

#5ToSurvive FAQ

More Information About Community Living Ontario's
Campaign to Stabilize Developmental Services



More Information About #5ToSurvive

Community Living Ontario is calling on the provincial government to provide an immediate 5% boost to developmental services. This FAQ provides additional information on our **#5toSurvive** campaign



1. Hasn't the government already increased funding for developmental services, and added more people to the Passport program?

We acknowledge expenditure growth in developmental services. However, the **#5toSurvive** campaign is bringing attention to the fact that funding for basic agency costs – including transportation, heating and cooling, repairs and maintenance of capital assets, etc. – has been severely neglected. Funding for these crucial costs has increased by less than 4% over 30 years, and the shortfall is putting major stress on organizations, which increases risk for the people we support.

We hear consistently from people and families that Passport and Special Services at Home amounts are not adequate to address people's needs, particularly for those not receiving funding for residential services. It is our understanding that most new Passport recipients receive the minimum amount of \$5,500 per year, even though they may have been assessed for significantly more.

We additionally note that, according to Ontario's Auditor General, in 2020 approximately 25,000 people were accessing residential supports and

services funded by MCCSS, while more than 34,000 were waiting for support.

While additional people have been able to access support funding in recent years, it is our understanding that the wait list has nevertheless expanded since 2020.

We must be clear that our request for a 5% increase is a stop-gap measure while we wait for the Journey to Belonging strategy to be implemented – it will not be sufficient to meet the needs of all people who need and deserve support from the developmental service system.

We would also note that, despite recent investments, Ontario continues to lag other similar jurisdictions in expenditures on developmental services, as seen in the table on the next page.

Spending on Developmental Disability Programs as a Percentage of Total Budget

Jurisdiction	Spending on developmental disability programs	Total spending	Percent of jurisdictional budget
Pennsylvania	\$4,320,000,000	\$89,600,000,000	4.8%
California	\$9,420,000,000	\$208,900,000,000	4.5%
New York State	\$10,090,000,000	\$238,407,000,000	4.2%
Vermont	\$239,700,000	\$5,800,000,000	4.1%
New Jersey	\$2,420,000,000	\$64,200,000,000	3.8%
Oregon	\$1,570,000,000	\$42,600,000,000	3.7%
Arizona	\$1,360,000,000	\$38,700,000,000	3.5%
Colorado	\$797,800,000	\$30,000,000,000	2.7%
Alberta	\$1,305,723,000	\$64,500,000,000	2.0%
British Columbia	\$1,454,727,000	\$80,832,000,000	1.8%
Ontario	\$3,197,296,156	\$198,750,000,000	1.6%





