



Formerly Special Services at Home Passport Provincial Coalition (SSAHPC)

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Karen Glass, Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Services Division
Ministry of Children Community and Social Services
315 Front St W. 4th floor
Toronto, ON
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karen.glass@ontario.ca

Dear Ms. Glass:

We are writing to introduce our group to you. Since 1982, People for Personalized Funding (PFPF), previously known as the Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition (SSAHPC) has worked with and for people living with disabilities to seek the necessary support in order to have an everyday, ordinary life. As family members, we are guided by our beliefs about inclusion, self-determination, choice and control for all Ontario citizens. We continue to promote the vital importance of direct and personalized funding so that disabled children and adults receive the support they need to live in their own homes and contribute to their communities.

You have the honour and responsibility to move Ontario's Developmental Services forward on what your Ministry calls the "Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion", which promises "greater equity through individualized funding". We all know how much more government spends to support people in group homes and segregated programs. We also know the cost-effective potential of direct personalized funding to improve people's lives. However, limited provincial Passport allocations keep people at risk, waiting for years for adequate funding. Ontario's "Journey" can go forward only if you substantially increase Passport funding and administer it flexibly, to respond to people's unique and changing needs.

The change the Ministry wants will never happen if children and youth continue to be denied Special Services at Home funding. An increase still left thousands of eligible children and youth on waiting lists in 2020. Thousands more are waiting now and thousands more need additional funds, after struggling through the three years of the pandemic.



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Our families have a long history with direct funding, ever since SSAH started in 1982 as a way to keep people out of government institutions. In 1995, the average annual SSAH allocation for children and adults was \$5000 but by 2021, it had dropped to \$3150, providing far fewer hours of support. We have worked hard to ensure our sons and daughters can live in their own homes and participate in our communities as adults. It is completely wrong now to deny them direct and personalized funding when so much more is spent on the segregated service system that your Ministry knows must change.

Please ensure there is enough Passport funding for 2023-24 to satisfy all requests for increases and work with your colleagues to similarly increase SSAH.

Sincerely,

Alison Ouellette and Susann Palmiere,
Co-Chairs of People for Personalized Funding

CC:

Jennifer Morris, [Assistant Deputy Minister](#), Children with Special Needs
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Betty Daley, Family Alliance ON
Chris Beesley, Community Living ON