

SPOTLIGHT

on transformation

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The February issue is here

Welcome to our latest issue. In this issue we tell you about:

- A new regulation about eligibility for ministry-funded adult developmental services and supports.
- Revised guidelines for the Adult Protective Services Worker program.
- A new website that's been launched to help protect people with developmental disabilities from abuse and neglect.



Enriching lives through creative expression

Minister of Community and Social Services John Milloy recently visited [Creative Village Studio](#). Operated by Community Living Toronto, Creative Village Studio is an art gallery that showcases the art and photography of individuals with developmental disabilities. Artists of varying abilities who want to explore painting and photography can also drop in to take classes.

New regulation about eligibility for adult developmental services and supports

The government recently approved a [regulation](#) that clarifies who is eligible for ministry-funded adult developmental services and supports without having their eligibility determined by Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). Here we summarize some of the more commonly asked questions about the [regulation](#).

Q. Why was the regulation necessary?

A. The [Ministry of Community and Social Services](#) funds services and supports for adults with a developmental disability. The regulation clarifies who is eligible to receive these services and supports without having to file an application.

The government repealed the Developmental Services Act (DSA) in 2011. There is now new legislation called the [Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008](#) (SIPDDA). The new act says that people who were at least 18 years old and are currently receiving services and supports or on a waitlist under the old DSA would automatically be eligible to receive or be on a waitlist under SIPDDA.

The adult portion of the Special Services at Home (SSAH) program and the direct funding component of the [Passport](#) program were originally funded under the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act (MCSSA).

This meant that people receiving these supports were not automatically eligible under SIPDDA.

The regulation makes sure they are included under SIPDDA.

Q. Who is covered by the regulation?

A. The regulation deems the following groups of individuals eligible for services and supports under SIPDDA:

Adults with a developmental disability who:

- Were receiving Passport Program funding as of April 1, 2012.
- Transitioned from SSAH to the Passport Program on April 1, 2012.
- Were on the SSAH waitlist as of March 31, 2012.
- Applied and were eligible for adult services and supports under the DSA between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011 and began to receive supports or were on a waitlist for supports during that time.

Children with a developmental disability who:

- Are receiving SSAH and will turn 18 by March 31, 2013.
- Turn 18 between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013, and are on a waitlist for SSAH before they turn 18.

Q. Why are adults who applied between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011 covered by the new regulation?

A. SIPDDA set out a new application and assessment process. Adults with a developmental disability who would like to receive services and supports must go to ‘application entities’ (called [Developmental Services Ontario](#)) to apply.

These sections of SIPDDA became law on January 1, 2011.

Developmental Services Ontario, however, were not introduced until July 1, 2011.

During this six-month period, people continued to apply for services and supports, and the old DSA legislation was used to determine a person’s eligibility.

The regulation is needed to include this group of people under SIPDDA.

Q. Do people who are covered by the regulation need to do anything to become eligible under SIPDDA?

A. No. The transfer of eligibility is automatic.

Q. I’m covered by the regulation and I want to apply for services and supports. What should I do?

A. If you fall into one of the groups covered by the regulation, it means you are eligible for services and supports under SIPDDA. For information about applying for ministry-funded adult developmental services and supports, contact Developmental Services Ontario. The website address is www.dsontario.ca.

A copy of the regulation is available on the government’s E-Laws website at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

How does the regulation affect your eligibility for adult developmental services?

If you are an adult who transitioned from SSAH to Passport on April 1, 2012

You will automatically be eligible for adult developmental services and supports under SIPDDA.

You will continue to receive the same amount of funding until your needs are re-assessed.

We will give you more information about next steps.

If you are an adult who was on the waitlist for SSAH funding

You will automatically be eligible for adult developmental services and supports under SIPDDA.

DSO will contact you in the future to assess your needs.

When services and supports are available **DSO will** let you know.

If you are an adult who applied for and were found eligible for adult services and supports under the DSA **between** January 1, 2011, and June 30, 2011

You will continue to be eligible for adult developmental services and supports under SIPDDA.**

When services and supports are available **DSO will** let you know.

DSA – Developmental Services Act

DSO – Developmental Services Ontario

SSAH – Special Services at Home Program

SIPDDA – The Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act

** All adults who received or were on the waitlist for services under the DSA prior to January 1, 2011, have already been deemed eligible under SIPDDA.

How does the regulation affect your child's eligibility for adult developmental services?

If your child receives SSAH funding, and will turn 18 by March 31, 2013

Your child will automatically be eligible for adult developmental services and supports under SIPDDA upon turning 18.*

Until your child turns 18, you will receive the funding through SSAH.

After that, your child will receive it through the Passport Program until their needs are re-assessed.

Your child may also be eligible for support through ODSP upon turning 18.

We will be giving you more information about next steps.

If your child will turn 18 by March 31, 2013, and is on the waitlist for SSAH funding

Your child turning 18 will automatically be eligible for adult developmental services and supports under SIPDDA.*

DSO will contact you to assess your child's needs.

When services and supports are available **DSO will** let you know.

Your child may also be eligible for support through ODSP upon turning 18.

If your child receives or is waiting for SSAH funding, and will turn 18 after March 31, 2013

When your child turns 18, they will no longer be eligible for the SSAH program.

Your child may be eligible for support through ODSP upon turning 18.

Your child may apply for adult developmental services and supports through DSO.*

* This only applies to children with a developmental disability.



New website – protecting vulnerable adults from abuse

We would also like to provide an update for you on an awareness campaign we told you about in our [March 2012 issue](#).

The group behind the initiative to protect adults with developmental disabilities in central western Ontario from abuse and neglect recently launched its website.

The website is a resource for self-advocates and families who are looking for tips on preventing abuse. The website offers fact sheets that are available in both English and French. One of the fact sheets was developed specifically for self-advocates and people with developmental disabilities. It uses pictographs to illustrate what kinds of behaviours and actions are abusive and how to seek help if you are in crisis.

Agencies looking to launch their own abuse awareness campaigns may also find the website informative. There are links to a number of resources that can help agencies train staff on the general signs of abuse and what to do if they suspect abuse.

For information, check out the website at www.vulnerableadultscwr.org.

Revised guidelines for the Adult Protective Services Worker program

We recently released updated [guidelines](#) for the Adult Protective Services Worker (APSW) program.

An update was necessary to bring the guidelines into line with Ontario's current legislation for the developmental services sector – [the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008](#).

The revised guidelines reflect the role [Developmental Services Ontario](#) plays in the adult service system.

For more information, check out the newly released guidelines at www.mcass.gov.on.ca. You'll find them in the [Publications](#) section of the ministry's website.

What does an adult protective services worker do?

Adult protective services workers support adults with a developmental disability who live on their own. The goal is to help people live as independently and as safely and securely as possible.

APSWs meet with the people they support on a regular basis to help them learn new skills essential for daily living. This includes teaching them simple tasks such as shopping and cooking, as well as providing support for more complicated issues such as housing, finance, legal dealings, family and parenting, and health and safety.

For more information about what APSWs do, watch our [video](#) about Brent and Peter.

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