

## 1) What is Home Care, CCAC and the LHIN? Are they separate things?

In a nutshell, Home Care, CCAC, and the LHIN were essentially the same thing. However, as of April 1, 2021, they have all been integrated into the **Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS)**.

The HCCSS assess patient care needs and deliver in-home and community-based services to support your health and well-being. They also provide access and referrals to other community services, and manage Ontario's long-term care home placement process.

They collaborate and work closely with primary care providers, hospitals, and other health partners to ensure integrated care planning and delivery. They assist patients, families, and caregivers in various aspects such as:

- Remain safely at home with the support of health and other care professionals
- Return home from hospital and recover at home
- Find a family doctor or nurse practitioner
- Find community services that support healthy, independent living
- Transition to long-term care or supportive housing
- Die with dignity in the setting of their choice

In addition to their primary responsibilities, HCCSS plays a crucial role in emergency response activities, such as pandemic management and community evacuations during natural disasters. They serve as essential health system partners, actively collaborating to safeguard public health and well-being.

For those seeking information or referrals related to home and community care or long-term care home placement, HCCSS offers accessible support through dedicated phone lines in both English and French. Simply call 310-2222 for English service or 310-2272 for French service, with no area code required.

Source: [About Us | Home and Community Care Support Services \(healthcareathome.ca\)](https://healthcareathome.ca)

## **2. What happens at 65 when I stop getting ODSP and start on OAS. What changes and what do I have to do?**

In most cases, Service Canada will automatically enroll you for the OAS pension if sufficient information is available. Service Canada will inform you if you have been automatically enrolled.

It is very important to note that if you did not receive any letter about the OAS pension the **month after you turned 64**, you may need to apply for the OAS pension.

To apply for the **Old Age Security (OAS)** and the **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** in Canada, follow these steps:

### **1. Determine if You Need to Apply:**

- o If you receive a letter from **Service Canada** asking you to apply for OAS, you must do so.
- o If you didn't receive a letter about OAS by the month after turning 64, contact Service Canada to find out if you need to apply.

### **2. Choose When You Want Your OAS to Start:**

- o You can start receiving your OAS pension at age 65 (the month after your 65th birthday) or choose a specific date.
- o Consider your personal circumstances when deciding the best time to start receiving your pension.

### **3. Submit Your Application:**

- o Apply online if you meet the following criteria:
  - Be at least 1 month past your 64th birthday.
  - Not currently receiving an OAS pension.
  - Not already applied for OAS (Service Canada isn't assessing your application).
  - Currently living in Canada.
  - Don't have an authorized third party on your account (a person acting as a proxy)
- o To apply online, you'll need a My Service Canada Account (MSCA). If you don't have one, register for an MSCA and receive a personal access code – click here to do so: [My Service Canada Account \(MSCA\) - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/service-canada/service-canada/myservicecanadaaccount.html)
- o Alternatively, apply using a paper application:
  - Print and complete the form "Application for the OAS and the GIS (ISP-3550)."
  - Include certified true copies of required documents.
  - Mail the application or bring it in person to a Service Canada office.

### **4. Receive a Response:**

- o You will be mailed you a letter with either:
  - a decision on your application
  - a request for more information
  - Your decision letter

- o Your letter with a decision will include:
  - the amount you will receive each month
  - the date for your first payment
  - any past payments that may be owed to you

Please follow this link for more details: [Old Age Security: Your application - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/social-security/old-age-security/your-application)

Please note that if you're already receiving OAS but not GIS, you'll need to apply separately for GIS. If you were automatically enrolled in OAS, you'll be automatically enrolled in GIS as well

It is also important to remember that ODSP does not stop automatically when you turn 65. If you do not qualify for the OAS pension, then you may continue on with ODSP. Please be sure to discuss your options with your ODSP representative regarding that if you do not qualify for OAS.

### 3. Do I have to pay to get into the CNE?

Yes, you do need to pay to enter the CNE this summer. Advanced ticket fees are as follows:

- **Advance Admission Pass = \$22.12 + \$2.99 Service Fee + HST**  
Includes grounds admission, and access to all shows and exhibits on any one day of the 2024 CNE. ALL AGES.
- **Advance Ride All Day Pass = \$44.25 + \$2.99 Service Fee + HST**  
Includes grounds admission, access to all shows and exhibits and unlimited midway rides on any one day of the 2024 CNE. ALL AGES.

However, if you are looking to save money when you attend the Ex there are several terrific CNE discount ticket options:

- Download a [free school kids pass](#) for children prior to the start of the CNE. (Or your child may receive one at the end of the school year from their school)
- Purchase your CNE tickets at a 40-50% discount online or with gift cards available from local grocery prior to opening day.
- On Kid's Tonnie Monday, children 13 and under are just \$2
- A Family Pass can also be purchased for 2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children for \$75.
- Tickets are discounted to \$11 after 5:00 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays only.
- Many corporations, such as CAA, also have discounted rates

Be sure to plan your trip in advance! You can call 416-263-3330 to discuss any specific requests you may have. You can also click here [Accessibility – The Ex](#) to access the CNE accessibility planning tools.

