

# An Introduction to the Housing Navigation role at Developmental Services Ontario

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# What is the DSO?



Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) helps adults with developmental disabilities find ministry funded services and supports in their community. There are nine offices located across the province.



# The DSO will help you:

- **understand and complete** the application process.
- **determine** the kind of services and supports you need.
- **get access** to MCCSS funded services and supports that you need when a spot is available.
- find **information** in your community.



# How do I contact the DSO?

**Call 2-1-1 or visit [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca)**



**Call the DSO office in your area to start the application process—you can apply as early as age 16!**



# Helping people understand individual housing options

Whether individuals already have a vision for where they'd like to live, or need assistance putting it together, a housing navigator can help.



# The role of the housing navigator

We seek to provide individuals, families and their support networks with the information and resources needed to create unique and person-centered housing options.



# What we do

- Point to resources and organizations that can help create a plan
- Provide a tool kit of resources
- Connect you with family support networks to share information
- Work with housing organizations to find local options and opportunities
- Share success stories of people on a similar journey as you



# Resources we provide

- A list of services and resources available to families, both ministry and non-ministry funded
- Self-assessments and questionnaires to help people decide their housing goals and preferred housing types
- Success stories from those who have created innovative housing options
- Contact information for family support networks





# Finding partnerships

**In addition to family support networks, partnerships may include:**

- Families / people looking for roommates in your area
- Families / people with a housing model in mind
- People looking to pool resources



# Regional housing resources

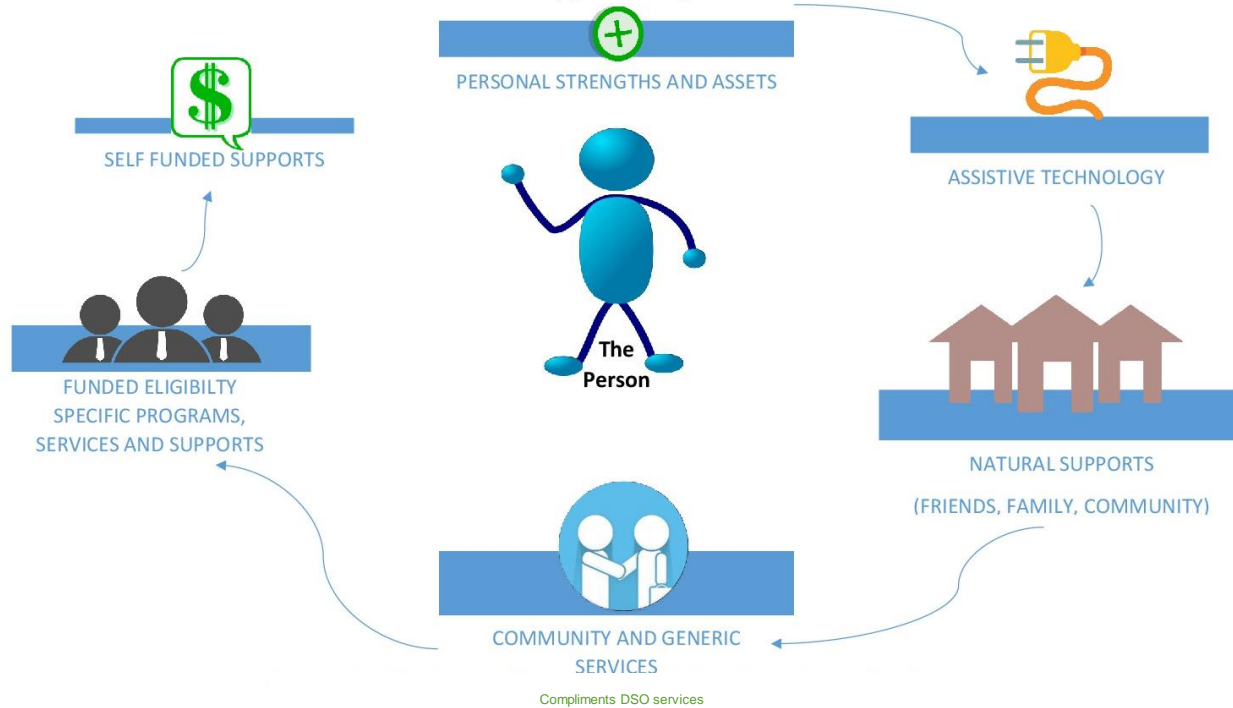
- Social housing application process
- Ontario Renovates applications
- List of municipal housing initiatives
- List of local housing with affordable rents



# The Support Sequence



## Planning for Home The Support Sequence



# Personal Strengths and Assets

- This Sequence of Events is a very clear way to discover the gaps and needs of your housing plan
- What strengths does the person have
- What parts do they need help with
- What supports do they already have in place



# Assistive Technology

- The use of technology can provide direct support, increases safeguards for the person and may reduce overall costs
- Using smart technology (Google home, Alexa, etc.) can support reminders
- Consider using a smart home alarm system for fire, flooding (faucets kept on)
- Apps, e-learning and video taping routines can support learning & staff training
- Technology initiative with the north/north east region



# Natural Supports

- These are unpaid people in your life
- They may include family and friends
- They sometimes include people who used to be formal supports (for example a former teacher), who have become friends over time
- They could be neighbours, family friends, community members, classmates, etc.



