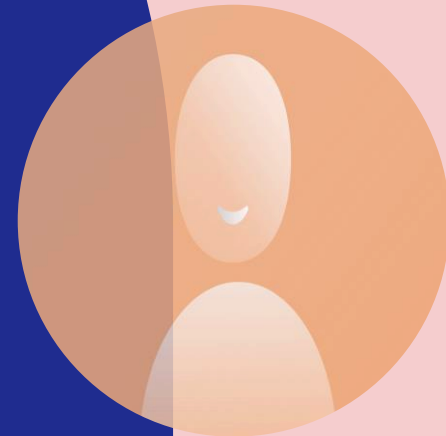


FAMILIES AS PARTNERS YEAR 2

APRIL 16, 2025





Who We Are

Community Living Ontario is a non-profit provincial association that has been advocating for people who have an intellectual disability and their families for **70+ years**. We proudly work alongside **124 local agencies** and advocate with **250,000+ people** who have intellectual disabilities and their families across Ontario. We are an active member of the Canadian Association for Community Living and regularly communicate with equivalent provincial and territorial associations. We also have influence at the global level thanks to our affiliation with Inclusion International.

[LEARN MORE](#)

124
Member
Organizations

250,000+
People
Represented

WHAT WE DO


[Translate »](#)


WHAT WE DO



Advocacy,
Education
&
Awareness



Family
Engagement



Youth
Engagement



Student
Links
Mentoring



Employment

[LEARN MORE](#)

LATEST ARTICLES

Update Friday Newsletter: April 11, 2025

In this week's edition of Update Friday, check out our Community Living Month

Letters to Ontario Party Leaders Post Election – March 2025

Congratulations Letter to Premier

[Translate »](#)

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH CLO

Presenter's:

Jo-Anne Demick, Director, Community Relations & Collaborations

Payal Khazanchi, Director of Inclusion Initiatives

They had 15 – 20 minutes each to speak

JO-ANNE DEMICK

DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Journey to Belonging, Family Initiatives/Engagements
- Transformation from Based Funding to Individualized Funding/Support
- Ministry is in consultation phase, meeting with Tech Table (21 members) ie Service Reps, Developmental Services Agencies, etc., for more Individualized Budgets. Meetings are 2 times per month until June 2025. Results will be available at later date.

- Sean Pegg, Director of Social Policy.
 - Research Project on Education for Students with Special Needs. Crisis in the classroom; Restraints, Time Out's, Expulsions – Report due out next week
- May is Community Living month. Policy Webinar's, May 27, Queen's Park.
- Waiting to Belong – Over 52,000 Adults, as of September 2024, for critical supports.
- #5 To Survive – 2024 short term advocacy effort, Budget. Request to Government, 5% to keep lights on! Financial crisis impacting the structure resulted in a 3% increase to Developmental Services. \$310,000 for organizations funded by MCCSS. First time since 2018.

- Challenge, Creating awareness within the public and government.
- 35,000 people in service with 52,000 waiting for service.
- Next steps: long term strategy, set incremental goals, articulate a vision for long-term success.
- New Hire – Teresa Kruze, Media Strategist for CLO to create a Family Portal.
- Strong unified voice to bring people together, sharing messages to MPP's across the Province.
- Minister Parsa – Ministry Advisory Table, 15 Agencies at Table, but no family advocates. This was because the focus was on budgets, government tech table, selected by government.
- Families need more input!

PAYAL KAZANCHI

DIRECTOR OF INCLUSION INITIATIVES

- Importance of Family Engagement Framework
- Creating deep and meaningful connections, Family centred approach.
- The impact of Family Leadership series has been monumental, leading to person centred approaches and greater community inclusivity.
- Family leadership at CLO:
 - Family Leadership Series – 3 weekends/year
 - Family engagement grants – announcement in last week of May
 - Family Conference – Hosting for first time in Ontario is from May 31-June 1, 2025. Applications closed. Selected attendees to be notified at end of April.



SAVE THE DATE!

June 24th, 2025 ✦ 9:00am-3:00pm

Home Talk Housing Forum

Hosted by Durham Developmental Service Providers

Durham agencies supporting adults with developmental disabilities invite you to an Information Day at the Brooklin Community Centre (8 Vipond Rd.)

