



Family Support Options

Working in partnership with families

■ What does this program offer?

Family Support Options offers a range of supports to families who are caring for a child, up to the age of 18, with a developmental or physical disability living in Wellington County.

■ Special Services at Home (SSAH)

Family Support Options (FSO) Coordinators assist families to apply for SSAH funding which provides one-to-one support in the home or in the child's community to meet personal development and growth goals. SSAH provides funding for parent relief and related supports to help the family meet their identified needs.

The Family Support Options (FSO) program assists families to apply for and utilize their SSAH funding as defined by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). FSO Coordinators work with families to manage their funding and provide access to forms, invoices and help completing invoices where needed or requested to make use of the flexibilities attached to SSAH funding to help pay for respite and/or recreation opportunities.

■ Support for Children Who Have Been Designated as Medically Fragile or Technology Dependent (MFTD)

FSO Coordinators support families to manage MFTD funds which are geared towards providing respite options for children and youth who are medically fragile and/or technology dependent. This extra funding is intended to provide opportunities to participate in programs and activities that will enhance socialization, learning and enjoyment of seasonal recreation, as well as to provide their parents with needed respite from caregiving.

The MFTD designation comes from Ontario Health atHome, formerly known as Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) or the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Waterloo Wellington

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Waterloo Wellington

How do I access this service?

Referrals for children with developmental disabilities are received through Access Information and Referral at

1-877-216-1116

Referrals for children with physical disabilities are received through Here 24/7 at

1-844-HERE 247 (#s 437-3247)

For more information contact:

(519) 821- 8089

Toll Free: 1-844-264-2993

Cheryl Van Every-Petty Ext. 4083

Lisa Romeo Ext. 2507

Julie Bergwerff Ext. 2518

■ Respiteservices.com

CMHA WW manages the respiteservices.com support database for Wellington County. This database is for families who would like to contract with an Independent Support Provider. The Recruitment and Training Coordinator at CMHA WW screens individuals who are interested in supporting people with developmental or physical disabilities. Families register and place classified ads on the respiteservices.com site so that they can be matched with individuals who are interested in providing support. The Recruitment and Training Coordinator reviews the database and sends profiles of potential Independent Support Providers to registered families.

It is the responsibility of the family to follow up with potential providers. This includes interviews, negotiating respite schedules, and payment. Families cannot pay providers who are considered a primary caregiver, or family members under the age of 18 years to provide respite.

More information is available online at; <https://www.respiteservices.com/>

Look under the Wellington arm of this website or input your postal code.

■ Supporting Kids in Camp (SKIC)

Camp is a great opportunity to have new experiences and make new friends! Supporting Kids in Camp offers children with physical or developmental needs the opportunity to fully participate in the Wellington County based program of their choice - be it art camp, sports camp or computer camp - the possibilities are endless!

This participation comes from the paid, trained, one-to-one Supporting Kids in Camp staff (called Support Counsellors) available through the program, all of whom have experience working in camps and with children with special needs. All Support Counsellors participate in comprehensive training including sessions on working with children with physical needs, positive approaches to managing challenging behaviours, modifying camp programs and more. Applications for the program are processed on a first-come, first-served basis and are available at <https://cmhaww.ca/services/children-youth-families/skic/>.

Connect with SKIC coordinator Luis Sandoval at 519-821-8089 ext. 2564 with any questions about this program.

For more information about Family Support Options (FSO), please go to our website at: www.cmhaww.ca/programs-services/childrens-services/family-support-options/