

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), Income Support Ministry of Community and Social Services (updated June 2019)

ODSP helps people with disabilities who are in financial need pay for living expenses, like food and housing. ODSP may also cover health care costs such as prescription drugs, medical supplies, dental and vision care. ODSP can also provide employment supports.

How to Apply:

- Can start process 6 months before turning 18
- Apply online http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/social/apply_online.aspx
OR by phone or in person –call or visit your local ODSP office (see below)

You will be asked for documents that can verify:

- Your personal information
- Information about members of your household
- Your household's housing costs and other shelter-related costs
- Your household's income and assets

For more information about specific documents you will need:

http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/social/apply_online_documents.aspx

NOTE:

- When they say “your household or your family members” they mean your spouse and your children over the age of 18; if you are still living with your parents, information about their income is not required.
- If you are enrolled full time in high school or an approved post-secondary institution, any earnings from a part-time or summer job are not considered.

Local ODSP Offices:

Kitchener/Waterloo

715 Fischer Hallman Rd., Unit 301

Kitchener, Ontario N2E 4E9

Phone: 519-886-4700 or Toll Free: 1-800-441-9820 TTY: 519-886-8304

Fax: 519-886-8997



Cambridge

73 Water Street North,
Suite 400, 4th Floor
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 7L6
Phone: 519-623-1230 or Toll Free: 1-888-214-0738 TTY: 519-623-6593
Fax: 519-623-4752

Guelph

1 Stone Road W., 1st Floor
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2
Phone: 519-822-7500 or Toll Free: 1-800-567-2953 TDD/TTY: (519) 822-1561
Fax: (519) 837-0789

Eligibility for ODSP Income support:

- be at least 18 years old
- be an Ontario resident
- be in financial need* **and**
- meet the program's definition of a person with a disability**

* You are considered to be in financial need if the costs of your household's basic living expenses are more than your household's income and assets (as determined by your ODSP caseworker)

** A Disability Determination Package will need to be completed by by an approved health care professional.

There are two parts to the Disability Determination Package:

1. Health Status Report - collects information about your medical condition, its impairments, restrictions and expected duration, as well as your treatments (your doctor needs to complete)
2. Activities of Daily Living Index - collects information about the impact of your impairment on your ability to work, care for yourself and participate in the community (can be completed by a doctor, physiotherapist, social worker, or an occupational therapist)

Not sure if you qualify?

You can start with this online screening tool:

<https://saapply.mcsc.gov.on.ca/CitizenPortal/cw/PlayerPage.do>



Once you start receiving ODSP Income Supports, you may also be eligible to receive other benefits and supports such as:

- Health benefits (e.g. prescription drug coverage and vision care)
- Disability-related benefits, such as help to pay for hearing aids and assistive devices covered by ADP (100% vs 75%)

Did you know?

- If you have received a letter from Developmental Services Ontario saying that you are eligible for developmental services and supports, you can use that letter to support your application for ODSP
- If you are living with your parents, you may be eligible to receive support for “board and lodging” whether or not you are paying for this
- ODSP will pay for incontinence supplies (Easter Seals incontinence grant ends at age 18)
- Even if you only qualify for a small amount of income support, you are still eligible for health benefits and the extra funding for ADP eligible equipment
- If you get a job and no longer qualify for income support through ODSP, you may still be eligible for the Extended Health Benefits through ODSP if you have high health costs – there is also a Transitional Health Benefit until comparable health coverage is provided by employer (e.g. not comparable if you have to pay for the benefits through payroll deduction)
- If you own a guide dog, ODSP may help cover the costs of its care
- ODSP can help cover travel costs to go to medical appointments
- When considering your assets, ODSP does not look at RDSPs or RESPs but they do look at RRSPs
- You can receive a total of up to \$10,000/ year in gifts or voluntary payments (e.g. payments from trusts, life insurance policies, inheritances or windfalls, such as lottery winnings) without it affecting your income supports
- If you are receiving ACSD, your worker can help you with your application to ODSP

For more information:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/odsp/index.aspx>