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE



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**Family Support and Inclusion Specialist**

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# WELCOME

Moving to a new community can be stressful, but we're here to help. The MFRC connects families with the information they need to get settled. Information is available on educational resources, local activities and services on the base or in the surrounding communities. If you have a question, we will find an answer or the person who can answer it.

In addition, the MFRC takes concrete steps toward the implementation of programs and services for the military community. The Family Support and Inclusion program offers support to individuals and their families with exceptional and complex needs. Learning to navigate the social services in a new community is stressful. Our Family Support and Inclusion Specialist can help!

The following services are offered by the Family Support and Inclusion program:

- Connect to Local Community Agencies & Resources:
- Provides information on where to go for psychological assessments, occupational therapists, speech & language, etc.
- Family Support & Inclusion specific programming:
  - Parent Support Group, Puzzle Project, Building Blocks, Improvaganza
- Assistance in applying and locating special needs financial supports;
- School meeting support - navigating the Ontario school system and understanding the process of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Individual Review and Placement Committee (IPRCs);
- Tips & Tricks - How to - Social Stories, trouble shooting, visual aids(choice boards, visual routines, etc.);
- Provides support to the MFRC Daycare staff - ensures implementation of inclusion practices, supervises Enhance Program Support Staff, provides staff training, etc.

To learn more about the Family Support & Inclusion program and services offered by the Trenton Military Family Resource Centre please contact one of our team members!

Where every military family feels welcome and supported. Welcome to your home-away-from-home. The Trenton MFRC is dedicated to supporting, enriching and enhancing the lives of our military families.

Together, we are stronger.



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# PROGRAM INFORMATION

This toolkit has been created to provide you with information on transition planning, guidance with a new diagnosis or challenge, to identify services and supports available to you and/or your family. It will also outline information on accessing services that may be useful to you and/or your dependent.

This toolkit speaks to individuals with exceptional needs who are seeking guidance and support as well as parents and caregivers who are supporting an individual with exceptional needs transitioning into adulthood.

To learn more about the Family Support & Inclusion programs and services contact the Family Support and Inclusion Specialist.

## What to consider when transitioning into adulthood?

There are various factors to consider when preparing for this transition into adulthood:

- What supports and services are currently being accessed, and will they continue at the age of 18 or 21?
- What additional or alternative supports and services do you anticipate needing in the future?
- As a parent/caregiver will your dependent continue to live at home and for how long?
- Will other living arrangements be required?
- As a parent/caregiver do you have the means - financial and otherwise - to support your dependent through adulthood?
- What are your health and medical needs be?
- What will be the source of income and will assistance be needed with handling money and budget?
- What do transportation needs look like?
- Is college or university being considered?
- Is employment in consideration?
- Are there any legal needs?
- Is assistance needed with rights and decision making?
- What local programs, services and supports are available to support individuals with exceptional needs through adulthood?



# DIAGNOSIS

Now that you have received a diagnosis and your family member is now recognized as an individual with special needs - what happens next? Who is qualified to make this decision? How do you ensure they are best supported and receive the services they require? Here are some answers to some key questions you may have about the diagnosis process.

## TERMS

### Who do I go to for a diagnosis?

A diagnosis can be made by:

- -Family Physician
- -Psychiatrist
- -Psychologist and/or Psychological associate

\*Note: Military Members healthcare coverage (SunLife) covers 80% up to a maximum of \$2000 per year per individual for Psychological Services.

### Dealing with your emotions

#### **Facts:**

- -Having a child with special needs can be challenging for the entire family;
- -It is common for people to experience a wide range of emotions after receiving a diagnosis;
- Some may experience feelings such as shock, sadness or grief, anger, denial, loneliness, or confusion;
- -All of these are part of a normal process leading to acceptance; - It is important to recognize that having a family member with exceptional or complex needs will affect the whole family;
- -Develop a support network, family, friends, counsellors, and support agencies;
- -Consider joining a support group, they are a great source of information and understanding

**It's okay to take a break and do something for yourself! Remember that all behaviour is a form of communication.**



# MILITARY FUNDING

There may be military specific funding or grants available to help individuals and families with various costs. Contact the Family Support and Inclusion specialist for the most up to date information.

