

## Community Services

(April 20-15)

### A. How to Find a Family Doctor:

**Health Care Connect:** Health Care Connect is a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) program which helps Ontarians without a family health care provider find one. The program refers people without a regular family health care provider to physicians and nurse practitioners who are accepting new patients in their community. To register for the Health Care Connect program, call 1-800-445-1822, or for more information, visit the MOHLTC website at:

<http://health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/healthcareconnect/public/>

**College of Physician and Surgeons of Ontario:** Has a doctor search section online to help people find a health care provider at <http://www.cpso.on.ca/docsearch/>

Be prepared to be on a waitlist for a “new” family consult.

### B. Community Resources:

CONTACT Hamilton: This is a community resource that will help you navigate to numerous community resources for your child/adolescent (up until 18 years of age). Each family will have a resource coordinator at Contact Hamilton. [www.contacthamilton.com](http://www.contacthamilton.com).

Telephone: 905 570-8888

Contact Hamilton can provide you with information for the following resources:

- SSAH: Special Services at Home
- Community Respite Opportunities
- Connect families to developmental and/or child and youth mental health services

### C. SSHF: Special services at Home Funding

This program helps families pay for special services in or outside the family home as long as the child is not receiving support from a residential program. For example, the family can hire someone to:

- help the child learn new skills and abilities, such as improving their communications skills and becoming more independent
- provide respite support to the family - families can get money to pay for services that will give them a break (or "respite") from the day-to-day care of their child

The amount of money a family receives depends on the type and amount of service the child needs, what other help is available in the community and what kind of support the family is already receiving. It is funded and managed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services

The website is:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/specialservices/index.aspx>

There is an online printable application form.

The Hamilton Regional Office is:

119 King Street West  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 4Y7

Tel: (905) 521-7280  
Fax: (905) 546-8277  
Toll Free: 1-866-221-2229  
TTY: (905) 546-8276

D. **ACSD: Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities:** [www.children.gov.on.ca](http://www.children.gov.on.ca)

This program provides financial help to families with children with significant disabilities. The Ministry of community, Family and Children's Services is responsible for this program. The amount of financial support is based on exceptional expenses incurred that relate to your child's disability and on your family income. Examples of such expenses might be costs of parking, travel, gas, specialized equipment or toys.

E. **ADP: Assistive Devices Program:** [www.health.gov.on.ca/adp](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/adp)

This helps pay for certain equipment and supplies for children with significant physical or cognitive disabilities. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is responsible for the funding of this program. The program will pay up to 75% of the cost for device such as wheelchairs, hearing aids or respiratory devices.

F. **T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate**

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/sgmnts/dsblts/dtc/menu-eng.html>

The **Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** is a non-refundable tax credit used to reduce income tax payable on the income tax and benefit return. The form that needs to be completed is the Form T2201, Disability Tax Credit Certificate from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). The T2201 form is available on line.

The **Child Disability Benefit (CDB)** is a tax-free benefit for families who care for a child under age 18 who is eligible for the disability amount. The Child Disability Benefit (CDB) is a tax-free benefit of up to \$2,650 per year (\$220.83 per month) for families who care for a child under age 18 with a severe and prolonged impairment in physical or mental functions. When the Form T2201 is submitted, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will determine whether or not you are eligible to receive the disability amount and the CDB supplement.

## **G. Incontinence Supplies Grant Program**

Easter Seals Ontario administers the Incontinence Supplies Grant Program for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The program is for children and youth between the ages of 3 to 18 years with chronic disabilities (physical or developmental) that result in irreversible incontinence or retention problems lasting longer than six months and requiring the use of incontinence supplies. The grant is a contribution to the cost of supplies and may not cover all costs

<http://www.easterseals.org/services/incontinence-supplies-grant/>

There is an online printable application form.

## **H. Respite Care**

- The Ministry of Children and Youth Services funds two programs that can give families a break (or "respite") from the day-to-day care of their child with special needs. Funding for respite care may also be available as part of the Special Services at Home program. Visit [respiteservices.com](http://respiteservices.com) to find services in your area.

### **1. Out of Home Respite**

Families of children with multiple special needs can receive up to seven days of respite per year, provided in a location other than their own home. The child must be under 18 years of age, have multiple special needs because of a physical or developmental disability and live at home and need care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and, without out-of-home respite, there's a real possibility that the child would require long-term residential placement or the child's family is at risk of breakdown, or there's a risk that the child could harm himself or others.

### **2. Enhanced Respite**

An enhanced respite grant is paid to families who are caring for a child who is medically fragile and/or depends on a technological device needing care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is paid in addition to other respite services. Families may be eligible for up to \$3,500 per child, per year.