#### **4. What is public health doing about the new variant?**

Ontario's Public Health Units continue to monitor and respond to the evolving nature of COVID-19. While the emergence of sub variants and the seasonal behavior of the virus pose ongoing challenges, it's essential to stay informed and prepared.

At this moment in time, Ontario still recommends keeping up-to-date with your vaccinations. It is recommended that individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 receive an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine this spring and summer if you are:

- aged 65 years and older
- a resident of a long-term care home or other congregate living setting for seniors
- aged 6 months and older and are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment)
- aged 55 years and older and identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis or their non-Indigenous household member and are aged 55 years and older

Eligible individuals aged 6 months and older can book an appointment through:

- [participating pharmacies](#)
- the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#)
- the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at [1-833-943-3900](tel:1-833-943-3900), available in more than 300 languages, Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: [1-866-797-0007](tel:1-866-797-0007))
- [public health units](#) using their own booking system
- participating primary care providers
- Indigenous-led vaccination clinics

Public health units may also offer additional options for vaccination for children aged 6 months to 4 years old, such as walk-in clinics, which will not be on the COVID-19 vaccination portal. For information on local options, please visit your [local public health unit website](#)

The rest of the population should wait until the Fall 2024 for further direction on vaccine eligibility. Continue to check in on [COVID-19 | ontario.ca](#) for up to date information.

Source: [Protection from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses | ontario.ca](#)

Source: [COVID-19 Data and Surveillance | Public Health Ontario](#)

## **5. Can PSWs go to the doctor with me?**

That is a great question for the agency supporting you. The expectations and what your personal support worker is able to do for you would depend on your agency and the type of support you are signed up with.

Check with your doctors' office as well.

## **6. How can I get passport funding?**

If you are an adult, 18 years or older, who is eligible for developmental services and support funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, you may receive at least a minimum amount of annual passport funding.

In order to get your Passport funding, you need to first contact the Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) office in *your* region ([Find your area DSO | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#)).

The DSO will determine your eligibility to receive ministry-funded adult developmental services. Once eligibility is confirmed and you have consented to a referral to the Passport program, the DSO will refer you to the local Passport agency to receive the \$5500 annual allocation through the program.

So, once you have accepted your Passport funding approval, your Passport agency will help you with each of the steps to get you your funding. This will include:

- Choosing your Person Managing Funds.
- Selecting Service Options that work best for you
- Completing the Passport Service Agreement and other necessary forms, such as setting up an automatic deposit with your banking institution and registering your support worker(s).

For more information on eligibility and how to apply for adult developmental services, including passport funding, go to [Homepage | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#)

Source: [Passport Program guidelines | ontario.ca](#)

## **7. What is the disability tax credit? How does it work?**

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a non-refundable tax credit that helps people with disabilities, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. By reducing the amount of income tax you may have to pay, the DTC aims to offset some of the extra costs related to the impairment. The DTC helps reduce the income tax that people with physical or mental impairments, or their supporting

family members, may have to pay. It aims to offset some of the costs related to the impairment

If you have a severe and prolonged impairment, you may apply for the credit. If you are approved, you may claim the credit at tax time.

### **Here is how to apply:**

There are 2 main steps to getting the DTC:

#### *Step 1 - Applying for the credit*

This involves you and a medical practitioner who can certify the effects of your impairment.

You may apply for the DTC using the digital form or the printed paper form.

#### **A. Digitally:**

##### **Applicant fills out Part A**

1. Sign in to My Account
  2. Scroll down to Benefits and credits
  3. Select "Benefits and credits"
  4. Select the "Apply for DTC" button to open the digital form
- You must answer a few questions about the person with the impairment and those who may be eligible to claim the credit on their behalf. Be prepared to provide the following information:
    - Basic information about the person with the impairment
    - Basic information about the supporting family member who may claim the disability amount (if transferring the credit)
    - Consent for the CRA to:
      - contact the medical practitioner of the person with the impairment (if necessary)
      - automatically adjust the tax returns for previous years (if applicable)

Once completed, you will receive a reference number. The applicant will then give this reference number to their medical practitioner who will use it to complete Part B.

After Part B is completed, the digital form is automatically submitted to the CRA.

Something to note is that it does take the CRA about 8 weeks to review your application and they will then mail their determination.

#### **B. By Phone:**

You may phone the CRA and have Part A of the digital form filled out for you.

- You have the option to talk to a call centre agent (1-800-959-8281) or use the automated voice service (1-800-463-4421)
- You must be able to confirm your identity before you begin.

*Step 2 - Claiming the credit on your tax return*

If your application is approved, you may then claim the disability amount on your tax return.

If you think you may be eligible for the DTC, you should apply. Being eligible for the DTC may help you access other federal programs such as:

- registered disability savings plan
- Canada workers benefit disability supplement
- child disability benefit

Just to note, being eligible for other federal or provincial disability programs does not affect eligibility for the DTC.

Source : [How to apply - Disability tax credit \(DTC\) - Canada.ca](#)