

Financial Assistance in Ontario

The Ontario government has two programs for Ontario residents in financial need. **Ontario Works** provides financial assistance for Ontario residents in financial need. The **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** supports people with disabilities in financial need. Both programs offer financial assistance and employment services. People who need longer term solutions due to disability may qualify for ODSP. For more information about Ontario social assistance, visit their website: www.ontario.ca/socialassistance. Services include:

- **Income support:** Financial assistance for basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter is provided. Benefits like drug, dental, and vision are covered.
- **Employment support:** Services and supports help you find and keep a job, and advance your career.

How to Qualify

1. Live in Ontario and have a valid OHIP card.
2. Be in financial need. (i.e. There are limits to the amount of assets you can have to be eligible for financial assistance)
3. Participate in employment activities (OW only)
4. Have a disability (ODSP only): A major impairment expected to last at least one year. The impairment prevents you from working and caring for yourself.

Application

Each applicant is assessed on a case by case basis. Your Community Support Worker can help you apply. This can be done through the website, or by phone. Once you receive Ontario Works, you can apply for ODSP through them. Ontario Works application can take weeks to process, whereas ODSP can take up to 3 months to process. Some of the documents that you will need include:

- You and your family's personal and financial information
- Valid identification (social insurance number, birth certificate, health card)
- Financial documents (to show financial need)
 - Most recent 3 month bank statements
 - copy of your mortgage or rental agreement

Contact your Social Worker for more information.

FINANCES

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www.SpinalCordEssentials.ca

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