



New Passport guidelines are here

What can I use Passport direct funding for?

The answer to that question is now easier to answer thanks to Ontario's new Passport guidelines.

Passport can be used to support greater participation in the community so you can:

- take part in community classes or recreational programs
- develop work, volunteer, and daily life skills or
- hire a support worker.

Caregivers can also use Passport funding so they can take a break from caregiving.

The new guidelines clearly show which supports can be purchased through Passport. The guidelines also explain how funding can be used to cover expenses specifically for support workers such as activity fees, meals and travel while providing support.

There are two other notable changes to the program that give you more choices:

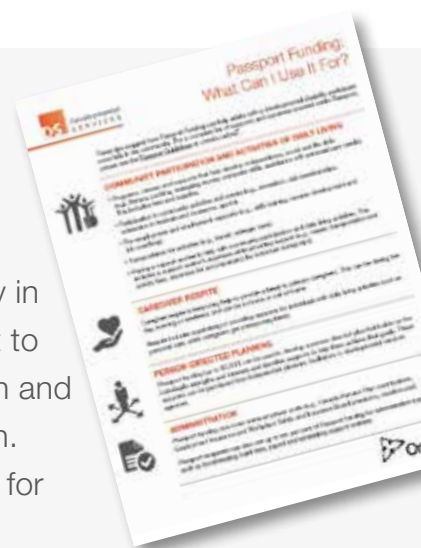
- **Activities of daily living** are now an allowed expense under Passport. These could be programs and supports that help develop life skills for greater independence such as cooking, managing money or using public transportation.
- Passport recipients may now use up to \$2,500 of their Passport funding to pay for **person-directed planning** each year, which can help them define and meet their

goals. These supports can be purchased from independent planners and facilitators or local agencies that provide developmental services.

As the government announced in the 2014 Ontario Budget, 13,000 people on the waiting list will receive Passport funding over the next four years. We have created a handy tip sheet about the services and supports that Passport funding can be used for. You can download the tip sheet at ontario.ca/bxsk or the full guidelines at ontario.ca/bxj7.

If you have further questions about the new Passport guidelines, please [contact your local Passport office](#).

Passport is a direct funding program that helps more than 16,000 adults with a developmental disability in Ontario access support to increase social inclusion and community participation. It also provides funding for respite for caregivers.



Ideas wanted: Employment and Modernization Fund

We are now accepting applications for the new **Employment and Modernization Fund**.

Part of the government's \$810 million investment strategy in community and developmental services, the fund will help agencies pursue innovative projects that support the ongoing transformation of Ontario's developmental services sector.

Tackling the significant challenges facing families and the developmental services sector is not just about more funding. We must also improve the system through better collaboration and partnerships.

The new fund offers financial support to projects that promote greater inclusion and independence for individuals with developmental disabilities

through meaningful employment, and increase efficiency, collaboration and innovation in our service delivery network.

We are accepting applications for two major streams:

- 1) **Employment:** Projects which create opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to secure integrated employment in the community.
- 2) **Service Delivery Modernization:** Projects that modernize service delivery models and lead to more individualized and responsive services and supports.

Proposals must be submitted to regional offices by October 24, 2014. For guidelines on the application process, please visit ontario.ca/bxqn.

Questions & Answers

Who can apply for these funds?

We encourage applicants to partner with community organizations, service providers and businesses in their proposals. The **lead applicant must be a ministry-funded agency** that supports adults with developmental disabilities.

How long can my project run?

You may submit proposals for single-year funding or multi-year funding. Projects can start in January 2015 and can run until March 2017. Multi-year funding will be dependent upon reporting back on project milestones and stated outcomes.

Is there a cost limit to project proposals?

We haven't set a cost ceiling for project proposals. We want to encourage the best possible ideas. Multi-year projects may be funded over two to three years. We may also work with project proponents to scale and scope projects in some cases.

How many projects will the ministry fund?

We will support the strongest proposals. We may choose many smaller projects or a few large ones – the strength of the proposals will be the deciding factor.

Employment = inclusion, one cup at a time

It may look like it's just a small coffee stand, but for Carol Hunt, it's been a launching pad for greater independence.

Carol has been working at the Coffee Kiosk at Scugog Memorial Library in Port Perry. The business, run by Community Living Durham North, teaches people like Carol the skills and responsibilities needed to succeed in a workplace.

"The kiosk is one-to-one, individualized support to develop skills in the area of customer service, money management, interpersonal skills – all the skills that go along with the responsibility of having a job," says Tracy McGarry, Manager of Community Development at Community Living Durham North.

It's more than just learning important job skills that Carol loves about the kiosk – it's the involvement in her community. "It's nice talking to people," she says.

Her support worker is impressed with the progress Carol has made since she started at the kiosk. "Her customer service skills have improved greatly," says Michelle Parker. "She will do anything for the customer. She comes in with a great outlook -- happy, cheerful. She comes in ready to work."



Carol's success has not gone unnoticed. She has now secured employment with the Scugog Chamber of Commerce.

"You have to give the other person a chance to work at the coffee shop, so they will get a job, too," says Carol.

Watch [Carol's story](#) and see how Community Living Durham North helps build inclusion and independence, one cup at a time.

Housing Task Force gets to work

Members of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force are rolling up their sleeves and getting to the task at hand.

On September 22, 2014, the housing task force met for the first time in Toronto to map out their work for the next 18 months.

The task force will review proposals and make recommendations on innovative housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities. The best ideas could be funded through the provincial government's \$810 million investment strategy for developmental services. The cross-sector task force will also develop online resources to help people access information and collaborate on housing solutions.

The 19 volunteer members draw on a wealth of experience from the developmental services and housing sectors. University of Toronto professor Ron Pruessen, a strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities, chairs the task force.

If you have any questions about the task force, please contact Allan Devlin at allan.devlin@ontario.ca or 416-325-1950.



Task force members in their first meeting. From left to right: Ron Pruessen, Allan Mills, Lee Holling, Marge McCabe and Karen Belyea.

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