

Beginning in June 2017

- **Single point of entry:** Families will join the new Ontario Autism Program through a 1-800 number for each region. Families will no longer need to apply to two separate programs, nor will they receive separate assessments or have multiple autism service plans.
- **More treatment spaces:** The number of treatment spaces available province-wide will continue to increase so families will experience shorter wait times and access services sooner.
- **Child and family-centred services:** Consistent, evidence-based clinical decision making will be focused on children's individual needs and will include input from parents, service providers and educators. Autism services will be tailored to the individual needs of children and youth, regardless of age. Families will be actively involved and play a central role in the assessment, goal-setting and intervention planning process for their child.
- **Fair and transparent waitlist transition:** Families will enter the OAP in chronological order, based on their position on the current waitlist. For children who are on both ABA and IBI waitlists, the position with the earliest date will be used. New families will be added to the OAP waitlist in chronological order based on their date of referral.
- **Service continuity:** Families currently receiving direct funding will continue to receive funding throughout the transition, until a new direct funding option is implemented by the end of this year.

Beginning by the end of 2017

- **Ongoing engagement:** The government will continue to engage with the OAP Advisory Committee, families, providers and other stakeholders throughout the transition to the new program.
- **New support workers:** Family Support Workers and Support Teams will be available to help families navigate the new program and to provide individualized support. These teams could include support workers, clinicians, educators, service providers and other experts that families wish to work with on their child's progress.
- **New appeals process:** If families have concerns with their child's plan for behavioural intervention, they will be able to request an independent review of the plan through a new appeals process.
- **More treatment spaces:** The number of treatment spaces will continue to increase, to reduce wait times and provide services sooner for all families in the OAP. When a child's spot becomes available, the child's family will be able to choose to receive service through direct funding or direct service.
- **A choice of direct funding for all families:** A new direct funding option will be available by the end of 2017 to all families who choose it. This will give families a clear, fair and transparent choice in their provider.

Spring 2018

- **Full implementation:** By spring 2018, the new OAP will be fully in place.
- **Ongoing engagement:** Consultations with families and service providers will continue as the new OAP is fully implemented to ensure that the OAP meets the needs of families.