## Legion Financial Assistance

- It is run through the Royal Canadian Legion
- Provides financial assistance and support to Veterans, including RCMP, Canadian Armed Forces, and their families
- Assists with prescription medication, Heating costs, Grants for food, and clothing. Medical appliances or equipment
- Any veteran or veteran's dependant in need of assistance is eligible to apply
- Any person who is serving or has served in the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and their dependants

**To Apply:** Fill out an application online or contact the Family Support and Inclusion specialist assistance in applying.

**For more information:** <https://www.legion.ca/support-for-veterans/financial-assistance>

## Support Our Troops

- Provides financial support and assistance to Canadian Armed Forces members, Veterans, and their respective families
- Various grants are available to support military members and their families for assessments or assistive devices or technology
- Assistance with families who have children with special needs, financial stress, etc.

### Qualifying Criteria:

- Medical professional recommendations
- Receipts or estimates.
- This category includes assistive devices, respite care, therapy, medical travel (low km rate, modest meals), prescriptions, etc. These items/services must be supported by a report/letter/assessment from the medical field.

Please consult the Family Support and Inclusion specialist for specifics related to the application process and required documents.



# PROVINCIAL FUNDING

## Special Services at Home

### TERMS

Families who are caring for a child with a developmental and/or physical disability can apply to the Special Services at Home (SSAH) program to get funding for:

- primary caregiver relief and related supports
- activities of personal growth or development for the child, including camps and recreational activities, like swimming and music classes.

#### **Funding for a Family Will Depend On:**

- The type and amount of service your child needs
- What other help is available in your community
- What kind of support you already receive

#### **Qualifying Criteria:**

- Has a developmental and/or physical disability
- Lives in Ontario
- Under the age of 18
- Needs more support than you can provide
- Lives at home with you, or is not living at home with you and is not being helped by other residential services

**To Apply:** Fill out an application online or contact the Family Support and Inclusion specialist assistance in applying.

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/special-services-home>



# PROVINCIAL FUNDING

## Assistive Devices Program

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) helps people with long-term physical disabilities pay for customized equipment, like wheelchairs and hearing aids.

The ADP also helps cover the cost of specialized supplies, such as those used with ostomies. Starting March 14, 2022, eligible Ontarians with type 1 diabetes can receive Assistive Devices Program funding for a continuous glucose monitor and the related supplies. Eligible individuals include those with type 1 diabetes who are at risk of severe hypoglycemia or who are unable to recognize, or communicate about, symptoms of hypoglycemia.

The ADP covers 75% of the cost for most equipment and supplies. For these items, they are billed directly by the supplier and you pay 25% when you buy the item.

In some cases, you will receive a series of payments throughout the year to help cover the cost of supplies.

### **Qualifying Criteria:**

- be an Ontario resident
- have a valid Ontario health card
- have a disability requiring the equipment or supplies for six months or longer

Income is **not** considered.

### **You Do Not Qualify If:**

- already qualify for or are receiving financial support for the same equipment or supplies from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board
- are a Group "A" veteran and already qualify for or are receiving financial support from Veterans Affairs Canada for the same equipment or supplies

**To Apply:** Fill out an application online or contact the Family Support and Inclusion specialist assistance in applying.

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program>





# PROVINCIAL FUNDING

## Ontario Disability Support Program

### TERMS

The Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) helps those who are living with a disability and who are in financial need. It helps those living with a disability who can and want to work get support and find employment. When you apply for ODSP or are receiving income support through the program, you need to keep us up to date so we can make sure you remain eligible and are getting the right amount of money. This is important since your situation may change over time.

