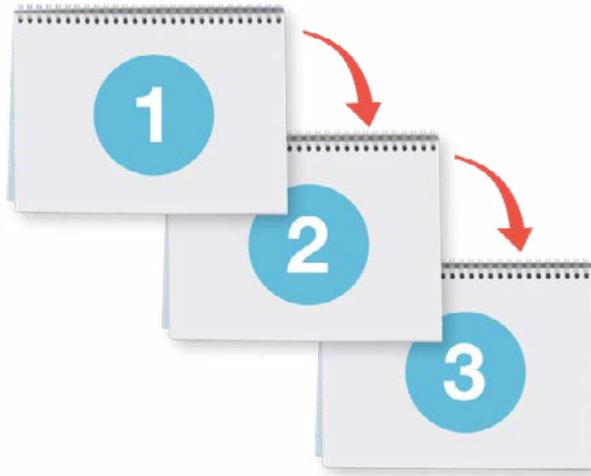




Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion

Developmental Services Reform Framework

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What is this paper about?

This paper is about important work that will be done to make services for people with developmental disabilities better.

Introduction

A lot of work has been done over the years to include people with developmental disabilities in the community. But there is still work to do.

Being included in the community is about being respected and feeling welcomed.



The government has a plan to make changes to services for people with developmental disabilities.



We want to improve services so that they are based on:

- What you need
- How you want to do things
- Who you want to have help you

The plan is big. It will take time for the government to deliver it.



So, over the next year we will work to make it easier to get services.

What we heard

We talked to people, families and self-advocates. Here's what they said:



The supports people get are not always based on their need.

Supports need to change when people's lives change.



There are not enough services for everyone that needs them.

Families need more help.



Staff who work with people should be well trained to help meet their goals.



Services need to respect people's culture, faith, and language. This means they meet the needs of people who are:

- Indigenous
- Francophones
- Newcomers
- From other cultures or speak a different language



People still face unfair attitudes.

People may be stopped from doing things such as getting a job or going to school.



People should not have to be in crisis before they get help.

Vision

Our vision is that people with a developmental disability are included in their communities and have the lives they want.



A **vision** says what we are working towards.



This means:

- More choices and support to make choices, if you need it
- Supports that are right for your needs
- More control over the supports you get

The Basics of the Plan

The services and funding you get will be fair and will be based on your needs.



The services you or your family may need include:

- Learning supports
- Help to get a job
- Help in your home
- Help you be independent and take part in your community

Services will focus on what you can do now and things you would like to try.



They will add to the help you get from others such as:

- Your family
- The community
- Other friends or supporters

You will have more say over what you can do with your funding.

When your life changes, your support will change with you.



An example of your life changing is moving to live in your own home.



Services will help you meet your goals.

Services will also help you stay safe and well.

What we will do first

Some of the big changes will take a few years. Over the next year, we will work to improve the services you are getting now.

1. Make it easier for you to get support

We want to improve your experience with applying for services. To do this, we will:



- Make the application steps easier to understand
- Reduce the time you wait to apply
- Try new ways to do the application process.

Applying for services is when you talk with someone from the Developmental Services Ontario office to tell them what is important to you and the kinds of help you need. This information helps them understand what you need to be safe, happy, and included in your community.

We are also looking to improve the Passport Program.



We will provide clearer information about what you can buy through Passport funding, such as technology.

Technology is things like computers and cellphones.

2. Make it easier for you to find services

We will work with different groups and people to help you do different things and get services in the community.



We want to help support you through life transitions.

A life transition is when a person makes a change from one thing to another, like when you turn 18 and become an adult, or like when you move out of your parent's home and move into your new place.



- We want to give you help to make life changes as smooth as possible
- This means giving you the right kinds of information to help you find the services you need

We want the people who work with you to have the right skills.



This will help make services more person-directed to give you the support you need.

Person-directed means you have a say on the services you get and how you will get them.

