

Q&A

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO PASSPORT AND SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME (SSAH) FUNDING DURING COVID-19



Funding through the Passport program and Special Services at Home (SSAH) program is available to people with disabilities and their families from the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). The funding is intended to help people with disabilities and their families procure the services and supports they need to live more independently and participate in the greater community.

What is the Passport Program?

The Passport program is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to adults with developmental disabilities to promote community involvement and independence.

The Passport program provides funding that can be used for:

- Community participation;
- Activities of daily living;
- Caregiver respite;
- Person-directed planning (up to \$2,500); and
- Administration of passport funding.

What is the Special Services at Home Program?

The Special Services at Home (SSAH) program is provided by MCCSS to families who are caring for a child with a developmental and/or physical disability. SSAH provides financial assistance for services in or outside the family home (given that the child is not receiving support from a residential program).

SSAH funding can be used to hire someone who:

- Helps a child learn new skills and abilities, such as improving communication skills or becoming more independent; and
- Provides respite services to a family.

What eligible expenses are available under Passport and SSAH during the COVID-19 pandemic?

MCCSS has expanded the list of eligible expenses under the Passport and SSAH programs since many community-based resources are closed during the COVID-19 outbreak. These new eligible expenses include:

- **Sensory items** to alleviate anxiety and stress, and support any clinical or behavioural plans;
- **Technology** for virtual and online learning and skills development activities, including goods and services such as laptops, tablets, webcams, monitoring devices. ;
- **Home-based Recreation and Fitness Activities**, including:
 - Home-based hobbies and activities, such as arts and craft supplies, hobby supplies; and
 - Home-based physical activity and fitness, such as indoor items and equipment and fitness/sport equipment and supplies;
- **Personal Protective Equipment and Supplies** for safety at home and in the community, such as gloves, masks, gowns, cleaning supplies, and if required, goggles and face shields;
- **Essential Service Delivery Fees** for the delivery of groceries, medications or other essential items to the home; and
- **Behavioural Support Plans and Related Interventions** including the development of behavioural support plans, recommended interventions (in person or virtual), and support strategies to reduce challenging behaviours or crisis situations.

Those receiving Passport or SSAH funding should ensure to save any receipts, invoices and supporting documents with proof of payment for these expenses. **Please note that these changes are temporary and may be amended at any point in time.**

What additional funding is available under Passport and SSAH during the COVID-19 pandemic?

To take advantage of the new eligible expenses, 25 percent of Passport and SSAH funding for 2020/21 will be provided in advance. Passport and SSAH recipients will also receive up to \$1,000 from their remaining 2019/20 budget amount.

Additionally, the deadline to file claims from 2019/20 has been waived for SSAH recipients.

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