

every kid matters



Ontario's, children's rehabilitation sector has been building brighter futures for kids with special needs for over half a century.

Research and experience tells us that the sooner children are identified as needing specialized support and the sooner that they are able to access it, the better their chances of success.

Every year, 65,000 children and youth enter the community rehabilitation sector for help with physical, developmental and communication challenges.

Every year, more and more children are identified as needing these vital services and supports.

Every year, Ontario's Children's Treatment Centres work hard to serve as many children as possible to give them the best chance to achieve their potential.

Every year, demand rises, waiting lists grow and kids waiting fall further behind.

The solution lies in sustaining and strengthening **investments**; in pursuing opportunities for service **integration** and in the **inclusion** of children with special needs in all Ontario has to offer because...

Every Kid Matters!



The Solutions:

Inclusion:

1. OACRS proposes that the government allocate **1% of the Full Day Kindergarten funding envelope to a designated line item for the provision of specialized supports** for children with disabilities.
2. At full implementation, a targeted \$15 million could be supplemented by the transfer of rehabilitation funding currently residing in the many envelopes across our partner Ministries.

Integration

1. Centralizing funding for children's rehabilitation into the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, freeing up resources for direct services to children.
2. Implement a stable, multi-year funding system with annual increases to allow the sector to undergo long-term budgeting and planning
3. Continue to advance outcome measurement to promote value for money.

Investment

1. Sustain the investments government has made in services for children with special needs;
2. Strengthen the capacity of the children's services system to give children requiring extra supports the opportunities they need to stay healthy and to achieve excellent educational outcomes.

What you can do...

- Visit your MPP
- Write a letter of support to Minister Hoskins
- Visit OACRS website www.oacrs.com
- Learn more about this issue
- Follow us on Twitter
- Like us on Facebook

The Voice of Children's Rehabilitation Centres

OACRS is committed to advancing an integrated, inclusive and family-centred sector. OACRS' members provide innovative therapies and extensive treatment options to 65,000 children with physical, developmental and communications needs annually in cities, towns and rural areas across the province.

Our partners in children's rehabilitation include the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Education and Health and Long-term Care. Together our members provide over \$185 million of services on a yearly basis.

Since 1978, the Ontario Association of Children's Rehabilitation Services (OACRS) has represented the interests of Children's Rehabilitation Centres in Ontario. Through our services as a membership organization, we provide a powerful united voice for our member centres and deliver leadership by influencing policy, programs and funding to maximize the potential for all children and youth facing physical, communication and/or developmental challenges. Currently OACRS represents all 21 Children's Treatment Centres in Ontario.

For further information:

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- Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) serve 65,000 children and youth annually
- CTCs provide service in over 100 locations across the Province
- Children with multiple disabilities make over 500,000 visits to CTCs annually.
- We serve children with a variety of physical, communication, and developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, Down Syndrome, cleft lip and palate and pervasive developmental delay/Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Services children receive include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, social work, audiology, augmentative communication, nursing, psychology and psychometry, applied behavioural analysis (ABA) based services for autism spectrum disorder, recreation, seating, orthotics and prosthetics, cleft lip/palate and dental treatment



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