 Discover Valuable Insights!

- Housing options & alternative service models
- Success stories from local agencies
- Hear from elected officials and developers about the housing landscape...and more!

 Lunch Provided!

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and explore housing solutions available to you!

 DURHAM ASSOCIATION FOR
FAMILY RESOURCES AND SUPPORT
• One Person at a Time • Together With Families •

WHITBY MAYOR'S
Community
Development
Fund 

COMMUNITY LIVING
Ajax-Pickering and Whitby
Inspiring Possibilities

 DSO
Developmental Services Ontario



COMMUNITY LIVING
Durham North
Inspiring Possibilities

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

THERE ARE ONLY
60 SPOTS
AVAILABLE, SO
ONCE
REGISTRATION
OPENS IT WILL
BE IMPORTANT
TO SIGN UP
RIGHT AWAY!

IMPORTANT DATES DSO



Fr

Creating Your Own Housing Vision

Join DSO Housing Navigators over lunch to discuss the new e-learning housing modules. Sessions take place in a virtual format and are open to people with a developmental disability, their family members and/or support networks, as well as professionals in Ontario.

Type	Housing
Location	Virtual
Date	Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Duration	1h
Repeats?	No
Registration	Register

Questions about this event can be sent to:

Olivia Thomas and Karen Roberts at dsousing@dsoer.ca

New DSO housing e-learning videos (modules) on dsontario.ca/webcasts



WATCH our new [e-learning videos \(modules\)](#)

- Creating Your Housing Vision
- Building Your Support Team
- Social and Affordable Rental Housing
- Technology and Gadgets to Support Independence; Life Skills and Activities of Daily Living
- Technology to Support Independence; Home and Community Safety, and Personal Health
- Natural Supports
- More to come...



DSO Housing Navigators from the Toronto, South-East and Eastern Regions have created a series of [e-learning videos \(modules\)](#). You can watch these videos on your own, whenever you want, and go through them again as many times as you like.

The videos cover topics found in the [DSO Housing Toolkit](#) and the Creating Your Individualized Housing and Support Plan webcast series. Each video also comes with a Resource Page that includes all the links from the e- learning video, and more.

All upcoming Housing Navigation Webinars as well as the Webcast Series are listed in the [DSO Events Calendar](#).

If you need help to open the videos, you can email dsotr.hn@surreyplace.ca

If you have questions about housing help in your area, you can contact your local [DSO Housing Navigator](#).

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



Tips for RDSP Plan Holders April 30, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Creating an RDSP is a critical start but once an RDSP is open there is much more that Plan Holders can learn to ensure they are optimizing the plan.

Once you've opened your RDSP there is

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



The Value of Family-to-Family Connections and Family Networks May 7, 2025 at 7pm EST

For over 75 years, families in Ontario have come together to build better lives for their loved ones with a disability. Through meaningful relationships with one another, families build resilience, and

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



The Henson Trust & Trustee Considerations

May 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm EST

Many families are unaware that the Henson Trust was initially conceived by a father trying to protect and plan for his daughter with a disability. Leonard Henson was a father and a true hero. As a

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



Strategies for Employment: Preparing, Finding, and Retaining Work

May 29, 2025 at 7pm EST

The world of work can be an important and meaningful way to build a good life. If you have a loved one with a disability who has employment-focused goals, then this

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



Alternatives to Guardianship June 3rd at 7pm EST

There has been an increase in discussion around parents and caregivers seeking guardianship for their adult child with a developmental disability. This webcast will help families understand the implications

FREE
ONLINE
WEBCAST



Creative Options for Home June 11th at 7pm EST

Creating and exploring options for home is perhaps one of the more difficult aspects of future planning for people with a disability. Many families have found creative and innovative ways to support

Next Meeting is:

**Wednesday, May 21st
from 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**At CLAPW
36 Emperor Rd., Ajax**



THANK YOU !

Sylvia Thornton

sylvia.thornton@clapw.org

&

Wendy Holliday

Community Living Ajax,
Pickering and Whitby (CLAPW)