WANTED: Your Ideas for Social Learning Opportunities

We welcome your ideas for Social Learning Opportunities funded through Autism Ontario's Realize Community Potential (RCP) Program.

Who can submit ideas?

Individuals, families and community service providers can submit ideas for Social Learning Opportunities.

How do you make an idea for a Social Learning Opportunity a reality?

Follow these steps if you have an idea you'd like to submit for a Social Learning Opportunity:

1. **Discuss your idea with an RCP Coordinator** by contacting the Autism Ontario Chapter nearest you in one of these six communities: Durham Region, London, Niagara Region, Ottawa, Thunder Bay & District, Windsor and York Region.

2. **If your idea fits the criteria for Social Learning Opportunity objectives, then you will be asked to complete a Social Learning Opportunity Idea form.** If your idea does not fit the criteria for Social Learning Opportunity objectives, the RCP Coordinator may offer suggestions to help you pursue your concept.

3. **Completed Social Learning Opportunity Idea forms will be reviewed by a regional Social Learning Opportunity Review Committee.** All regional Review Committees will use a standard Rating Scale to determine the strongest ideas for their community. Click here to view the Social Learning Opportunity Rating Scale, which may assist you when completing your Idea form.

4. **Prior to approval, the strongest ideas will reviewed by the RCP Program Manager** at the Provincial Office of Autism Ontario.

Please Note: submitting an idea will not guarantee that your child/family will be accepted to participate in the Social Learning Opportunity.

For reasons of safety and to ensure maximum program benefit for all involved, there will be limitations on the number of participants for each Social Learning Opportunity. Prior to enrollment, some Social Learning Opportunities may also require participants to undergo pre-screening for eligibility and/or suitability.

Where are the Social Learning Opportunities happening?

Social Learning Opportunities funded through Autism Ontario's, Realize Community Potential (RCP) Program are currently happening within six chapters; Durham Region, London, Niagara Region, Ottawa, Thunder Bay & District, Windsor and York Region. Participation in a Social Learning Opportunity is not limited to those who live in these areas. Depending on the capacity for specific programs, participation is open to all community members.

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INTRODUCING: Social Learning Opportunities

What are Social Learning Opportunities?
Families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) often limit their participation in social activities, or choose not to participate at all, because their community lacks the kind of supportive environment that would enable them to enjoy experiences that other families find easier to access. These everyday experiences may include swimming, skating, or even seeing a movie in a theatre.

Many families affected by ASD also seek specialized programming for their children, such as social skills groups or sibling support groups, but quickly discover that availability is limited.

By establishing Social Learning Opportunities, Autism Ontario's Realize Community Potential (RCP) Program is able to respond to some of these challenges.

Social Learning Opportunities represent unique activities and programs that are:

- Generated by ideas received from families and community service providers;
- Needed in the community because they are not offered anywhere else or are not accessible for various reasons, such as lengthy wait-lists or lack of adequate funding; and
- Able to make accommodations so individuals with ASD and their families can be included and accepted.

Autism Ontario strongly values Social Learning Opportunities as an important way to contribute to quality life experiences for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families.

We Need Your Help
If you are a parent or a community service provider, please share your ideas for the types of programs and activities needed by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and/or their families in your community.

Some examples of Social Learning Opportunities are:

- Social skills groups for individuals with ASD
- Recreational activities for individuals with ASD and/or their families
- Health and fitness activities for individuals with ASD
- Community outreach
- Specialized programs: ex., Summer-to-School Transition Program, or Sibling Support Group

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Social Learning Opportunities are one aspect of Autism Ontario's *Realize Community Potential Program*.

To find out more about Social Learning Opportunities currently offered near you, visit these chapters online.

CURRENT CHAPTERS HOSTING THE REALIZE COMMUNITY POTENTIAL PROGRAM

RCP Program Manager **www.autismontario.com**
Autism Ontario
1179A King St. West, Suite 004
Toronto, ON M6K 3C5
marilyn@autismontario.com Tel# 416-246-9592x234

London **www.autismontario.com/london**
RCP Coordinator
Autism Ontario, London Chapter
600 Sanatorium Road, Unit 1
London, ON N6H 3W7
rcplondon@autismontario.com Tel# 519-433-3390

Niagara **www.autismontario.com/niagara**
RCP Coordinator
Autism Ontario, Niagara Region Chapter
60 James St., Ste.404, St.
Catharines, ON L2R 7E7
rcpniagara@autismontario.com Tel # 905-682-2776

Ottawa **www.autismontario.com/ottawa**
RCP Coordinator
Autism Ontario, Ottawa Chapter
211 Bronson Avenue, Ste. 210
Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5
rcpottawa@autismontario.com Tel # 613-230-6305

Coordinatrice du programme RPC bilingue
Autism Ontario, bureau d'Ottawa
211 ave. Bronson, suite 210
Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5
rpcottawa@autismontario.com Tel#613-230-6305

Thunder Bay and District **www.autismontario.com/thunderbay**

RCP Coordinator
Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay & District Chapter
c/o Communities Together for Children
425 Edward St. N., Northwood Park Plaza
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 4P7
rcpthunderbay@autismontario.com Tel# 807-577-4876

Windsor Essex **www.autismontario.com/windsor**

RCP Coordinator
1168 Drouillard Rd.
Windsor, ON N8Y 2R1
rcpwindsor@autismontario.com Tel # 519-250-9410

York Region **www.autismontario.com/york**

RCP Coordinator
Autism Ontario, York Region Chapter
11181 Yonge St. Ste. 303,
Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1L2
rcpyork@autismontario.com Tel # 905-780-1590

SOCIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

REALIZE COMMUNITY POTENTIAL PROGRAM

IDEA FORM

Individuals, as well as parents, volunteers, chapter members and community service providers can submit ideas for RCP Social Learning Opportunities. The purpose of completing this form is to ensure that the process of receiving and reviewing all ideas is a fair and equitable. For more information please refer to the "Submit Ideas" document on our website.

Idea forms are **due June 6** for Social Learning Opportunities to be implemented between **September – December**; **September 18** for events held between **October-December;** and **November 28** for events held during the months of **January-March**.

Please try to complete all questions.

1. What is your idea for a Social Learning Opportunity?
Write additional information on the back of this page or attach another page, if needed

_____

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_____

_____

_____

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2. Who will benefit from your idea and how?
May include children, teens, parents, siblings, etc.

3. During what time of year would your idea take place? How often would it occur?
Such as every week day for a certain number of weeks, once per week, once per month, once per year, etc.

4. How much do you think it will cost to implement your idea?
Cost of materials, cost to rent equipment, cost to rent space, hire staff, etc.

Please complete the following questions to the best of your ability.
Please feel free to contact the RCP Coordinator nearest you for assistance with this section.

5. Could donations of materials or services be arranged to lower expenses for your idea?

6. **Suggest local community service provider(s) that could potentially partner with the RCP Program to implement your idea.**

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_____

7. **Can you name families affected by ASD who you know would support your idea?**

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

8. **Does your idea meet Autism Ontario policy criteria for safety, insurance coverage, and adequate levels of supervision for individuals with ASD?**

List any possible concerns.

_____

_____

9. **Please list the names and contact information for volunteers who would be willing to assist with the implementation of your idea:**

Volunteer Name: **Phone / Email:**

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

SOCIAL LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

REALIZE COMMUNITY
POTENTIAL PROGRAM

Idea submitted by:

_____

Please type or print neatly

Identified Lead for this proposal:

_____

Signature:

_____

Date:

_____

For Autism Ontario staff only:

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Approved Date reviewed: _____

Not Approved Reason: _____

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