Post-Secondary School:  
Attendant Services

Attendants, are a type of support service, where people with disabilities direct others to help with Activities of Daily Living (ADLS), such as getting dressed, showering, eating or toileting. College and university students in Ontario who have physical disabilities can get these services in place to enable them attend school.

Eligibility criteria for Attendant Services
- Permanent physical disability
- Able to direct own services
- 16 years or older, insured under the Health Insurance Act of Ontario (i.e., OHIP)
- In need of assistance for ADLs
- Be able to have any medical/professional needs met by the existing community health network on a visitation basis

I am planning to go to a post-secondary program. How will I get help on campus?

☐ Check with the Access Centre or Disability Services Office—every school has an accessibility office, but they all have different names.

Find your school’s Campus Disability Services: www.neads.ca/en/norc/edlink/

Some universities or colleges already have a relationship with attendant service providers and can assist you in setting up your services. Some schools require you to make these connections yourself. Many campuses have accessible dorm rooms and students can have either Outreach Attendant Services or hire their own workers with Direct Funding.

☐ If you are applying or planning to use Outreach Attendant Services, write a letter and explain that you are applying to school, the expected start date, and the type of services you will need. Give this to the attendant service provider when you are applying along with your application and explain that you are concerned about potential waitlists. Post-secondary students are often given priority status in order to attend school.

Find Attendant Services in your area: www.cilt.ca/greenbook.aspx

☐ Consider applying for the Direct Funding Program. This program lets you hire your own workers with your government funding. When applying, write a letter and explain that you are applying to school, the expected start date, and the type of services you will need.

Find more information: www.dfontario.ca

Check out the Handout on Physical Disability: Support Services for Adults for more information on the type of programs and application process.
Waitlists and Funding
In many cases, service providers give priority to students who need Attendant Services in order to attend post-secondary school. If local Attendant Service providers do not currently have the resources to provide attendant services to you to attend college or university, the Student Attendant Service Fund (SASF) can be used as a contingency fund for providing services.

In Toronto and York region, CILT manages the Student Attendant Service Fund. Contact CILT for information on how to apply: www.cilt.ca/pic.aspx

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:

Personal Communication
E-mail communication with Leisa DeBono, Direct Funding Program Manager, Centre for Independent Living (CILT), 365 Bloor Street East, Suite 902, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3L4. Consulted May 2016 regarding accuracy of document.

Other Websites
National Educational Association of Disabled Students
Website: www.neads.ca
Relevant Pages: Campus Disability Services
Accessed: Apr 2016

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto
Website: www.cilt.ca
Relevant Pages: Attendant Service Application Centre (ASAC)
Accessed: Apr 2016