

APPLYING FOR ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM BENEFITS

Legislation – Ontario Disability Support Program Act and Regulations

Application is a two-part test

- 1) meets financial criteria
- 2) meets definition of a person with a disability
 - must be **resident** in Ontario
 - must be **at least 18**
 - health-care professional must complete original (yellow) form

Financial Criteria (as of May 2014)

- monthly income below maximum ODSP entitlement (for a single person \$607.00 basic needs + \$479.00 maximum shelter = \$1,086.00)
- assets below \$5,000.00 for a single person.

Definition of a “Person with a Disability”

- substantial physical or mental impairment (*think symptoms i.e. pain, fatigue, memory loss*)
- impairment is continuous or recurrent
- impairment expected to last one year or more
- direct and cumulative effect of impairment results in substantial restriction **in one** or more activities of daily living (attending to personal care or function in the community or function in the workplace).
- impairment, duration and restriction “verified” by qualified health-care professional

Or belongs to a “Prescribed Class” and meets financial criteria

- 65 or older and not eligible for OAS
- recipient of CPP or QPP disability benefits

Time Lines

- application must be completed and sent to Disability Adjudication Unit within 90 days (can request extension)
- 30 days to request an Internal Review of denial (can request extension)
- 30 days to file appeal to Social Benefits Tribunal if Internal Review denied (can request extension)

Further Medical Reports

- must be submitted to Social Benefits Tribunal **AND** Disability Adjudication Unit 30 days before the hearing (**if late, can make arguments at hearing as to why should be accepted**)
- must speak to date of Director’s decision (date of first denial letter) and duration, impairments and restrictions at date of Director’s decision.