FUNDING 101

We are sharing some of the most common funding sources for families of children/youth with disabilities or special needs. Funding changes frequently so please go to the websites for the latest and most accurate information.

Access OAP (Ontario Autism Program)

https://accessoap.ca/

Access OAP connects families with autism services and supports across Ontario.

To be eligible for OAP, a child must be under the age of 18, currently living in Ontario, and have a written diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder from a qualified professional. The fastest way to apply is to visit *www.AccessOAP.ca*.

Call Access OAP at 1-833-425-2445 for more information and help to get started.

Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ASCD)

http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/disabilities.aspx

A *monthly allowance* intended to provide financial assistance to caregivers to help with the *costs* related to their child/youth's severe disability. For low and moderate income families; family income considered.

See: Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) for children/youth 18

Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

https://www.ontario.ca/page/assistive-devices-program

ADP is funding for customized equipment and specialized supplies (e.g., wheelchair, ostomy supplies, and hearing aids). ADP may cover up to 75% of cost for eligible items; not income based. Child/youth will need valid health card.

The forms are most often completed by the vendor or ADP authorized clinician, with youth/guardian signature.

FUNDING 101

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/segments/tax-credits-deductions-persons-disabilities/disability-tax-credit.html

A tax credit that reduces the amount of income tax for someone with a disability or the person supporting them. Eligibility can open the door for other government programs.

It is helpful to speak to an accountant or financial specialist. The tax form has a section to be completed by a medical practitioner.

Equipment Funding Program - Easter Seals Ontario

https://services.easterseals.org/equipment-funding/

Easter Seals Equipment Funding Program helps families with the cost of mobility/accessibility equipment that is required by children/youth with permanent physical disabilities; child/youth must be dependent on a mobility aid.

Registration is required (separate from the Incontinence Grant program).

Easter Seals funding availability depends on the availability of funds. Approval must be obtained before ordering equipment. This requires clinician support.

Incontinence Supplies Grant (Diaper) - Easter Seals

https://services.easterseals.org/incontinence-supplies-grant/

A grant to offset the cost of diapers and some incontinence supplies for Ontario children/youth (up to 18) who have a chronic disability involving irreversible incontinence or retention problems. It is not income based.

This form requires information and signature from a doctor or nurse practitioner but can otherwise be completed by the family. The grants are audited regularly; very important to keep all receipts.

FUNDING 101

March of Dimes Home and Vehicle Modification Program

https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/am/hvmp

Provides families with funding for home improvements that will help in the care of their child/youth such as bathroom modifications, ramps, lifts and tracks. Funding has lifetime caps for home modifications and 10-year caps for vehicle modifications and is income based.

The application is online and has an online application guide to support completion.

Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

The RDSP was developed by the Government of Canada in 2008 to help Canadians with a disability create financial security. With personal contributions, grants and bonds provided by the Canadian Government, and opportunities to grow the plan through various investment options, an RDSP can grow quickly. Applicants must be eligible for the Disability Tax Credit to open a RDSP.

Visit your local financial institution for more information.

Special Services at Home (SSAH)

https://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx

SSAH funding is meant to help families caring for a child/youth with a developmental and/or physical disability. It can be used to support skill development or respite for the family. This funding is not income based. May be a waitlist; apply early.

Families will likely require some level of support with the application process; documentation of diagnosis/need is required.

See: Developmental Services Ontario for child/youth 18+, Passport

FUNDING 101

For individuals that are 18+ years of age

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) helps adults with developmental disabilities connect to services and supports within their communities. This may include residential supports, respite, community participation, the passport program, and more. **Application for DSP can begin as early as 16 years of age.**

Contact your local DSO office at 1-855-437-6797 or visit *https://www.dsontario.ca/*

Passport Program (Through DSO):
The Passport program is a reimbursement program that helps adults with a developmental disability participate in their community. You can either choose to receive the money directly or purchase your supports and services through an agency.

Talk to your DSO Coordinator to get connected to the Passport Program.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

ODSP is a government social assistance program that provides a minimal level of income and medical assistance for people with a disability in Ontario. ODSP is meant to cover basic living expenses, such as rent, food, clothing and transportation costs. Valuable additional benefits include prescriptions, dental and vision care, and repair and maintenance of mobility devices.

Applicants can apply by phone, online or in person at the ODSP office closest to you.

Phone: (519) 352-5040
Online: *www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-disability-support-program*
In-Person: 1023 Richmond St. W, Chatham