

Direct Funding

What is Direct Funding (DF)? www.dfontario.ca

- A province-wide, government funded program
- For adults (16+) with a permanent physical disability who require assistance with activities of daily living; transferring, bathing, toileting, dressing
- Must be able to self-direct your own care
- Must be able to carry out employer responsibilities (i.e. interview, hire, train and if necessary, fire employees, follow employment standards, comply with WSIB), manage their own budget and carry \$2 million in liability insurance on your home
- Program is administered by the Centre for Independent Living (CILT) in Toronto and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health

How Do I Apply?

- Individuals in Waterloo Region and Guelph Wellington apply through the Independent Living Centre of Waterloo Region <http://www.ilcwr.org/attendant-services>
- Complete a self-assessment and application
- Prepare a detailed daily routine for attendant services (this is very important as it is used to determine the amount of funding you will receive based on the number of hours of support you require – maximum 212 hrs/month on average)
- Attend an interview with a selection panel including someone who is currently using DF in your area, a resource co-ordinator (from ILCWR) and a representative from CILT – the interview could be 2.5 to 3 hours long

What happens next?

- If you are approved for DF – you will receive an agreement to sign from CILT
- You will also receive two comprehensive resource and training manuals, which include step-by-step instructions on how to get started. You will find tips on recruiting, employing and supervising your own attendants, and managing your finances, as well as information on employment and tax laws, employer/employee relations, labour and employment standards, payroll issues and accounting procedures
- You will need to hire a book keeper – this cannot be a relative – there will be an allowance within your funding for the book keeper
- You are responsible for hiring and training your attendants

Did you know?

- The resource co-ordinator from ILCWR is available to help you prepare for your interview and to help you get started once you receive funding
- You will need to send reports to CILT every 3 months detailing your expenditures
- DF can be used anywhere in the province of Ontario, you can also use your funds for travelling outside of the province for a maximum of 21 days/calendar year – some airlines have discounts for attendants
- There is an opportunity to network with other self-managers through the DF website – some self-managers work out ways to share attendants (e.g. One self-manager could be an early riser and their attendants could then work for another self-manager who gets up later)
- The waitlist for funding is currently approximately one year
- While you wait for your funding, you can receive support through the LHIN; once you receive your DF, the LHIN will continue to support you until you get everything “up and running”
- With DF, you can schedule your attendants to meet you at school, at work or in the community
- You cannot receive DF if you are living in supportive housing – you can only receive one source of government funding for attendant services
- You cannot hire immediate family members to provide services (including bookkeeping)
- Your DF funding will include money to cover Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs) an employer must pay by law (CPP, EI, vacation pay, WSIB)

JD: November 2019