



## Guide to Funding Sources for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities

### **Government Funding**

1. Ontario Autism Program (OAP) – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (updated)  
Individualized funding services provided through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for children and youth who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Shining Stars Support Services provides ABA services for families who are eligible through the OAP program in Ontario.

For more information:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/autism/ontario-autism-program.aspx#families>

2. Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)- Passport Funding  
Funding provided through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for adults (18+ years of age) with developmental disabilities.

Funding is aimed at supporting adults to participate and stay integrated within their community.

Funding can be used for:

- community or recreational classes
- work, volunteer and daily living skills
- hiring a respite worker
- create their own life plans (this is called person-directed planning) to reach their goals
- get temporary respite for their caregivers

For more information:

[https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/serviceSupport/passport\\_agencies.aspx](https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/serviceSupport/passport_agencies.aspx)

[http://www.dsontario.ca/?\\_ga=2.179955117.846216156.1531350205-881024537.1531350205](http://www.dsontario.ca/?_ga=2.179955117.846216156.1531350205-881024537.1531350205)

3. The Assistive Devices Program (ADP)  
Funding through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides financial assistance to Ontario residents with long term physical disabilities to obtain assistive devices appropriate for the individual's needs and essential for independent living.

Devices covered by the program may include:

- communication display boards – hand-made collections of pictures and words created specifically for communication by pointing at pictures or words.
- speech-generating devices
- writing aids e.g. portable or stationary computers to be used with assistive technology
- assistive-technology software and hardware for writing aids and speech generating devices e.g. text-to-speech software , voice-dictation software, mouse alternatives, switches
- mounting for communication aids used to attach communication aid to a wheelchair or table.

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

#### 4. Home and Community Care

The local health integration network, funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, provides case managers that can organize services for children and adults who qualify, such as the following:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech-Language Therapy (including augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) therapy for nonverbal children)
- Physiotherapy
- Personal Support Worker visits (for help with personal care, feeding, bathing, dressing etc.)
- Nursing
- Social work

For more information:

<http://healthcareathome.ca/>

#### 5. Special Services at Home Funding (SSAH)

Financial support which helps families who are caring for a child under the age of 18 years with a developmental and/or physical disability.

- No income limits/requirements
- Funds are provided for the child's personal development and growth and as well to support the family:
- Mainstream/recreation or specialized camp/recreation programs
- Recruiting a special services worker
- Special Services/Support worker to provide respite and/or personal development
- Travel costs associated with transporting special needs child for the worker
- Basic supplies to implement a program for the special needs child (e.g. Flash cards)
- Membership fees for special needs associations (Special Olympics, Down Syndrome Association).
- 1:1 support worker at camp or recreational program
- Training for a family member or worker that enhances the understanding of the child with a disability's needs

- Extraordinary cost of childcare (for children aged 12 and above)
- Nursing for medically fragile children.
- Routine homemaking tasks – light housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grass cutting, and snow shovelling.
- Gym membership fees for the special needs child.
- Daycare/nursery school as respite or if recommended for socialization (e.g. money for summer camp attendance, sports, activities, etc.)
- A family resource worker at your local community living organization can help complete the application

To learn about the eligibility criteria:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices/guidelines.aspx#Eligibility>

Application form (must have Adobe Reader to open this file):

[http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttacg/006-1915E~1/\\$File/1915E\\_re.pdf](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetFileAttacg/006-1915E~1/$File/1915E_re.pdf)

6. Assistance for children with Severe Disabilities (ASCD)
 

Provides financial support for low-to-moderate income families to cover some of the extra costs of caring for a child (under 18 years of age) who has a severe disability.

  - Funds to supplement the parent's income (means tested – must make \$65,000 or less; higher income allowed if 2 or more disabled children)
  - Dental and drug benefits and vision glasses and hearing aids – available to children regardless of family income (if denied challenge the income rule on benefits)
  - Pays the amount not covered by ADP (Assistive Devices Program) for specialized equipment such as wheelchairs, strollers, FM systems, etc.

For more information:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/disabilitiies.aspx>

To apply you must contact your local regional office and ask for an application form:

<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/about/regionaloffices.aspx>

## **Private Health Insurance Funding**

### **1. Extended Health Benefits**

Many employers offer private healthcare benefits, which may cover:

- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Social Work



Please check you insurance package or whether you qualify to buy private insurance through the many carriers in Ontario.

## 2. Children's Critical Illness Coverage

A few private insurance companies now offer coverage for a diagnosis of Autism, with varying levels of funding eligibility.

The following policies cover Autism as a non-critical illness thereby allowing parents with diagnosed children the ability to use the funds for therapy/treatment as they choose:

- Blue Cross – covered under the Critical Illness Multi-Protection plan

[https://on.bluecross.ca/images/docs/other-insurance-options/Tangible\\_Critical-Illness-Insurance-for-Children\\_multi-protection.pdf#page=5](https://on.bluecross.ca/images/docs/other-insurance-options/Tangible_Critical-Illness-Insurance-for-Children_multi-protection.pdf#page=5)

- Desjardins – covered under the Critical Illness – Child, 20 pay plan

<https://www.webi.desjardinslifeinsurance.com/en/public/insurance/critical-illness/Pages/health-priorities-child-20.aspx>

## **Local Agencies/Organization Funding**

### 1. Community Living

Family relief funds for respite care are usually available.

