COMMUNITY LIVING
Durham North
Inspiring Possibilities

Residential Support Programs

Overview

Our residential services span a large geographical area, encompassing the townships of Scugog, Brock and Uxbridge. Supports are provided in home-like settings, tailored to meet the unique needs of each person. All of our residential services are geared to adults.

The **Supported Independent Living (S.I.L.) program** empowers people to live as independently as possible in their own homes, with personalized support tailored to their unique strengths, goals and preferences. Supports range from a few hours to several hours per week, depending on each person's circumstances and level of independence.
The program recognizes and builds upon each individual's existing abilities while providing opportunities to develop new skills, increase confidence, strengthen decision-making and maintain greater control over their daily lives. Supports are person-directed and focus on skill building and quality of life in areas such as personal financial management, nutrition and meal planning, personal care, household management, employment, accessing community and medical services, and participating in meaningful leisure and recreational activities.
People need to have the financial resources and be financially prepared to cover the cost of their rent, utilities, groceries and all personal expenses.

Our **Supported Group Living Model** provides a safe, welcoming and supportive home environment for individuals who benefit from 24-hour support. Homes are typically co-ed environments, and staffing levels are determined by the people living there.
While all homes provide access to 24-hour support, the nature and delivery of overnight support may vary depending on individual needs and the home's support model. This may include awake overnight staff, staff who sleep for part of the overnight shift, or electronic monitoring systems as part of the overnight support arrangements. People living in Supported Group Living generally receive an income via the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP); and at age 65 this is automatically replaced by federal income supports. This income covers the residential fee that is established by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and which must be paid to the Association at the beginning of each month. A small "comfort allowance" is retained by the recipient. All essential needs (including clothing, food, housing, etc.) are provided by the agency; the comfort allowance is strictly for discretionary spending (e.g. entertainment, vacations, etc.).

Applications for Service and Eligibility Considerations

Throughout Ontario, people wishing to apply for Residential Support Services must contact their regional Developmental Services Ontario office (DSO). The DSO that is concerned with Durham Region is housed at York Support Services Network

25 Millard Ave. West
Newmarket, ON L3Y 7R6
Toll Free 1-866-257-9776
Website dsontario.ca

We are happy to speak with people about our services in advance of the DSO becoming involved. We can also help people and their families to prepare for their initial contact with the DSO; however we cannot provide services for people until they have been deemed eligible by the DSO. To make this determination, a representative from the DSO will ask for a psychological assessment and for documentation confirming the person's age and proof of Ontario residency.

*It is important to note that there is a large waiting list for these residential services and it is impossible to predict when vacancies will become available.

Contact Information

Our website www.cldn.ca

Christie MacDermid is our Manager of Support Services, and she will be your primary contact until such time as you have begun to receive service from the Residential program or another one of our various services. Christie can also help you navigate the process for applying to the DSO. Christie's number is 905-985-8511 x 239 or you can contact her at Christie@cldn.ca

Staff Supports

The quality of our services depends entirely upon our staff; they act as guides, mentors and coaches to the people we support. If we could afford it, we'd have one staff for every person that lives in Supported Group Living; then, everyone could be out, all day, pursuing their individual interests with one to one assistance. The affordable reality is that everyone gets out regularly, but everyone has to wait their turn, too.

As is common in the developmental services sector, our staff have been unionized. This is not a bad thing, but rights and protections for staff sometimes seem like obstacles and frustrations to service users. For example, our staff do transfer pretty regularly from one program to another; this is a right that they have acquired over time, and people often complain about a resulting lack of consistency.

Never in our history has there been a strike or any kind of work stoppage, but people should be aware that this is always a theoretical possibility in unionized environments.

Your Rights as a Participant

Everyone supported by Community Living Durham North enjoys a variety of rights, but you need to know about them before you can exercise them. Along with this Service Description, you will be given our policy *B-24 - Statement of Rights.* This list of rights was developed by the A-Team, a group of self-advocates who receive support from the agency.

If, at the conclusion of the application process, we are able to provide supports to you, and you choose to participate, we will begin to work together on the development of a Personal Support Plan. This plan will recognize your right to choose your own goals and to have help achieving them. It will probably also be necessary at that time for you to sign certain types of consents. For example, to help you achieve your goals our staff may need to have certain information. And, since you have a right to privacy, you will need to consent to them having this information.

Your Responsibilities as a Participant

All of your rights have a different side to them - the responsibility side.

You have a right to choose your own goals, but you also have a responsibility to participate in planning.

You have a right to be safe; and you have a responsibility to abide by necessary rules that are designed to keep everyone safe, like participating in fire drills.

Finally, there is a cost associated with participation in some programs and where such is the case you will have to fulfill your financial obligation.