

**Ministry of Community
and Social Services**

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I am writing to bring you up to date on the recently announced 2011 Ontario Budget.

As you may know, Ontario is turning the corner to a better tomorrow. The economy is improving and jobs are coming back.

The 2011 Ontario Budget continues our government's support of Ontario's economic recovery.

This Budget renews our focus on eliminating the deficit while protecting vital public services such as education and health care, investments that impact all Ontarians, including people with a developmental disability.

Although we are operating on a tight Budget again this year, we are still finding ways to help people who need our help most. This year we are again able to provide a modest increase for people who rely on the Ontario Disability Support Program as well as make critical investments in mental health.

As we continue to transform the developmental services sector, we know there are immediate needs for additional services and supports across the province.

That's why I was pleased to announce yesterday evening at the annual conference for the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities that this year's Budget includes an additional \$40 million for developmental services:

- \$15 million to support people who are living at home through Passport and Special Services at Home, and
- \$25 million for agencies to provide critical support and stabilize funding to hundreds of people who are in need of urgent care. We are also committing a further \$12.5 million for urgent need and crisis situations next year, bringing the total to \$37.5 million.

This builds on the investments we made in the 2010 provincial Budget which provided \$36.3 million for people with a developmental disability who have urgent support needs and \$20 million to support developmental services transformation.

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With these new investments, our government has increased funding to the sector by \$108.8 million since the 2010 Budget. It's an investment in the people who benefit from those services and in the families and communities that are enriched by people who have a developmental disability.

You will be hearing more allocation details about this funding in the near future.

Thank you for all the work you do every day on behalf of people with a developmental disability.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Madeleine Meilleur
Minister