Family resource and support workers are available who can help with funding applications and mediate with the school if there are problems between the home and school resource teacher support in nursery schools

To learn more:

<http://www.oakcl.org> - Oakville

<http://www.clmiss.ca> – Mississauga

### 2. Easter Seals (Ontario)

Provides funding for special equipment/supplies/camps for children with a disability.

- Incontinence grant - money for diapers if the child wears them both day and night (between 3 and 18 years of age)

- Special camps and funding for family vacations

- Specialized equipment funding for physically disabled children (bikes, walkers, standers, etc.)

- Access2 Entertainment card: <http://access2card.ca/apply-first-time/>, which allows a caregiver free access to accompany a person with a disability to over 500 eligible venues and events across Canada. (Ontario eligible venues - <http://access2card.ca/participating-venues/?province=4>)

- Disability Travel Card: <http://easterseals.ca/english/disability-travel-card> is for people of all types of permanent disabilities who require the assistance of a support person when travelling with VIA Rail



Canada, Greyhound Canada, Coach Canada, and Ontario Northland. For the application form (must have Adobe Reader to open the form): <https://easterseals.ca/english/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Disability-Travel-Card-NEWEST-Application-Form-EN.pdf>

To learn more about Easterseals programs, funding, and services please visit:  
<http://www.easterseals.org/services/>

### 3. March of Dimes

March of Dimes Canada provides a wide range of services to people with physical disabilities throughout the country.

- Children and Youth Programs: <https://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/CE/Pages/ACE.aspx>

- Adult Programs: <https://www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/CE/Pages/CEadult.aspx>

Services for individuals in Ontario

- o AccessAbility® Advantage & AODA Training

- o Acquired Brain Injury Services - Funded

- o Acquired Brain Injury Services – Fee For Service

- o Aphasia Centres

- o Assistive Devices Program (ADP)

- o Attendant Services

- o BeFriending® Program

- o Business Computer Applications Program

- o Conductive Education® Program

- o DesignAbility® Program

- o Employment Services

- o Home & Vehicle Modification® Program (funded by Ontario Government)

- o Linking Survivors With Survivors (operated by Stroke Recovery Canada®)

- o Mediation Services

- o Northern Medical Clinics

- o Post-Polio Canada (Peer Support)

- o Recreation & Integration Services

- o LIFE Mississauga - Learning Independence for Future Empowerment

- o LIFE Toronto - Learning Independence for Future Empowerment

- o Stroke Recovery Canada® (Peer Support)

### 4. Autism Ontario

One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund

- Available to families of children or youth with ASD who retain the services of a one-to-one support worker for their child to attend a community summer camp or summer program.



### March Break Reimbursement Fund

- Available to families of children or youth with ASD who the services of a one-to-one support worker OR who have paid for their child to attend a March break camp program

For more information:

<http://www.autismontario.com/client/aso/ao.nsf/web/Summer+and+March+Break+Funding?OpenDocument>

### **Foundations/Children's Charities**

#### 1. Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity

JACC will fund children with physical, medical or mental health disabilities.

- assists in funding of hospital and treatment costs, household costs, respite care, specialized medical treatments, and therapies – SLP, PT, OT).

- The following diagnoses are not eligible under this funding: ASD, ADD/ADHD, Asthma, Diabetes, Dyslexia/Learning Disabilities, Language Delays (Receptive & Expressive Language), or Stuttering

- For more information: <https://jenash.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/March-2018-For more information: https://jenash.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/March-2018-Application-Form-and-Guidelines.pdf>

#### 2. Starlight Foundation

Starlight Children's Foundation® Canada brightens the lives of seriously ill Canadian children and their families by bringing them joy, laughter and relief.

- Provides funded trips/experiences for chronically ill children and their families

For more information:

<http://www.starlightcanada.org/programs/out-of-hospital-programs/>

#### Ceridian Cares

Supports individuals or families in need of financial assistance in the form of grants for "Quality of Life" and "Basic Essentials" for children's programs, camp, art supplies, books, athletic programs.

Ceridian Cares does not cover the cost towards ongoing therapies.

For eligibility criteria:

<http://www.ceridiancares.ca/evaluation>

Application Form :

<https://ceridian.tbcloud.ca/form/>

#### 4. Labatt – Better Together

Provides funding to children with disabilities and their families Items funded can include:

- medical devices
- therapies/support services
- assistive devices

For more information:



<https://www.labattbettertogether.ca/apply-for-help>

Application Form:

<https://www.labattbettertogether.ca/docs/default-source/default-document-library/labatt-better-together-application-form.pdf?sfvrsn=4>