The Hamilton Ministry office for both types of respite is at

119 King Street West  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 4Y7  
Tel: (905) 521-7280  
Fax: (905) 546-8277  
Toll Free: 1-866-221-2229  
TTY: (905) 546-8276

## **I. Recreation/Leisure activities:**

The following programs can be accessed through the [www.inform.hamilton.ca](http://www.inform.hamilton.ca) website

- Home management program
- Club Gain
- Choices- Links for People
- Hamilton School of Martial Arts, Fun and Fitness for Special Needs
- Special Olympics
- Summer Camp Programs
- Boys and Girls Club <http://www.kboysandgirlsclub.com/>
- Big Brother Big Sisters of Canada <http://www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca>

## **J. Financial Planning:**

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP):

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/rdsp.shtml>

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/tpcs/rdsp-reei/menu-eng.html>

A registered disability savings plan (RDSP) is a savings plan that is intended to help parents and others save for the long term financial security of a person who is eligible for the disability tax credit. 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 in income for the beneficiary when they are paid out of an RDSP.

The government will also pay a Canada Disability Savings Bond of up to \$1000 a year into the RDSPs of low-income and modest-income Canadians. No contributions are necessary to receive the bond.

## **K. Charities:**

The Canadian Book of Charities <http://canadian-charities.com/>

President's Choice Charity: [http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en\\_CA/community/pccc.html](http://www.presidentschoice.ca/en_CA/community/pccc.html)

Catholic Family Services of Hamilton [http://www.cfshw.com/?page\\_id=1611](http://www.cfshw.com/?page_id=1611)

CFSH is a charity organization that may provide an Adult Protective Services Worker (APSW) or a Family Support Worker (FSW) for adults with developmental disabilities.

## **L. Transitioning to Adulthood:**

Developmental Services Ontario: (DSO)

This service can be accessed once your teenager is 16 years old. Your teen will be transferred from Contact Hamilton to DSO at the age of 18 years.

[www.dsontario.ca](http://www.dsontario.ca) or 905-297-5604 or 1-877-376-4674

## Ontario Disability Support Program

The Ontario Disability Support Program helps people with disabilities who are in financial need pay for living expenses, like food and housing. *Income support* helps people with disabilities who are in financial need to pay for living expenses. In addition to income, people receiving ODSP also obtain other health benefits like medication coverage, dental benefits and assistive devices coverage. *Employment Support* helps people with disabilities who can to prepare for and find a job if they are able and wanting to work. The Ontario Disability Support Program is managed and delivered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS). To apply for the ODSP Income support, an application needs to be obtained from the local MCSS office.

Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Ontario Disability Support Program  
Income and Employment Supports  
119 King St. West, 3rd Floor  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y7  
Tel: (905) 521-7280  
Toll Free: 1-800-561-0369  
TDD/TTY: (905) 546-8276  
TDD/TTY Toll Free: 1-866-221-2229  
Fax: (905) 546-8284  
Fax: (905) 521-7568

Once all the forms in your Disability Determination Package are complete, these need to be returned to the Disability Adjudication Unit of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Ontario Disability Support Program  
Disability Adjudication Unit  
Box B18  
Toronto ON M7A 1R3  
Fax: 416-326-3374

Documents needed for this application are detailed on the website ([www.mcass.gov.ca](http://www.mcass.gov.ca)) and include medical reports, psychology reports, vision/hearing assessments (if applicable) and adaptive information.

## Other Financial and Legal matters

Families benefit from meeting with a financial advisor/planner and an attorney to plan for the future of their child with a disability. You will want to confirm that the professionals have knowledge and experience with the various issues including the concerns about guardianship, wills and trust funds. One trust fund that families often use is the Henson Trust.

A Henson Trust (sometimes called an absolute discretionary trust) in Canadian law, is a type of trust designed to benefit a person with a disability. It protects the assets (typically an inheritance) of the disabled person as well as the right to collect government benefits and entitlements.

## Education Opportunities

Community Integration through Co-operative Education. (CICE)

[www.mohawkcollege.ca/interdisciplinary](http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/interdisciplinary)

The CICE program provides students who have intellectual disabilities and other significant learning challenges the opportunity to pursue a postsecondary education, develop skills to help prepare for employment, and experience college life

HWDSB- Community and Continuing Education

[www.communitylivinghamilton.com](http://www.communitylivinghamilton.com)

Community Living Hamilton is a not-for-profit organization and registered charity that offers a full range of services to people with an intellectual disability.