#### **Qualifying Criteria:**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be an Ontario resident
- Have assets no greater than the limits set out in the program
- Be in financial need
- Meet the program's definition of a person with a disability or be a member of a prescribed class

If you're under 18, you can start the application process up to six months before your 18th birthday.

To see if you are financially eligible, we will look at your circumstances including your income and assets, living expenses, family size and make-up, and shelter costs.

If you are financially eligible, you will also have to participate in a process to determine whether you meet the ODSP definition of a person with a disability, unless you are a member of a prescribed class.

**To Apply:** Fill out an application online here: <https://saapply.mcass.gov.on.ca/CitizenPortal/application.do> or contact the Family Support and Inclusion specialist assistance in applying.

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-disability-support-program>



# PROVINCIAL FUNDING

## Passport Funding: Developmental Services Ontario

### TERMS

The Passport Program, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), helps adults with a developmental disability be involved in their communities and live as independently as possible by providing funding for community participation services and supports, activities of daily living and person-directed planning. The program also provides funding for caregiver respite services and supports for primary caregivers of an adult with a developmental disability.

- Helps those with a disability apply for ministry-funded developmental services
- Gives the family funding so they can pay for and hire support directly
- Can help hire respite workers, community participation and activities, transportation funds (taxi, bus pass, etc.)
- Direct funding gives people more choice and flexibility

### Qualifying Criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be an Ontario resident

If you're under 18, you can start the application process up to six months before your 18th birthday.

To see if you are financially eligible, we will look at your circumstances including your income and assets, living expenses, family size and make-up, and shelter costs.

If you are financially eligible, you will also have to participate in a process to determine whether you meet the ODSP definition of a person with a disability, unless you are a member of a prescribed class.

**To Apply:** Contact the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) office in your region. They will confirm each applicant's eligibility to receive ministry-funded adult developmental services. Once confirmed, and the individual has consented to a referral, the DSO will refer the individual to their local Passport agency to receive the annual \$5000 allocation through the program.

**For more information:** <https://www.dsontario.ca/passport-program>



# FEDERAL FUNDING

## Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities

### TERMS

The Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities assists persons with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. It supports persons with disabilities in overcoming barriers to participation in the Canadian labour market, and it supports employers to hire persons with disabilities.

#### **Qualifying Criteria:**

- A permanent physical or mental disability which it restricts a person's ability to perform daily activities
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Canadian Citizen
- Not eligible for assistance under employment insurance, employment benefits or similar programs
- Requires assistance to prepare for, obtain and maintain employment or self-employment

#### **To information regarding the application process and dates to apply:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/disability-opportunity-regional/active-projects.html>

**For more information and a list of active national projects:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/disability-opportunity-national/active-projects.html>

**For more information and a list of active regional projects:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/disability-opportunity-regional/active-projects.html>



# TAX BENEFITS & CREDITS

## Disability Tax Credit

### TERMS

The disability tax credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps people with impairments, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay.

If you have a severe and prolonged impairment, you may apply for the credit. If you are approved, you may claim the credit at tax time.

By reducing the amount of income tax you may have to pay, the DTC aims to offset some of the extra costs related to the impairment.

#### **Qualifying Criteria:**

- A medical practitioner certifies that you have a severe and prolonged impairment in 1 of the categories, significant limitations in 2 or more categories, or receive therapy to support a vital function.

Applying for the DTC involves the person who has the impairment and a medical practitioner who can certify the effects of the impairment.

#### *To Apply Digitally:*

1. Medical practitioner fills out the "Medical practitioner's section" (Part B) [https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebsci/uisp/dtc/ng/entry?request\\_locale=en](https://apps.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebsci/uisp/dtc/ng/entry?request_locale=en)
2. Applicant completes the "Individual's section" (Part A). The person with the impairment or their legal representative completes Part A of the form, which they get from the medical practitioner.

