

5. **Services are changing in Ontario for people who have a developmental disability. What would you like to see happen?**

ALL INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF THEIR DIFFERENCES HAVE A RIGHT TO BE ACTIVE, CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, THEREFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FULLY INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORTS AND FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL. SERVICES MUST BE FUNDED BASED ON INDIVIDUAL NEEDS UTILIZING AVAILABLE DOLLARS TO BE SPENT ON DIRECT SERVICE RATHER THAN ON AGENCY INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS HIGH SALARIES & BENEFITS OF MANY LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT, BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE OF THOSE BUILDINGS, VEHICLES ETC.

**THIS THEME IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS FROM OUR RESPONDENTS**

- **FULLY EMBRACE CITIZENSHIP**
- annualized individualized funding that:
 - is specifically allocated to the individual
 - is adequate to meet the needs of the individual
 - is portable
 - is flexible
 - is responsive to change
 - is available from one single funding source
 - offers true choice
 - does not discriminate against one population or another
 - is easily accessible
 - is stable and constant
 - provides for the necessary infrastructure to enable individual advocacy and networking; family networking & sharing
 - has clear and consistent criteria for allocation
 - is legislated

- access to independent planning / facilitation
- whole life planning not just bits & pieces with different funding generators
- fully inclusive community activities
- fully inclusive education
- full adoption of “In Unison” strategies & commitments
- immediate implementation of an individualized funding model and necessary infrastructures to support full participation in community
- stop forcing individuals to leave the comfort and security of their homes in order to access funding necessary to fully participate in their chosen community
- abolish waiting lists for services
- direct funding to individuals/ families/ supportive circles or mini boards instead of to agencies
- legislated appeals mechanism
- stop making/having demands/expectations on/of a person with a disability that would not ordinarily be made of someone without a disability
- work with other ministries to combine support funding into one pot
- eliminate conflict of interest as agencies fail to meet the needs of the individuals they are funded to support because of the needs of unions, staffing, management policies, maintenance and managing budgets
- allow greater flexibility in use of the support dollars—looking at a full year’s budget rather than a monthly breakdown to be used as necessary according to need on any given day
- decrease the amount of bureaucratic paperwork
- develop a mechanism by which Ministry can inform individuals / families of increase in funding not just agencies
- provide assistance to individual / families to gain access to and/or manage increased funds
- educate service system regarding value of involvement and planning of those who truly know the needs of the individual
- implement consistent processes and guidelines across the province to ensure equal access to services for all
- stop dictating fee for service to allow the most beneficial use of supports
- provide more specialists trained in disabilities to eliminate waiting lists for professional services (i.e. psychologists; pediatricians) to facilitate necessary supports when needed not 6 months or a year later

- make those specialists available at an early age to follow an individual through the years to enable the professionals to learn from/about the individual and as a result be able to give more consistent advice and assist the development of more consistent individual program / educational plans
- improve existing services to truly protect and support individuals who wish to avail themselves of those services (develop policies around use of restraints; improve supervision; protect human rights at all times)
- protect the privacy of the family/individual—eliminate need for lives to become an open book for all to see in order to access services
- stop pitting families against one another
- stop making individuals / families fight for support—this wastes valuable time and energy which could be used more productively to support the individual
- implement a stronger more effective ODA
- stop pitting families against agencies and vice versa
- implement innovative strategies for residential supports
- provide incentives for service providers to move toward more individualized options for everyone
- develop community capacity building by removing all barriers, providing necessary supports and recognizing the community as the vehicle for change
- recognize individuals/ families/ support networks as valuable resources

WHY?

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS A RIGHT TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN SOCIETY AND AN INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING MODEL ENABLES SUPPORTS TO BE INDIVIDUALIZED ACCORDING TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S STRENGTHS AND NEEDS, THUS FACILITATING FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY

- current programs do not suit everyone's needs & interests
- current programs foster segregation not inclusion
- individualized funding allows for ownership of one's own life
- is cost effective,
 - eliminating duplications of services (maintenance of buildings / vehicles of different agencies)
 - reduces large dollar figures skimmed from top of funding to provide for many many large salaries

- allows for community to learn and grow thus increasing awareness, understanding & tolerance
- provides more opportunity to explore new ideas, experience new things, develop various relationships within the community
- relieves stresses on families/networks as they can truly plan for the future
- recognizes individual as a participant and contributor rather than as a leech
- portability increases ability to adapt to changes as aging/dying parents and wanting to be closer to siblings, other supportive relatives
- provides consistency & continuity as supports can be seamless

HOW?

FOLLOW THE REPORT OF THE ONTARIO ROUND TABLE ON INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING.....MAY 2000

- redirect funds away from bricks & mortar to other innovative residential and community supports

WHEN?

IMMEDIATELY

HOW LONG?

AS LONG AS IS NECESSARY, SOME INDIVIDUAL'S NEEDS FOR SUPPORTS WILL DIMINISH WITH EXPERIENCE WHILE OTHER INDIVIDUALS WILL REQUIRE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT FOR SUPPORTS

- Developmental Disabilities cannot be “fixed” but individuals with developmental disabilities can be supported to live more independently and more productive lives in the community with the necessary level of support. There are some individuals whose support requirements will diminish over time, other individuals whose support requirements will remain constant and then there are those who will require more as they grow older