

Resources for Parents/Caregivers

Parents

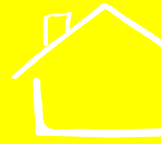
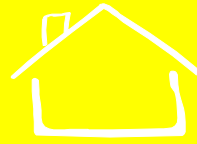
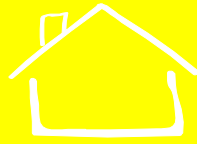
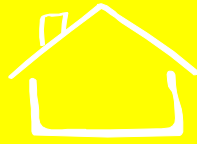
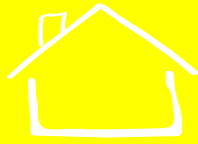
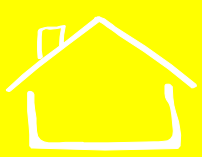
- Have the right to ask their child to leave home as of the age of 16. Parents need to know that if/when their child makes an application for social assistance, they will be pursued for financial support for their child except when the parent receives assistance as well.
- Any financial support the parents make available to their child can be paid directly to the family support unit if they feel uncomfortable providing it to their child. The money the parent pays is deducted from the **Ontario Works** (OW) assistance.
- Parents can also choose to provide support through gift cards or pay direct to the housing provider.
- If assistance is granted by **Ontario Works**, the youth is held accountable to a participation plan of going to school full-time and housing must be appropriate with adult supervision or have structures in place to be approved while under 18 years of age.
- Counselling can also be built into the participation plan if it is warranted.
- If you feel you are having difficulty accessing supports/resources in your community, you can consider having your situation presented at the **Transitional Aged Youth Coordinating Committee**. For more information on this Committee and the referral process, please contact:
 - Jennifer Speers, Transitional Aged Youth Coordinator, Halton, 905.693.4249, jspeers@shalton.org, 905.876.1978 (fax)

Interim Caregivers

- Can apply to receive the **Canada Child Tax Benefit** without having legal guardianship. For more information, please visit: http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/cctb/fq_qlfyng-eng.html
- Can apply in situations of financial difficulty to **Ontario Works** for a temporary care benefit. To apply, please visit: <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/ow/apply.aspx>
- Can have a youth over 16 years of age apply for **Ontario Works** as a renter, however the child would then not receive **Canada Child Tax** any longer. This option provides the greatest amount of money and includes benefits such as dental/prescription and eye care. Also holds the youth accountable to a participation plan. The youth will need to show what the extenuating circumstances are that prevent the youth from being able to live at home with their parent/legal guardians. Please also the link on our website that provides detailed information to the youth who will be applying

Parents and Caregivers of Youth with Disabilities

- A parent/caregiver should first speak with their family doctor about the youth's disability.
- A parent can register their child/youth for the **Disability Tax Credit** by printing a disability tax certificate form found at <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/README.html>. Print this form, take it to your doctor, have it completed and mail it to the Canada Revenue Agency at the address listed on the form.
- Once received by the Canada Revenue Agency, they can review a person's eligibility to receive the **Canada Child Tax Disability Credit**.



- The **Canada Child Tax Disability Credit** can be **retroactively** paid up to ten years of the parent/guardians tax filing for the years they provided care and the years the diagnoses of the child's disability was determined. Having this also provides a large tax break to parents/caregivers for filing years going forward.
- The parent/guardian can also apply for a **Registered Disability Savings Account** with their bank or major financial institution. The Canada Revenue Agency **must** have a completed Disability Tax form on file for you **before** you can register for this type of account. Once the account is established, the government automatically contributes to this account for the child every year. The amount they can contribute is based on the parent/guardians' income and if the parent/guardian contributes to the account as well.
- A parent can apply for the **Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities** fund offered through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. This amount is provided monthly to assist with the costs of caring for a child with a disability. These funds are available to the age of 18. More information about eligibility can be found at:
<http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/specialneeds/disabilities/index.aspx>
- In addition to the **Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities** fund, a parent/guardian can apply to the same Ministry for the **Special Services at Home** fund, which assists with cost of respite care that can include camps.
- Six months prior to the child's 18th birthday, a parent/guardian can begin an application for the **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**, which offers monthly financial assistance to the child to cover the cost of living. If your child is eligible for ODSP they will now have the ability to contribute by paying rent to live in your home and toward the cost of their personal needs. For more information about applying to ODSP, please visit:
http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/odsp/income_support/part_one.aspx

Specifically if you have a Child with a Developmental Disability

- It is important for parents to refer to Halton Support Services at the earliest possibility. Halton Support Services provides the following for children up to age 18:
 - assistance to families for information, referral and accessing services;
 - service coordination;
 - planning/goal setting;
 - coordination and future planning; and
 - delivery of the **Special Services at Home Program**.
- To refer to Halton Support Services, please call Agustina Jorquera, Intake at 905.844.7864, ext 221.
- For dependents six months prior to their 18th birthday or thereafter that have a significant developmental disability, you will want to explore their eligibility with the Developmental Services of Ontario (DSO). The DSO determines if a person 18 years of age or older are eligible for developmental services as an adult. It is imperative to explore eligibility if you are interested in supportive housing, resources or programs available to persons with a developmental disability who are over 18 years of age. More information can be found at: <https://www.dsontario.ca/>