

**Ministry of Community
and Social Services**

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**Ministère des Services
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July 12, 2010

Christy Barber
Family Alliance Ontario
c/o Durham Family Network
20 - 850 King Street West,
Oshawa, Ontario
L1J 8N5

Dear Ms. Barber:

Thank you for your letter of June 23, 2010 requesting service data (2009/2010) for developmental service programs.

It is a challenging time for human service sectors across Ontario. The ministry continues to manage in an environment of financial uncertainty while being responsive to urgent situations. We are managing a financial pressure and growing waitlists in many programs.

Developmental Services was, however, one of the few programs to receive new funding in the 2010/11 Ontario Budget; as your inquiry indicates, \$36 million was announced for the further provision of services.

The ministry has a comprehensive plan for the developmental services sector, one that was developed through consultation and collaborative work with individuals, families, agencies and those who had an interest in the developmental services system.

I am pleased to respond to your questions below.

Please note that all of the data provided are "point-in-time" and that waitlist information numbers likely to include duplicate counts.

- 1.) Please provide the numbers of individuals (children and adults) supported by SSAH, as well as those waitlisted for support and/or appealing for changing needs for the fiscal year 2009/2010. Please provide this data also for the Passport program.**

SSAH Service Data 2009/10 – (As of March 31, 2010)			
Description	Children	Adults	Total
Number of Individuals Served	14,571	10,539	25,110
Number of Individuals on Waitlist	5,658	1,502	7,160

SSAH is a popular program with families and individuals. Since 2003/04 almost \$33 million in annualized base funding has been invested in SSAH – an increase of 45%. This funding has supported more than 25,000 people at the end of 2009/10 – an increase of more than 5,600 people since 2003/04.

The ministry is currently managing a financial pressure and growing waitlists. Where significant oversubscription had occurred as of 2008, the decision was made not to grant any new approvals to the program. It is important to note that families currently in receipt of SSAH funding, who continue to be eligible, remain with the program.

The number of adults served in 2009/10 (10,539) has grown from 2008/09 (10,030). Also, the average amount of SSAH per family has increased from approximately \$3,900 in 2008/09 to approximately \$4,200 in 2009/10. (Please note that the individuals waiting for service on the SSAH list may also be on waitlists for service from the Passport or Residential programs.)

As you are aware, the Passport program is designed to enhance opportunities for individuals who have a developmental disability by providing funding for activities using community partnerships and suited for a range of functional abilities.

Since the Passport program was introduced, almost \$31 million in annualized base funding has been invested. This funding has supported approximately 2,500 people at the end of 2009/10. This is an increase of approximately 1,700 individuals from the program's inception in 2005 (800 individuals served).

The number of adults served in 2009/10 (2,492) has grown from 2008/09 (2,351). The number of adults waiting for service this year (3,959) has also grown from last year (3,508).

Passport Program Services Data (2005/06 to 2009/10)					
Description	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Total Caseload	800	1,738	2,157	2,351	2,492

Passport has been successful in creating inclusive communities in Ontario.

2.) How many people are currently supported in residential services? What is the waitlist for these services, with the breakdown for group home/SIL/Family Home share requests?

Residential services are designed to maintain and enhance the individual's skills for community living. Community accommodation is provided through a variety of services including:

- Group living, including specialized accommodation, that enables individuals to live together and receive supports to live as independently as possible in neighborhood communities;
- The Family Home program that enables clients to reside with families who are not their natural family and allow individuals to experience typical family life;
- Supported Independent Living that enables individuals to live on their own or with another person and receive some support from a community based Transfer Payment agency; and
- Individualized Residential Model that enables adults with a developmental disability and their families to work with an agency and propose an individually-tailored residential model concerning where and how they live.

The Ministry is providing residential services to 853 more individuals with a developmental disability as of March 31, 2010 in comparison to March 31, 2009. The growth in service provision is described in the following chart.

DS – Residential Services - Number of Individuals Served 2009/10 in comparison to 2008/09

	Group Home	SIL	Family Home	Innovative Residence	Specialized Accommodation	Total
March 31, 2009	9,133	5,491	1,302	102	339	16,367
March 31, 2010	9,780	5,530	1,333	140	437	17,220
Change	347	39	31	38	98	853

DS – Residential Services - Number of Individuals reported on Waitlists in 2009/10

	Group Home	SIL	Family Home	Innovative Residence	Not Specified	Total
March 31, 2010	5,148	3,120	598	172	476	9,513

3.) Is Passport considered a program, or is still an "initiative"?

Passport is a program that was introduced in 2005. Since then almost \$31 million in annualized base funding has been invested.

4.) Is there a plan to have any of the \$36 million, budgeted for acute needs, or to be used to address pressures on SSAH or Passport?

\$36 million was included in the March 2010 provincial budget. Details for the rollout are currently being determined and will be shared at a later date.

5.) Has there been a review of the first three years of Passport, for which results are available?

When the Passport program was introduced, a commitment was made to conduct an evaluation of the program in three years. Deloitte was retained by MCSS to conduct this evaluation. Phase 1 of the review commenced in October 2007 and was completed in April 2008. A comprehensive report was published by Deloitte in May 2008 based on their findings. This report is attached for your review.

Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at (416) 325-5579.



Alexander Bezzina

Attachment (1)

C: Sandy Henderson, Director, Controllershship and Accountability Branch
Nancy Lytle, Director, Services and Supports Branch
Carol Latimer, Director, Community and Developmental Services Branch