

3. What supports and services that are currently available work well and should be built on for the future?

TO ENSURE FULL CITIZENSHIP AND IN ORDER TO CONTINUE AND IMPROVE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES, ALL MONEY FOR DIRECT SERVICES MUST BE ANNUALIZED, PORTABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND INDIVIDUALIZED

THIS THEME IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS FROM OUR RESPONDENTS

1. INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING (I.F.) IS THE VEHICLE FOR TRUE CITIZENSHIP AND TRUE CHANGE

- proven to be successful; has improved quality of life of those individuals already able to access I.F.
- cost effective
- should be option of first choice or the norm, available to every individual/family/network
- independent planning / facilitation enables self-determination, and future planning; identifies strengths & abilities, recognizes dreams and goals as well as needs, and identifies required supports
- easily accessible from one funding source to meet all the needs
- available across jurisdictions beginning with Children and Youth Services; Education; Community & Social Services, Health, and other ministries as they become involved in the individual's life

2. INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (when truly inclusive) IS WORKING BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- proven to be successful
- enables individuals to be true citizens as they are accepted members of society
- has improved quality of life of those individuals
- builds community in schools and in social settings

- allows for varied opportunities and true learning experiences
- allows for growth and natural progression from school to community
- needs improvement to ensure full inclusion throughout the province

3. SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME (SSAH) IS WORKING BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- allows for families to keep their loved ones at home and in the community
- allows for families to self administer if they so choose
- allows for individuals to grow in a loving, caring, nurturing environment
- allows for full participation in community (provided that the necessary supports are in place)
- makes use of community resources

IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY:

- easier access
- annualize funding
- needs to fully meet the needs of individual and not be capped at a maximum level
- based on needs, not deficits (families do not want to degrade their loved ones by portraying them as dependant, behavioural, financial burdens)
- cost of living index for supports and for wages for support workers
- develop infrastructure to allow for networking of families and provide avenues to access qualified, reliable workers
- more freedom to use funds according to support requirements
- provide continuing supports past age of 18
- continue to support individuals who move out of the family home according to life's normal progression
- ability to combine services from various ministries to facilitate accountability
- decrease the amount of money eaten up by administrative charges; therefore increasing direct support available
- a natural progression from SSAH should be Fully Individualized Funding
- identify those projects that are working and expand on them

4. FOUNDATIONS PROJECTS (some like Huron, Kitchener-Waterloo and Sarnia are working, others like Perth are not)

- ensure funding is being used to support individuals in community not to expand day programs
- improve system for monitoring use of funding
- identify funding as individualized
- prevent agencies from using funding to increase their base budget as this does not necessarily increase the amount of supports in the community
- continue / expand independent facilitation

5. GROUP HOMES AND DAY PROGRAMS

- are segregated programs and cannot provide necessary supports for full participation in community
- after all attempts have been made to introduce individuals to community based supports, group homes and day programs will continue to be necessary for those individuals who choose to remain in the support system that has been developed for them
- group homes and day programs require improvements to ensure rights and safety of the individual

6. OTHER SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

The following programs / services have been identified to build upon. However, it must be noted that there is no lone program or service in Ontario that incorporates all elements necessary to generate full inclusion for all.

- Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (C.I.L.T.)
- Options at F.S.A. Toronto
- NABORS
- DIAHAGO
- Community Living St. Marys and other Community Living Associations which provide true person centered planning and supports
- Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports
- Accreditation Ontario Courses
- Youth En Route
- McMaster University-matches individuals with other students