#### *Paper Application:*

1. Applicant fills out the "Individual's section" (Part A). The person with the impairment or their legal representative fills out Part A of the application.
2. Medical practitioner completes the "Medical practitioner's" section (Part B). The medical practitioner answers a few questions and completes only the impairment section(s) that apply to their patient.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html>



# TAX BENEFITS & CREDITS

## Canada Caregiver Credit

### TERMS

Do you support a spouse or common-law partner, or a dependant with a physical or mental impairment? The Canada caregiver credit (CCC) is a non-refundable tax credit that may be available to you.

#### **Qualifying Criteria:**

You may be able to claim the CCC if you support your spouse or common-law partner with a physical or mental impairment. You may also be able to claim the CCC for one or more of the following individuals if they depend on you for support because of a physical or mental impairment:

- Your (or your spouse's or common-law partner's) child or grandchild
- Your (or your spouse's or common-law partner's) parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, or nephew (if they resided in Canada at any time in the year)

An individual is considered to depend on you for support if they rely on you to regularly and consistently provide them with some or all of the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter and clothing.

#### **What amount can you claim?**

The amount you can claim depends on your relationship to the person for whom you are claiming the CCC, your circumstances, the person's net income, and whether other credits are being claimed for that person.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/canada-caregiver-amount.html>



# TAX BENEFITS & CREDITS

## Medical Expense Tax Credit

### TERMS

To know for whom you can claim medical expenses, see How to claim eligible medical expenses on your tax return.

You can claim only eligible medical expenses on your tax return if you, or your spouse or common-law partner:

- Paid for the medical expenses in any 12-month period ending in 2021
- Did not claim them in 2020

Generally, you can claim all amounts paid, even if they were not paid in Canada.

### The Medical Expense Tax Credit allows for:

- Disability-related expenses are often claimable, at least in part, as medical expenses on the income tax return
- Expenses for part-time attendant care are claimable when unrelated to employment
- Air conditioning for those with muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis may also be tax-deductible
- Specially trained service animals that assist individuals who have a severe and prolonged impairment which markedly restricts the use of their arms or legs
- Modifications to the home in order to enable a person with a severe and permanent mobility restriction to gain access to the home or rooms within – this extends only to persons who use a wheelchair for mobility
- Incontinence products such as catheters, catheter trays and tubing required by reason of a physical disability

Note: All receipts for expenses must be submitted in support of medical expense claims on a tax return.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/lines-33099-33199-eligible-medical-expenses-you-claim-on-your-tax-return.html>



# TAX BENEFITS & CREDITS

## Excise Gasoline Tax Refund

### TERMS

If you have a permanent mobility impairment and cannot safely use public transportation, you can ask for a refund of part of the federal excise tax on the gasoline you buy. A qualified medical practitioner must certify the impairment.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/xe8.html>

## Canada Workers Benefit (CWB)

The Canada workers benefit (CWB) is a refundable tax credit to help individuals and families who are working and earning a low income. The CWB has two parts: a basic amount and a disability supplement. You can claim the CWB when you file your income tax return. Eligible individuals and families can get up to half of the CWB in advance payments instead of waiting for tax time.

### Eligibility

You are eligible for the Canada workers benefit (CWB) if you:

- Earn working income
- Are a resident of Canada throughout the year
- Are 19 years of age or older on December 31, or you live with your spouse or common-law partner or your child

**You are not eligible for the CWB if you:**

- Are enrolled as a full-time student at a designated educational institution for more than 13 weeks in the year unless, on December 31, you have an eligible dependant
- Are confined to a prison or similar institution for a period of at least 90 days during the year
- Do not have to pay tax in Canada because you are an officer or servant of another country, such as a diplomat, or you are a family member or employee of that person

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/canada-workers-benefit.html>



# TAX BENEFITS & CREDITS

## Canadian Pension Plan Disability Benefits

### TERMS

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability benefit is a monthly payment you can get if you:

- Are under 65
- Have made enough contributions into the CPP
- Have a mental or physical disability that regularly stops you from doing any type of substantially gainful work
- Have a disability that is long-term and of indefinite duration, or is likely to result in death