“Nothing about me without me.”



We also want to reduce discrimination and negative ideas about people with developmental disabilities.

Discrimination is where somebody is treated unfairly by somebody because of their age, disability, gender, colour of their skin or religion.



This will involve helping people learn about discrimination and how it makes people with developmental disabilities feel.

What we will do next

Over the next three years we will be working on some big changes. This plan tells you about these changes.

1. Putting you first



We want to better help you prepare for life changes such as:

- Leaving high school
- Getting a job
- Changing where you live

Planning to help you have the life you choose



We will provide help earlier, to try and stop problems before they happen.

This will mean helping you find the right kinds of supports at different times in your life.

Funding that is based on your needs

Your funding and supports will be based on your needs.



You will have more choice like:

- What kinds of supports you can get
- Getting services through agencies or managing your own funding

Making it easier to get different services



People need different types of services such as:

- Healthcare
- Housing
- Transport
- Help finding a job

We will work with other groups to help you get the different services you need.

Supports that are right for everyone



The supports people get will be a good fit with their culture, values, beliefs and language.

2. Improving the supports you get

We plan to make services better and easier for you and your family to use.

Better understanding the types of support you need



We want to improve how you apply for services and tell us about your support needs.

We want to look at different ways of finding out how much support you need and what services you are looking for.

Trying new ideas to make services better for you



We will look at how to use new ideas to improve the services you get.

Using technology to help you live your life



We want to use different types of technology to help you be more independent and take part in your community.

3. Helping you meet your goals

We want people to know they are getting the best services for their needs that are available.

Improving outcomes

The services you get should lead to good outcomes for you. They should help you meet your goals.

An **outcome** is how we want something to turn out.



We will provide better information so you can choose the service that is right for you.

We will work to improve services based on feedback.

Helping staff get the right skills to support you

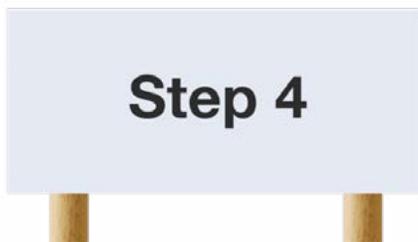
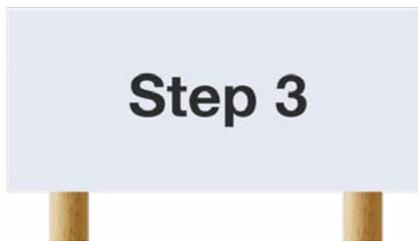
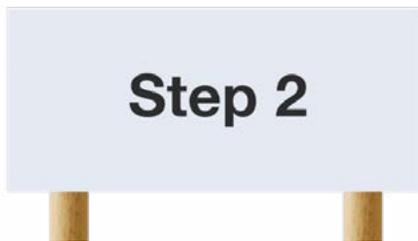
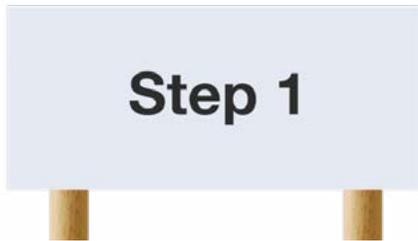


We want people who work with you to have the right skills to help you live a good life.

People that work with you will help you to be a part of your community.

When will the changes happen?

It will take 8 to 10 years to make the changes we have talked about in our plan.



What we will do first

- Make it easier for people to get services
- Improve how we can help people and families

2021 - 2023

- Work on some parts of the plan that will help us make changes in the future

2024 – 2027

- Help people and service providers get used to different ways of doing things

2027 – 2031

- Make changes to services across Ontario
- Continue to support people and families

Conclusion

The government has already taken steps to make lives better for people with developmental disabilities.

We know there is more work to be done but together we can make our vision happen.



We want to work with you so that people with developmental disabilities are included in the community and have the life they want.

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