

New to Service

My child/ youth has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). How does my family apply for service in the Ontario Autism Program (OAP)?

All children and youth from 0-18 years of age, with a confirmed diagnosis of ASD, are eligible for services in the Ontario Autism Program (OAP).

Single point of access

As of June 26, 2017, families will experience a single point of entry for autism services. This means that families will only need to call one number to register for the Ontario Autism Program in each of the nine service regions.

OAP family service planning process

Once your child/youth is registered for services in the OAP, your regional service provider will begin to work with your family to begin the OAP family service planning process.

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Your child's needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention, once a space is available.
- Services in the OAP will be flexible and individualized, based on your child's needs, strengths and goals.

Families can follow the link below to locate their regional Ontario Autism Services provider:

On IBI Waitlist/ Waiting, scheduled for or in the process of receiving an Eligibility

Screening

My child/ youth is on the IBI waitlist. How does my family join the Ontario Autism Program (OAP)?

As of June 26, 2017, all families with children on the Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) waitlist will **not** need to apply separately to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Your current service provider will automatically add your family to the new OAP waitlist based on the original date your child was referred to the IBI program.

When your child's space becomes available in the OAP, your family will be offered the choice of receiving IBI services through the regional provider (Direct Service Option) or purchased with funding through a private provider (Direct Funding Option).

When your child's space becomes available on the OAP waitlist, your service provider will begin to work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child. Based on the results of your previous and current assessments, your child will receive intensive behavioural intervention (IBI), as per the Guidelines: Autism Intervention Program, August 2006.
- Your child's needs will be re-assessed after six months and an OAP Family Service Plan will be initiated.

My Child is on the IBI and the ABA Waitlist

If your child/youth is on the IBI **and** the ABA waitlist, the earlier of the two referral dates will be used as the referral date for the OAP waitlist. For example, if your child was added to the IBI waitlist on March 4, 2016 and added to the ABA waitlist on September 23, 2016, the date of referral for the OAP waitlist would be March 4, 2016.

My child is scheduled for or is completing an IBI Eligibility Screen, how do I join the Ontario Autism Program?

As of June 26, 2017, the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) will begin to be implemented and the Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) eligibility process will stop.

Your child will be automatically added to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) waitlist based on the date your child was referred to the IBI program.

If your child is scheduled for, or is in the process of completing an IBI eligibility screen as of June 26, 2017, he/she will be offered the choice of receiving IBI services through the regional provider (Direct Service Option) or purchased with funding through a private provider (Direct Funding Option) when his/her space becomes available in the OAP.

When your child's space becomes available on the OAP waitlist, your service provider will

work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your previous and current assessments, your child will receive intensive behavioural intervention (IBI), as per the Guidelines: Autism Intervention Program, August 2006.
- Your child's needs will be re-assessed after six months and an OAP Family Service Plan will be initiated.

My child is waiting to be scheduled for an IBI Eligibility Screen, how do I join the Ontario Autism Program?

As of June 26, 2017, the new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) will begin to be implemented and the Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) eligibility process will stop and no additional eligibility screenings will be scheduled.

If your child is waiting to be scheduled for an IBI eligibility screen as of June 26, 2017, he/she will be automatically added to the OAP waitlist based on the date they are referred to the IBI program.

When your child's space becomes available on the OAP waitlist, your service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

OAP family service planning process

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Your child's needs will be re-assessed after six months and an OAP Family Service Plan will be initiated.

Waiting for ABA-based services and supports

My child is waiting for ABA-based services and supports. How does he/she join the OAP?

As of June 26, 2017, all families with children on the ABA waitlist will not need to apply separately to the Ontario Autism Program (OAP). Your current service provider will automatically add your child to the new OAP waitlist based on the date your child was

referred to the ABA program. If your child has previously received ABA services, their referral date is based on the last day that they received services.

My child is on both the IBI and the ABA waitlist

If your child is on the ABA **and** the IBI waitlist, the earlier of the two referral dates will be used as the referral date for the OAP waitlist. For example, if your child was added to the IBI waitlist on March 4, 2016 and added to the ABA waitlist on September 23, 2016, the date of referral for the OAP waitlist would be March 4, 2016.

OAP family service planning process

When your child’s space becomes available in the OAP, your OAP service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child/youth.
- Services in the OAP will be individualized and based on your child’s needs, strengths and goals.

When your child’s space becomes available in the OAP, families who wish to receive services through direct funding will have the option to defer their service, while maintaining their position on the waitlist, until a new direct funding option is available by the end of the year.

| Currently Receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) Services |
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| My child is currently receiving IBI Services. How will he/she join the Ontario Autism Program? |
| As of June 26, 2017, if your child is receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) services, they will continue at their current level of service until their next scheduled progress assessment, regardless of their age. |
| If your child is currently receiving IBI services through a private provider (Direct Funding Option), your family has the option to continue with that service provider until the new direct |

funding option is available at the end of the year.

Your child's progress assessment

At your child's next scheduled progress assessment, his or her needs will be assessed and your service provider will work in collaboration with your family to develop a new Ontario Autism Program (OAP) Family Service Plan. The OAP Family Service Plan will identify the services that will support your family in achieving your goals.

Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.

At this point in time, your child will begin to transition into the new OAP. Guided by the information shared by your family and the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention based on his/her needs, strengths and goals.

If appropriate, following the progress assessment, any plans to transition your child to publicly-funded school, or to increase school attendance, will be supported by the existing *Connections for Students* model, the current regional Autism Intervention Program (AIP), School Support Program and the local school board practices related to transitions to school.

Currently receiving ABA Services

My child is currently receiving ABA-based services and supports. How will he/she access the OAP?

As of June 26, 2017, if your child is currently in the process of receiving or is scheduled to receive ABA-based services and supports, he/she will proceed with finishing the current block of service. Once the current ABA service block is completed, your service provider will work in collaboration with your family to provide recommendations for Family Services and Learning (e.g., Family education, service navigation, clinic days) based on your child's needs, strengths and goals.

These additional supports will help your child learn to apply and maintain the skills they have learned in ABA service.

At this time, your child will join the OAP waitlist.

The OAP family service planning process

When your child's space becomes available in the OAP, your OAP service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

This will continue building on your child's progress through a collaborative planning process:

- Your service provider will work with your family and, if you consent, other relevant professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather additional information about your child to identify his/her individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention, once a space becomes available.
- Services in the OAP will be individualized and based on your child's needs, strengths and goals.

Receiving One-Time Direct Funding (\$8,000)

My child is receiving the one-time direct funding of \$8,000. How will he/she join the OAP?

If your family is currently accessing the one-time direct funding of \$8,000 and you have spent and reconciled the total \$8,000 payment before a space becomes available for your child in the Ontario Autism Program (OAP), you will have the option to receive the additional direct funding payments of \$10,000 until the new direct funding option is available by the end of the year. When a spot in the new direct funding option becomes available, your child will enter the OAP.

If your family is currently accessing the one-time direct funding of \$8,000, and your child's space becomes available in the OAP before you have reconciled your funding, you will have the following options:

- You can defer your space in the OAP and continue with your current direct funding arrangement. If you complete spending and reconcile the total \$8,000 payment, you will have the option to receive the additional direct funding payments of \$10,000 until the new direct funding option is available by the end of the year.
- **Please note:** Reconciliation of the funds based on documentation provided to the AIP lead agency must be completed in order to receive additional payments of \$10,000.

OR

- You can begin service immediately in the OAP while continuing to spend and reconcile the \$8,000.

The OAP family service planning process

If you choose to enter the OAP when your child's space becomes available, your OAP service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work in collaboration with your family and, if you consent, engage other professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather information about your child to identify their individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention, once a space becomes available.
- Services in the OAP will be individualized and based on your child's strengths, needs and goals.

(Guidelines: One-Time Direct Funding, Autism Intervention Program, May 2016)

Receiving Additional Direct Funding (\$10,000) or Priority Access ABA-based services and supports

My child is currently receiving Additional Direct Funding (\$10,000 payments). How will he/she join the OAP?

If your family is currently accessing \$10,000 additional direct funding payments, you can continue to receive these payments entering the new direct funding option, which will be available by the end of the year. Payments will continue to be issued as per the Guidelines: Additional Direct Funding, Autism Intervention Program, August 2016.

If your child's space becomes available in the new OAP before the new direct funding option is available, your family will have the choice to enter the OAP or to defer your space in the OAP and continue with your additional direct funding payments until the new direct funding option is implemented.

The OAP family service planning process

If you choose to enter the OAP when your child's space becomes available, your OAP service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work in collaboration with your family and, if you consent, engage other professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather information about your child to identify their individual strengths, needs and goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.

- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention, once a space becomes available.
- Services in the OAP will be individualized and based on your child's strengths, needs and goals.

(Guidelines: Additional Direct Funding and/or Applied Behaviour Analysis-Based Services and Supports, Autism Intervention Program, August 2016)

My child is currently accessing priority ABA-based services and supports. How will he/she join the OAP?

If your child is currently receiving priority access to ABA-based services and supports, they will continue receiving these services until their priority ABA service block is complete or their space becomes available in the OAP.

At this point, you will have the option of entering the OAP or choosing the additional direct funding payment of \$10,000. If you choose the additional direct funding payment, you can continue to receive these payments until the direct funding option is available by the end of the year. Payments will continue to be issued as per the Guidelines: Additional Direct Funding, Autism Intervention Program, August 2016.

The OAP family service planning process

If you choose to enter the OAP, your OAP service provider will work with your family to begin service planning.

- Your service provider will work in collaboration with your family and, if you consent, engage other professionals involved with your child (e.g., Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physician, Educators) to gather information about your child to identify their individual strengths, needs and priority goals.
- Needs will be assessed using a clinical and family-centred approach.
- Your family will be actively involved in the goal-setting and intervention planning process for your child.
- Based on the results of your assessment, your child will receive evidence-based behavioural intervention.
- Services in the OAP will be individualized and based on your child's strengths, needs and goals.