

Bridging to Adulthood Tips: Applying for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Income Support

What is ODSP Income Support?

ODSP Income Support provides financial assistance for people with disabilities in Ontario who are 18 years and older for basic living costs. The financial assistance is separate from your parent or caregiver's income, so all eligible youth with disabilities are encouraged to apply.



When Can I Apply?

You can start **applying at 17.5 years old**. The income support can start at 18 years old.

What is provided through ODSP Income Supports?

ODSP Income Support provides a monthly amount of money towards living costs like food, clothing and housing. There may also be benefits like drug, dental, and vision coverage. In certain situations, support is provided for specific medical supplies, medical transportation, service dogs, assistive devices and other disability-related costs. For a more detailed listing of the supports provided call 1-888-789-4199 or visit the [ODSP website](#).

How do I apply?

See the next page of this handout for a step-by-step guide.

Why should I apply?

Understandably, you might feel uneasy or worried when thinking about transitioning to adulthood. Even when these uncomfortable feelings are present, gradually doing tasks, like applying to ODSP, can provide a sense of accomplishment and help transition feel more manageable.

Children's income supports, such as Special Services at Home and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities stop at age 18. Applying to ODSP can help you find out if you are eligible for adult income supports and related benefits.

Steps for Apply to ODSP Income Support

My First Step:

1. Submit the Application for Social Assistance

You can do this online

Start the online application for social assistance

https://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/apply_online.aspx

We recommend that you read the ODSP application tips on page 4 to 7 of this handout before starting your application.

Or by calling your [local ODSP office](#)

Date I submitted the Application for Social Assistance: _____

I saved or printed a copy of the application for my records: Yes No

My Next Steps:

2. An ODSP caseworker will call you in approximately 5-7 business days.

The ODSP caseworker **will schedule a meeting** with you to see if you meet the financial criteria.

*If you get Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities ([ACSD](#)) payments or have been approved for Developmental Services Ontario ([DSO](#)) please bring your acceptance letter to your caseworker meeting. This can help to streamline your ODSP application. This will not apply to everyone, since only certain people get ACSD or DSO supports.

My meeting is booked for this date: _____ at this location: _____.

Place to take notes during the meeting _____

3. ODSP will send you a **decision notice** within 15 days of your caseworker meeting.

Date I received the decision notice: _____

Place I am storing the decision notice: _____

4. Disability Review:

ODSP will give you paperwork called the **Disability Determination Package**. You will get an approved healthcare provider to complete several forms. You will return these forms to ODSP.

* Some applicants are exempt from the Disability Determination Package e.g. if you have a Developmental Disability and have been approved for services through Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). You can ask your healthcare team for more information.

Date I received the Disability Determination Package: _____

Date of the appointment I booked with my doctor or other qualified medical professional to complete the Disability Determination Package: _____

Date I submitted the completed Disability Determination Package to ODSP: _____

I saved or printed a copy of the application for my records: Yes No

ODSP staff will review your forms to determine if you meet the eligibility criteria for having a disability under the ODSP criteria.

5. You will receive a **final decision from ODSP** in writing **within approximately 90 days** of ODSP receiving your completed Disability Determination Package. You have the right to appeal the decision if applicable.

Date I received the final decision from ODSP: _____

My ODSP member ID #: _____

My ODSP Caseworker is: _____

Tips when Applying for ODSP Income Support

Applying for ODSP is a bit different than when you applied for children's funding in the past.

Most children's funding applications (e.g., ACSD, Family Support Fund) ask for the total income of all family members living in the house with the child. This includes the parent's income(s) in the overall income amount.

But, this *is different for ODSP*.

For ODSP application, *the young adult applicant* (who is 17.5 years or older) applies as a person with *their own "household"*. This is true for the application even if the young adult lives with and under the care of their parents. It is true even if the parent is completing the form on behalf of the young adult.

Tip: For the application, the youth is "the applicant". The youth has their "own household" that does not include their parents, even if they live together or if the parent is helping to fill out the form.



- When the ODSP application asks about **the applicant**, the questions are about the **young adult who is applying** for funding. The questions are not about the parent who may be helping the young adult applicant to fill out the application form.

For many cases where a youth is applying to ODSP, the **household** will only include **the young adult who is applying for ODSP (not their parents)**. If the young adult has their own spouse or dependent children, the young adult's spouse and children would be included in the household.

The following is an example that may help you apply this information to sample sections of an ODSP application form. This example is provided for illustrative purposes only. Your ODSP form will need to be filled out accurately based on your unique personal circumstances.

This is Miguel. He is 17.5 years old and lives with his mother. Miguel is applying for ODSP and his mother helps him fill out the online form: <https://saapply.mcass.gov.on.ca/CitizenPortal/application.do>

Miguel is the *applicant*, not his mother.

Information about you

Please enter your personal details below.

Personal details

First Name * Miguel

Middle Name

Last Name * Diaz

ernate Last Name

Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) * 02/05/2001

Miguel (17.5 years old) is the applicant.



It's ok if Miguel's mother helps fill out the paperwork, but she is not "the applicant". Miguel is.

Miguel does not have his own spouse or children. So, for the ODSP application, *Miguel is the only person in his "household"*, even though he lives with his mother.

Household information

Please tell us about the people living in your household.

People in your household

Do you have a spouse, a child who lives with you or a child who is in your temporary care ? * No

The questions about *household assets* are only about *Miguel's assets*. His mother's assets (e.g., mother's bank accounts, investments, car, etc.) are not included. If Miguel had his own spouse or dependent children, their assets would be included. However, Miguel is single and does not have his own children, so only Miguel's assets are listed in the application.

Asset Information

Please tell us about the people in your household who have assets. Examples of assets include cash, bank accounts (including tax free savings accounts), bonds, jewellery, etc.

Asset Information

Does anyone in your household have a bank account or cash? *

Miguel has his own bank account with \$250 dollars of birthday money. This will be listed on his ODSP application.

Does anyone in your household have a life insurance policy? *

Miguel does not have any life insurance policies, trust funds, or investments in his name etc.

Does anyone in your household have any trust funds? *

Does anyone in your household have any investments? *

The questions about *income* are only about *Miguel's income*. His mother's income is not included.

Income Information

Please tell us if anyone in your household receives income. Income is any amount of money you Canada Pension Plan, child support payments, etc.

Income Information

Does anyone in your household receive money from a job or training? *

Miguel has never had a paid job and is not self-employed, etc.

Does anyone in your household receive money from self-employment? *

The questions about *expenses* are about *Miguel's expenses*.

Expense information

Please tell us about your family's housing, child care expenses, and work or training expenses that are related to a household member's disability.

Expense information

What best describes your housing situation? *

Do you pay any utility costs?

Miguel lives with his mother and does not pay rent. Miguel's mother buys and prepares his food. Miguel does not pay the utilities bill.

Once all of the questions have been answered, Miguel and his mother will submit the online ODSP application. An ODSP caseworker will contact them within approximately 5-7 business days to set up a meeting for more assessment.

Please reach out to a Holland Bloorview staff member or your [local ODSP office](#) if you have questions about ODSP Income Supports.

Note: The information in this handout is current as of June 2022. This resource may not reflect changes made to the program(s) described after this date. This handout contains only a brief summary of ODSP Income Supports and the information is subject to change over time. Refer to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services [website](#) or contact your local ODSP office for more comprehensive and the most up to date information about ODSP and other government programs or [1-888-789-4199](tel:1-888-789-4199) ([TTY](#) deaf/hard of hearing).

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