

Changes During COVID 19 to SSAH and Passport Funding for those with Special Needs (as of April 23, 2020)

The provincial government recognizes that families of children with special needs can't currently access their regular supports covered by SSAH funding (under age 18) or by Passport funding (over age 18), and announced April 23, 2020 that they will be covering items such as laptops, e-learning, exercise equipment, sensory equipment, or entertainment items during COVID 19.

Of note from the website for both SSAH and Passport Funding:

“These changes are temporary and the existing program terms and conditions will continue to apply upon the government providing notice. You will be given as much advanced notice as possible to prepare for the return of regular business once the government provides notice.

To make it easier for people who receive this funding to take advantage of these changes quickly, we are also giving you 25 per cent of your funding for this year in advance. You should save all receipts, invoices and supporting documents with proof of payment for these expenses. In response to the challenges arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, we are also waiving the deadline to file your claims.”

For SSAH funding (under age 18):

The government is expanding the list of eligible expenses under [Special Services at Home](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx) <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/specialneeds/specialservices.aspx>.

If you have questions about SSAH funding you can contact the Central Region office of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services:

6733 Mississauga Road Suite 200

Mississauga, ON L5N 6J5

Tel: (905) 567-7177 Toll Free: 1-877-832-2818

Fax: (905) 567-3215

Ontario Autism Program:

We will also continue to assist families and provide greater clarity about what expenses are eligible under the [Ontario Autism program](https://www.ontario.ca/page/autism-ontario), <https://www.ontario.ca/page/autism-ontario> including Childhood Budgets and interim one-time funding, for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

For Passport Funding (over age 18):

The government is expanding the list of eligible expenses under [Passport funding](https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/serviceSupport/passport.aspx) <https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/developmental/serviceSupport/passport.aspx>

If you have questions about Passport Funding you can contact your Passport Community Developer, or The Peel passport developer is:

Saara Zainul:

(905) 866-6300 ext. 225

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