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Developmental Services and Supports for Adults in Ontario

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) is an agency funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The **DSO** provides information about and helps adults find services and supports available in their community.

In order to apply for **DSO** services and supports, it is necessary to register by completing the following steps:

1. The individual with a developmental disability, their caregiver, or a referral agent needs to initially call the intake worker at **1-855-372-3858** in order to provide some basic background information. Within 24 hours of this initial contact, a Service Navigator will call the individual or caregiver to collect further intake information.
2. In order for **DSO** to determine if an individual is eligible for their services and supports, documents which indicate that the individual has been *diagnosed* with a developmental disability, is 18 years of age or older, and lives in Ontario are required.
3. If eligible, the individual will receive a letter of confirmation, and two meetings (2 hours each) will be set up for him or her and caregiver to attend.
 - a. At the first meeting, the individual will complete the *Application for Developmental Services and Supports (ADSS)* form to assist **DSO** to assess his or her needs. The individual will then discuss his or her likes and dislikes, as well as dreams and future goals.
 - b. At the second meeting, the individual will complete the *Supports Intensity Scale* to determine the level of support needed for him or her to be successful in a variety of areas. Caregivers will also discuss how the needs of the individual affect the caregiver.
4. Once this process is completed, **DSO** will identify services and supports that can help. These services may be available to everyone in the community or funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, or **DSO** may refer to another agency.

Many supports may not be available right away. **DSO** staff will place individual on the appropriate *needs list* and will follow up when supports become available.

For more information please visit the *Developmental Services Ontario* website at <http://www.dsontario.ca/>.

For a list of Community Organizations in Toronto that provide services, click on the *links* tab on the following website: <http://www.surreyplace.on.ca/dso/index.html>

Note: This summary was updated Feb 2013