# Formal Supports

- These are people who have a paid relationship with you, either through government funded resources or private funds
- They might be support staff from a local agency, your swimming instructor, a teacher, etc.



# MCCSS Funded Services and Supports

- Residential Services and Supports
- Community Participation Supports
- Passport Funding
- Caregiver Respite
- Person Directed Planning (PDP)
- Adult Protective Service Workers (APSW)
- Specialized Supports





# Self Funded Supports

- ODSP – for rent and basic needs. Also dietary and employment allowance, if applicable
- Henson Trusts – families can leave assets to an individual
- Registered Disability Savings Plan – RDSP
  - For every \$1 put in an RDSP account, the federal government can (if your family income is below \$91,831) match with up to \$3
- Grants, fundraising, employment, loans and mortgages, life insurance



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

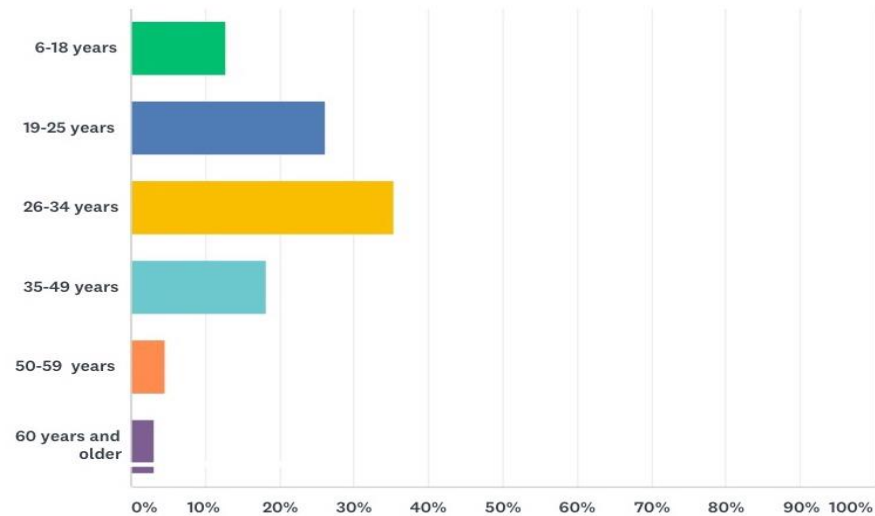
- 418 responses were received over a three week period
- Feedback was received from across the 9 DSO regions in Ontario
- Responses were received from individuals who are at various different stages of the planning process



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

What is the age of the person who is planning or who you are supporting in their planning?

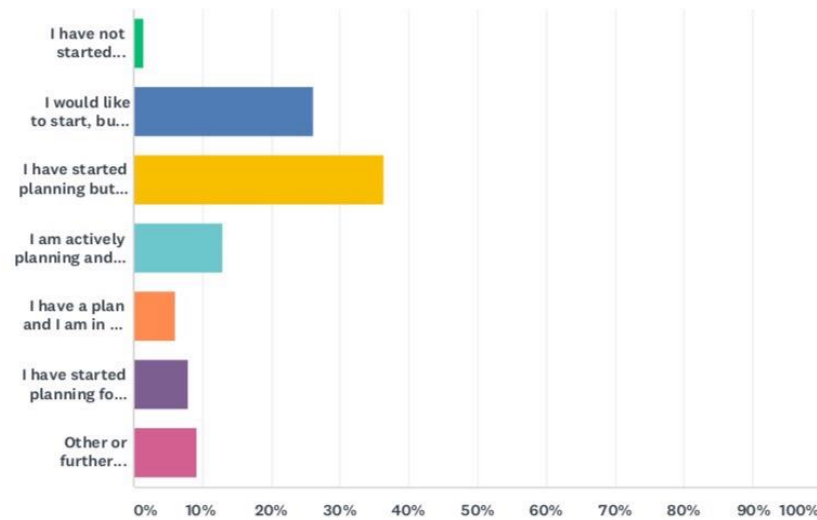
Answered: 417 Skipped: 1



# Survey of DS Sector partners and families

Of the following options, how would you describe your current stage of planning?

Answered: 402 Skipped: 16



# Probable tool kit topics

- **Creating a housing plan**
- **Where to go for housing**
- **Housing support models**
- **Funding the Plan**
- **Creating a budget**
- **Managing housing supports**
- **Sustaining the Plan**
- **Housing to learn from across the province and around the world**
- **Toolkits from other agencies**



# Particular subjects of interest as expressed by survey respondents

- Physical accessibility; beyond building codes
- How to develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan
- Financial models and support, ownership structures, etc.
- Sample budgets for various housing options
- Money management and options for support
- Legal aspects of employing staff, recruiting and retaining staff
- Models for family collaboration
- Creative employment and micro enterprising
- List of developers who are interested in building housing with people with developmental disabilities in mind



# Lynn's homemade plan



# Peter's story – forever home





# We want your input!

- Where do you think housing navigators can make the biggest impact in helping people plan for and secure housing and housing supports?
- We will be hosting and presenting at housing related gatherings. What topics would you like to see covered during these presentations?



# What's next?

Questions & Comments



# Connect With Your local DSO

**Please send any feedback or connection requests through your local DSO.**

DSO Toronto Region

**Your housing navigator:**

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416-458-3866

DSO Toronto Intake

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# Connect with the DSO!

## [dsontario.ca](http://dsontario.ca)

