

ODSP CHANGES ANNOUNCED

On February 8, 2006 the Minister of Community and Social Services announced a number of changes to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

These changes will be phased in with items 1 and 2 below effective April 1, 2006. The remaining changes take effect on November 1, 2006.

Following is a summary of those changes as they affect ODSP recipients.

Finding work

1. Improved access to a range of employment services such as job placement and job retention services to help recipients find jobs
2. Requirements that spouses who do not have a disability and are not primary care givers look for work.
3. \$500 one time grant to help recipients cover the costs of participating in a training program, looking for work, starting or changing jobs (e.g., uniform, equipment, professional fees)
4. Up to \$600 per child informal child care costs while recipients look for a job, participate in training or start a new job

Keeping more of what is earned:

5. 50% of all earnings are exempt from clawback
6. \$100 per month for each adult family member who is working
7. Up to \$600 per child (under the age of 18) per month for informal child care costs
8. Up to \$300 per month deduction for disability work-related expenses (e.g., attendant care, specialized technology/equipment)

Moving toward financial independence:

9. Ongoing drug, dental and vision care benefits to recipients leaving ODSP for employment unless coverage is available from the employer
10. One-time employment transition benefit of \$500 to cover the costs of starting a job for recipients leaving ODSP for employment
11. Improved rapid reinstatement into the ODSP program for recipients at any time if their job does not work out