ODSP Employment Supports

What is Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Employment Supports?
ODSP Employment Supports program will link you with a community service provider who can:
- help you prepare for work
- help you find a job that is right for you
- help you in keeping a job
- provide job coaching
- provide on-the-job training
- help you get other benefits (for example, clothing or equipment for your job)

The ODSP Employment Supports program can also help with starting up your own business by linking you with a service provider that specializes in self-employment. If you want to start your own business you might receive:
- help to develop and implement a business plan
- training in money management, record keeping and budgeting
- help with marketing your business
- mentoring
- financial help towards the costs of business tools, equipment and supplies, licenses and certification
- help getting work-related disability supports, such as assistive devices and technical equipment, interpreter, intervenor, reader and note taker services.

Who is eligible for ODSP Employment Supports?
To qualify for employment supports, you must:
- be at least 16 years old
- be an Ontario resident
- be legally allowed to work in Canada
- have a substantial physical or mental disability that is expected to last a year or more, and makes it hard for you to find or keep a job

You don’t have to be receiving income support from ODSP to be eligible for employment supports. However, your doctor or health care provider will need to verify your disability or impairment.

How do I apply for ODSP Employment Supports?
Complete the application package, which contains two forms: Application for Employment Supports and Verification of Disability/Impairment and send this to your local ODSP office.

If you are already receiving ODSP Income Support, you do not need to complete the Verification of Disability/Impairment form.

If you are not receiving ODSP Income Support, the Verification of Disability/Impairment form must be completed by an approved healthcare professional who can describe your disability/impairment and explain how it impacts your ability to
find and keep work. You must sign the Consent to Release Medical Information section included in this form, before taking it to an approved healthcare professional.

Find your local ODSP office using the Ontario Social Assistance Office Finder.

You can also call or visit your local office for help with applying for Employment Supports.

**DISCLAIMER:** This resource was developed in May 2016 and content was based on the following references. Changes can occur to programs at any time. This resource may not reflect changes made after this date nor will it include information from other sources not listed below. Please refer to original resources for comprehensive definitions and terms related to the program, eligibility criteria, determination of rates, additional benefits, and other important information.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:**

**Government Websites**
ODSP Employment Supports
Relevant Pages: ODSP Employment Supports: What is Available?
Relevant Pages: Applying for ODSP Employment Supports