**The disability benefit is a monthly payment you can get if you:**

- Are under 65
- Contributed enough to the Canada Pension Plan
- Have a mental or physical disability that regularly stops you from doing any type of substantially gainful work
- Have a disability that is long-term and of indefinite duration, or is likely to result in death

### **CPP post-retirement disability benefit**

If you currently get the monthly CPP retirement pension, you could receive the Canada Pension Plan post-retirement disability benefit if you:

- Are 60 to 65
- Contributed enough to the CPP
- Have a mental or physical disability that regularly stops you from doing any type of substantially gainful work
- Have a disability that is long-term and of indefinite duration, or is likely to result in death
- Have been receiving the CPP retirement pension for more than 15 months or become disabled after starting to receive the retirement pension

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/cpp/cpp-disability-benefit.html>





# GRANTS, PLANS & BONDS

## Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

### TERMS

A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan intended to help parents and others save for the long term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC).

Contributions to an RDSP are not tax deductible and can be made until the end of the year in which the beneficiary turns 59. Contributions that are withdrawn are not included as income to the beneficiary when they are paid out of an RDSP. However, the Canada disability savings grant (grant), the Canada disability savings bond (bond), investment income earned in the plan, and the proceeds from rollovers are included in the beneficiary's income for tax purposes when they are paid out of the RDSP.

### Who can become a beneficiary of an RDSP?

You can designate an individual as beneficiary if the individual meets all of the following criteria:

- Is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC) (unless transferring from an existing RDSP to a new RDSP)
- Has a valid social insurance number (SIN).
- Is a resident in Canada when the plan is entered into.
- Is under the age of 60 (a plan can be opened for an individual until the end of the year in which they turn 59). The age limit does not apply when a beneficiary's RDSP is opened as a result of a transfer from the beneficiary's former RDSP

A beneficiary can only have one RDSP at any given time, although this RDSP can have several plan holders throughout its existence and it can have more than one plan holder at any given time.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp.html>



# GRANTS, PLANS & BONDS

## Canada Disability Savings Grant

The grant is an amount that the Government of Canada pays into an registered disability savings plan (RDSP). The Government will pay matching grants of 300%, 200%, or 100%, depending on the beneficiary's adjusted family net income and the amount contributed. The beneficiary's adjusted net family income is calculated as follows:

- From birth to December 31 of the year the beneficiary turns 18, the beneficiary's adjusted family net income is based on the income information used to determine the Canada child benefit (CCB) for that beneficiary
- Beginning the year the beneficiary turns 19 until the RDSP is closed, the beneficiary's adjusted family net income is based on their income plus their spouse's, or common-law partner's income
- If the beneficiary is under the care of a department, agency, or institution for at least one month in the year, the adjusted family net income is based on the allowance payable to the department, agency, or institution under the Children's Special Allowances Act

An RDSP can get a maximum of \$3,500 in matching grants in one year, and up to \$70,000 over the beneficiary's lifetime. A beneficiary's RDSP can receive a grant on contributions made until December 31 of the year in which the beneficiary turns 49.

The amount of the grant is based on the beneficiary's adjusted family net income as follows: The beneficiary adjusted family net income thresholds are indexed each year to inflation. The income thresholds shown are for 2021.

Amount of CDSG grant when family income is \$98,040 or less:

- on the first \$500 contribution—\$3 grant for every 1 dollar contributed, up to \$1,500 a year
- on the next \$1,000 contribution—\$2 grant for every 1 dollar contributed, up to \$2,000 a year

Amount of CDSG grant when family income is more than \$98,040:

- on the first \$1,000 contribution—\$1 grant for every 1 dollar contributed, up to \$1,000 a year

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp/canada-disability-savings-grant-canada-disability-savings-bond.html>



# GRANTS, PLANS & BONDS

## Canada Disability Savings Bond

### TERMS

The bond is an amount paid by the Government of Canada directly into an RDSP. The Government will pay a bond of up to \$1,000 a year to low-income Canadians with disabilities. No contributions have to be made to get the bond. The lifetime bond limit is \$20,000. A bond can be paid into an RDSP until the year in which the beneficiary turns 49.

