

# Developmental Services Ontario (DSO):

*What you and your patients need to know*

## What is DSO?

- DSO helps adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers connect with services and supports
- There are nine DSO agencies in Ontario
- Completes an application package and needs assessment
- Makes referral to adult developmental services and programs on your behalf

## Developmental Services and Supports Accessed and Organized through DSO

- Community participation supports (e.g., work, recreation, passport funding)
- Residential supports (e.g., group homes, supported independent living)
- Caregiver respite services (in home and out of home)
- Person-directed planning supports (help adults with developmental disability develop their own vision and goals for their future)
- Specialized supports (e.g., service coordination, clinical services, case management)

These supports can be delivered one-on-one or in groups. More information may be found at <http://www.dsontario.ca/> (under “Developmental Services in Ontario”)

## What will happen when your patient or their caregiver calls DSO?

- The call will be answered by a DSO worker who will talk about the supports and services needed. The DSO worker will:
  - Ask about the person with a developmental disability and their current situation
  - Provide information about services that might be of interest
  - Explain the process to go through that is required to be eligible for services funded by the Ministry

## Who is eligible for DSO?

- Age **18+ years** to receive services, but *can apply between 16-18 years*
- Documentation confirming age (e.g., government issued ID like a health card, passport, birth certificate)
- Resident of Ontario
- Documentation confirming residency in Ontario (e.g., government issued ID like a health card, passport, birth certificate)
- Have a developmental disability
  - Documentation by a psychologist confirming adult eligibility criteria. Typically, this is the most recent psychological assessment you have available (e.g., psychological assessment completed during school years).

## How does my patient apply for DSO?

Contact the local DSO to confirm if they are eligible for services. Have proof of eligibility documents ready for their region:

Region	Email	Phone	Fax
Central East	<a href="mailto:dsocentraleast@yssn.ca">dsocentraleast@yssn.ca</a>	905-953-0796 1-855-277-2121	905-952-2077
Central West	<a href="mailto:dso@dsocwr.com">dso@dsocwr.com</a>	1-888-941-1121 Dufferin: 519-821-5716 Halton: 905-876-1373 Peel: 905-453-2747 Waterloo: 519-741-1121	Dufferin: 519-821-4422 Halton: 905-876-2740 Peel: 905-272-0702 Waterloo: 519-743-4730
East	<a href="mailto:admin@dsoer.ca">admin@dsoer.ca</a>	1-855-376-3737	1-855-858-3737
Hamilton-Niagara	<a href="mailto:info@dsohnr.ca">info@dsohnr.ca</a>	1-877-376-4674	
North East	<a href="mailto:dso@handstfhn.ca">dso@handstfhn.ca</a>	1-855-376-6376	705-495-1373
Northern	<a href="mailto:info@lccctbay.org">info@lccctbay.org</a>	1-855-376-6673	1-807-346-8713
South East	<a href="mailto:esteele@dsoser.com">esteele@dsoser.com</a>	1-855-237-6737 1-613-354-7977	
South West	<a href="mailto:maryregan@dsoswr.ca">maryregan@dsoswr.ca</a>	1-855-437-6797	519-673-1509
Toronto	<a href="mailto:DSOTR@surreyplace.on.ca">DSOTR@surreyplace.on.ca</a>  <a href="http://www.dsotoronto.com">www.dsotoronto.com</a>	1-855-372-3858	

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