2. Why are we asking for more funding when ODSP has increased by 11.5%?

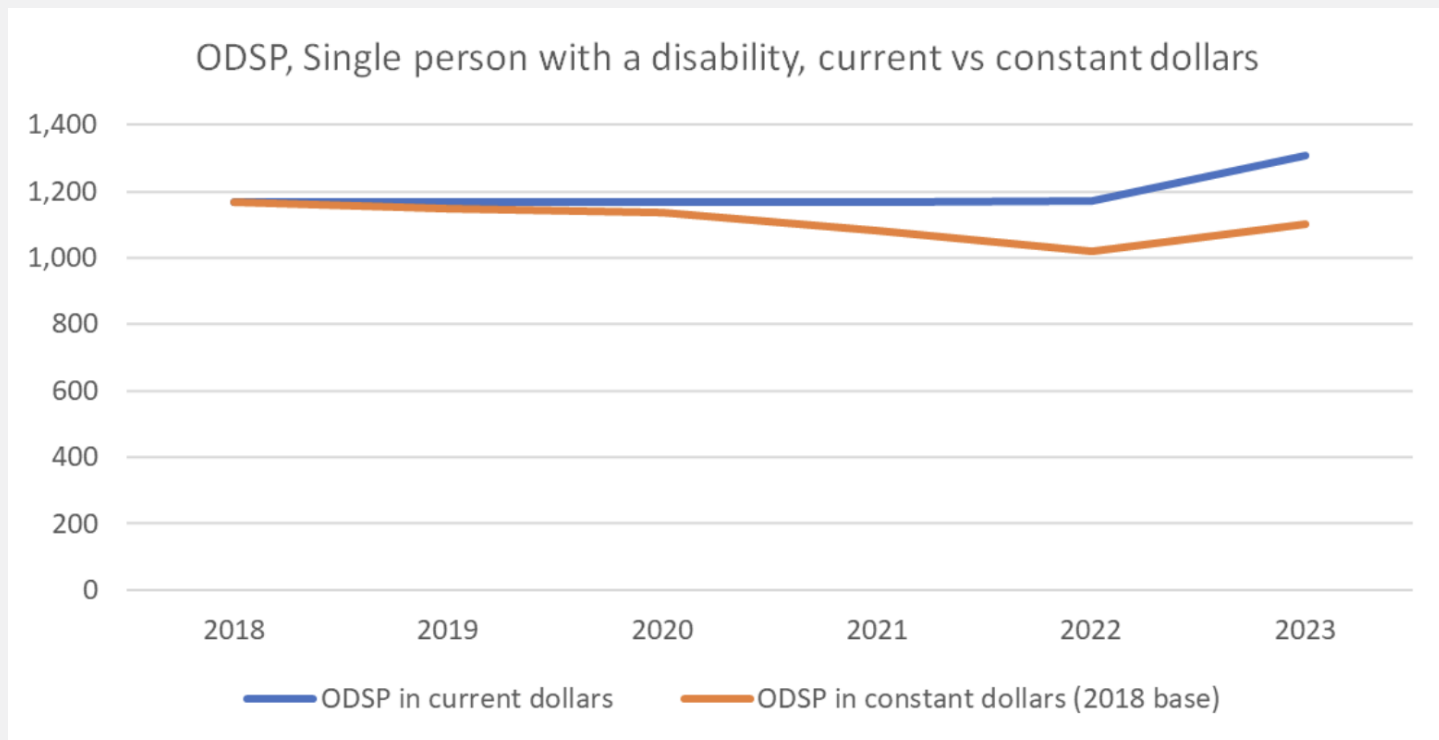
While recent increases to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) will have a positive impact on people, and a small effect for agencies (since people in funded residential situations use their ODSP housing amount to pay rent), this is a separate issue from funding for developmental services.

We note that ODSP shelter rates increased from \$497 per month in June 2022, to \$522 per month in July 2022, and to \$556 per month in July 2023, for a total increase of \$59 per month or \$708 per year. ODSP shelter amounts remain drastically lower than what is required to afford decent, quality housing, even for shared accommodations.

With respect to ODSP, we would also note the following:

- Despite recent increases, ODSP still leaves people in deep poverty.
- The official poverty line for a single person with a disability in Ontario is \$27,631. This is the amount of money they would need just to meet what are generally considered basic needs.
- A single person with a disability currently receives \$1,308 per month, or \$15,696 per year, from the Ontario Disability Support Program. Compared to August 2023 (when increases were first made), this represents an increase of 11.5%, or \$135 per month.
- ODSP would need to increase by \$12,000 just to reach the poverty line.
- To make matters worse, skyrocketing inflation means that, even after the 11.5% increase, ODSP currently offers less purchasing power than it did in 2018. The cost of living has increased by 20% since 2018.
- While it is possible to earn additional income through employment, people with intellectual disabilities face pervasive attitudinal barriers in the job market, and more than 75% are unemployed.

In the chart below, the blue line shows the basic dollar amount of ODSP (which has increased), while the orange line shows the purchasing power of ODSP (which is lower than 2018, despite rebounding slightly in 2023).



In Summary:

- ODSP is still 43% below the Ontario poverty line and does little to address the core funding crisis of support organizations.
- There is still a 30-year core funding gap that must be addressed.
- Even with a 5% investment, there will still be more people waiting for supports than there are people receiving them.
- #5toSurvive is only a stop-gap measure until a more sustainable funding structure is implemented.
- Ontario spends proportionately less on developmental services than many other major jurisdictions in North America.

For more information, please read our 2024 provincial budget recommendations:
bit.ly/CLO-2024Pre-Budget