The amount of the bond is based on the beneficiary's adjusted family net income as follows: the beneficiary family income thresholds are indexed each year to inflation. \* The income thresholds shown are for 2021.

#### **Beneficiary's adjusted family net income:**

- **\$32,028 or less** (or if the holder is a public institution)—**Bond \$1,000**
- between **\$32,028** and **\$49,020\***— Part of the **\$1,000** is based on the formula in the [Canada Disability Savings Act](#)
- **more than \$49,020\***— No bond is paid

\* The beneficiary family income thresholds are indexed each year to inflation. The income thresholds shown are for 2021.

To qualify for the bond or to earn a grant, the beneficiary must file income tax and benefit returns for the past two years and all future taxation years when they have an RDSP.

#### **Carry forward of unused grant and bond**

Before the end of the year you turn 49 years of age, you can carry forward up to 10 years of unused grant and bond entitlements to future years, as long as you met the eligibility requirements during the carry-forward years RDSP became available in 2008.

**For more information:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-disability-savings-plan-rdsp/canada-disability-savings-grant-canada-disability-savings-bond.html>



# ADDITIONAL FUNDING

## March of Dimes - Assistive Devices Program

### TERMS

The program assists adults with physical disabilities who are in financial need to purchase assistive devices that increase their mobility and functional independence. The Program can help to buy, repair and maintain a wide variety of mobility or assistive equipment.

#### Funded Devices

Some devices that may qualify for funding include:

- Manual and Power Wheelchairs
- Scooters
- Replacement Batteries
- Walkers
- Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis (KAFO)
- Ankle Foot Orthosis (AFO)
- Home and Bath Aids
- Floor Patient Lifts
- Basic Aids for Daily Living
- Repairs to Existing Devices

#### Program Eligibility

To qualify for the Program, the Applicant must have an ongoing physical disability that requires the use of an assistive device. The applicant must also be:

- In financial need (refer to the income chart)
- 19 years of age or older
- A permanent resident of Ontario

#### Income Eligibility Chart

To qualify for funding, program Applicants must be in financial need. The after-tax household income of both the Applicant and his/her spouse/life partner are considered. Maximum allowable income may change based on family size.

**For more information:** <https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/am/adp>



# ADDITIONAL FUNDING

## March of Dimes - Home and Vehicle Modification Program

### TERMS

Funded by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, the Home and Vehicle Modification® Program helps people living in Ontario pay for crucial renovations and retrofits. This includes anything from widening doorways for a wheelchair to modifying a van so someone who uses an assistive device can drive it. The goal is to keep people at home and in their communities.

### Program Eligibility

The program is available to permanent residents of Ontario who live with a substantial disability that impacts their mobility and daily function, and who can't afford the modifications they need to maximize their independence.

### Available Funding

Anyone who qualifies can apply for:

- Up to \$15,000 (lifetime maximum) for home modifications and/or;
- Up to \$15,000 every ten years for vehicle modifications

Please remember that funding is limited, so you should apply to all other funding options and disability management programs first. You can find alternative funding resources on the HVMP - Resource Documents page.

**For more information:** <https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/am/hvmp>



# EDUCATION

In Ontario, the Education Act states that principals are responsible for ensuring that an IEP is developed for each student who has been identified as exceptional. If your child is 14 years of age or older, the IEP must also include a transition plan to appropriate post-secondary activities; for example, work, further education and/or community living.

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/special-education-laws-and-policies>

## Ontario Post Secondary Supports

Educational institutions have a legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodations that promote equity for people who have disabilities. Given that each student's needs are unique, services and accommodations are established on an individual basis and based on the documentation of the student's disability.

