

Adult supports, services, and funding A comparison of DSO, ODSP and Passport

	Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)	Passport Funding	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
Earliest Age to apply	16	18	17.5
What is it	DSO is the access point for adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS). MCCSS funds supports and services which are provided by agencies and are managed through a resource management process with DSO.	Passport provides funding for adults with a developmental disability that can be used to purchase individualized supports that support community participation, activities of daily living, person directed planning, and caregiver respite services and support.	ODSP provides monthly income support, assistance with health benefits, and employment assistance to people with disabilities.
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of age • Proof you are living in Ontario. • Proof you have a developmental disability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment by a psychologist or psychological associate ○ Assessment outlines significant delay in both cognitive and adaptive functioning. ○ Includes age of onset 	Any adult who is eligible for developmental services and supports funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services under DSO, including young adults who are 18 years of age and still in school, may apply for funding through Passport. You need to first confirm eligibility with DSO and then connect with your local DSO at the age of 18 to access passport funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of age (minimum 18 years of age before you start receiving ODSP funds) • Proof of living in Ontario • Meet criteria for financial need and program's asset limitation. These are based on applicant's finances (not caregiver's) • Meet the program's definition of a disability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note that if the ODSP applicant has confirmed eligibility for DSO, they should share this information as part of the ODSP application (it may shorten the ODSP process). If the applicant is not DSO eligible, or does not know if they are, they can still apply to ODSP as the ODSP

			eligibility is quite different to that of DSO (you can be eligible for one and not the other)
Services Provided	<p>DSO supports and services (provided by local agencies) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized supports including APSW (adult protective service worker), • Behaviour services (e.g. develop behaviour support plan – note they do not provide behaviour therapy), • Case management, • Person-directed planning, • Housing supports (group homes, supported independent living, host family/associate living support), • Caregiver Respite, • Community participation supports. 	<p>Passport provides funding for adults with a developmental disability to acquire services and supports to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take part in community classes or recreational programs. • develop work, volunteer and daily life skills. • hire a support worker. • create their own life plans (this is called person-directed planning) to reach their goals 	<p>ODSP provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly income support to help with living expenses including rent, food, and clothing. • Health benefits including prescriptions, vision, dental and more. • Employment support to help find or keep a job, or to advance your career
Age services end	Services continue throughout the individual's lifespan	Funding continues throughout the individual's lifespan	Funding ends when the person transitions to senior's funding.
For more information please see:	Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)	Passport Funding	Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Additional Resources:

- [Benefits Wayfinder](#): Can help you understand what government financial benefits may be available to you.