**For more information and to access the Transition Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities:**  
<https://www.transitionresourceguide.ca/>

## Funding for Students with Disabilities

Paying for school is expensive, especially when you have additional costs such as specialized equipment or services. However, there is a lot of funding out there - from government loans and grants to scholarships and bursaries specifically for students with disabilities. Every post-secondary institution has its own set of awards, bursaries, and scholarships which can be found on the school's website. Listed below are the financial assistance options offered by the federal and provincial governments as well as other scholarships and bursaries for students with disabilities.

### **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)**

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/osap-ontario-student-assistance-program>

### **Bursary for Students with Disabilities**

<https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR019233.html>

### **Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment - Students with Disabilities**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans/disabilities-service-equipment.html>



# LEGAL INFORMATION

Anyone entering adulthood has new things to consider when it comes to legal matters. Families of those with special needs have many of the same issues to address as well as some unique matters, depending on their situation. This section provides information on some of the matters that your family might consider. This information is subject to change so it is important to visit the appropriate websites for up-to-date information. Information provided in this toolkit is not intended as legal advice, it is important to speak to a professional when handling legal matters.

## Special Needs Planning Group

The Special Needs Planning Group's sole purpose is to assist families in establishing plans which will provide their family members with a disability with a decent quality of life for their entire lifetime while at the same time, preserving their entitlement to government support programs. The Special Needs Planning Group provides information on wills, trusts, tax programs, and investments, to name a few, that is specific to families caring for a child with a disability. The guide provides an in-depth look at planning issues. Typically, these plans will contain the following:

- Last Will and Testament
- Henson Trust
- Powers of Attorney
- Registered Disability Savings Plan
- Special Insurance Policy
- Life Plan
- Planning Manual and Guides
- Trustee Support
- Peace of Mind

**For more information:** <http://www.specialneedsplanning.ca/plan.html>



# LEGAL INFORMATION

## Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee

- Makes financial decisions for adults who have been found mentally incapable
- Holds funds in trust for minors and plaintiffs and defendants involved in a lawsuit
- Administers estates when no one else is available to do so
- Protects the public's interest in charities and dissolved corporations
- Provides other services to protect the financial, legal and personal care of mentally incapable Ontarians

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/office-public-guardian-and-trustee>

## People First of Canada

- National organization representing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- 100% member led organization
- Has provincial and territorial chapters throughout Canada

**For more information:** <https://www.peoplefirstofcanada.ca/>

## Canadian Abilities Foundation

- Mission is to facilitate the exchange of information, promote accessibility and provide inspiration and opportunities for people with disabilities
- Registered Canadian charity

**For more information:** <https://www.abilities.ca/about-us/>





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Autism Ontario - Adults

- Works to support autistic adults and their families reach their potential
- Help with transitioning into adulthood, post-secondary education, accessing a diagnostic assessment, available funding, mental health and addictions services, housing, scholarships, life planning, advocacy and more

**For more information:** <https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/adults>

## Best Buddies

- Offers people with intellectual disabilities the chance to experience the experiences that most of us take for granted
- Provides members with opportunities for social interaction and helps build lasting friendships

**For more information:** <https://bestbuddies.ca/>

## Community Living Ontario

- Advocates for people who have an intellectual disability and their families
- Work alongside over 100 local agencies
- Promote positive change through policy and advocacy

**For more information:** <https://communitylivingontario.ca/>



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Respite Services

- Helps connect families with respite workers in their community

**For more information:** <https://www.respiteservices.com/>

## Ontario Works

- Information about financial assistance, benefits, and employments assistance

**For more information:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-works>

## National Education Association for Disable Students

- Supports full access to education and employment for post-secondary students and graduates with disabilities
- Functions collaboratively with post-secondary stakeholders, other non-governmental organizations, employers, disability service providers (on college and university campuses) and communities that can improve opportunities in higher education and the labour market for persons with disabilities in Canada

**For more information:** <https://www.neads.ca/en/about/>

## ConnectABILITY

- Information and resources on available services across Ontario

**For more information:** <https://connectability.ca/category/adults/>