



Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

# About Individualized Funding

Fall 2021

# Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO)

## *Our Accord*

*The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario supports the self-determination of persons with disabilities.*

*We believe that all people should have control over decisions concerning where they live, with whom they live, with whom they associate and how they spend their lives.*

*In order to achieve this we recognize that Ontario must develop a system of funding whereby the person requiring assistance, supported by family and/or others, should have access to and control over the funds allocated for his/her supports.*

## Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO)

### *What is Individualized Funding?*

The words *Individualized Funding* refer to government funding that is used to pay for disability related supports. **The IFCO has always used the term *Individualized Funding* to include different types of funding that are individualized.**

**Examples of common terms used to describe individualized funding:** direct funding, self-managed care, self-directed funding, direct payments, personalized budgets, grants, individual budgets, etc.

The **common element** for the different types of individualized funding is about **who has the control and decision-making power for the funds.**

The **family**, when funds are for a child living with a disability, and the **person as an adult**, with support of friends and family, would have the control. The 'family' and the 'person' direct what happens with the funding, including how the funds will be spent.

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### *Individualized Funding definition used internationally*

*International research published in 2019 used a similar definition for individualized funding in their systematic review of individualized funding programs and interventions around the world.*

***“Individualized Funding is an umbrella term for disability supports funded on an individual basis. Individualized funding aims to facilitate self-direction, empowerment, independence and self-determination.”***

No matter what words are used, most important is understanding that individualized funding is ***“a mechanism to provide personalised and self-directed supports for people with a disability, which places them at the centre of decision-making around how and when they are supported.”***

The above quotes were taken from the following research: Fleming, P., McGilloway, S., Hernon, M., Furlong, M., O'Doherty, S., Keogh, F., & Stainton, T. (2019). *Individualised funding interventions to improve health and social care outcomes for people with a disability: a mixed-methods systematic review*. Campbell Systematic Reviews, 3.

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### *What type of individualized funding was studied. . . .*

\*Any form of individualized funding no matter the name used **based on a set of criteria** about the funding:

- **Provided by the state** as financial support for people with a lifelong disability (physical, sensory, intellectual, developmental disability or mental health)
- Individual must be able to freely **choose how this money is spent** in order to meet their individual needs
- The individual **can avail of ‘intermediary’ services** or the equivalent that supports them in terms of planning and managing how the money is used over the lifetime of the funding
- The recipient **can also independently manage** the individualized fund in whatever way is feasible
- May be a **one-off pilot** intervention for an individual (minimum of 6 months) or a **permanent move from traditional forms of funding arrangements**

*\*See citation on the previous slide, and the link at end of the power point.*

### *Understanding Individualized Funding*

The Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario knows from the experience of people with disabilities, and their families and friends, that **it takes more than money to support people to have a good life in the community.**

People with disabilities experience a better quality of life in their neighbourhoods and communities when the use of individualized funding for disability related supports is:

- combined with **citizenship values,**
- grounded in **value-based principles,** and
- supported by **strong community practices/features**

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## *Individualized Funding is based on values*

- **Citizenship** – having rights, responsibility and access within community
- **Inclusion and belonging** - this is important to our sense of who we are
- **Self-Determination** – making choices and having control over one’s own life, sometimes with help from family and/or friends/networks
- **Community** – having welcoming places in which to participate and contribute

## *Individualized Funding is based on principles*

- The **person is the decision-maker** - people, with the help of family, friends and others, makes their own choices.
- **Community is the first resource** – this is key to building a good life in cities, towns and neighbourhoods
- The **dreams and strengths** of the person guide the process
- **Relationship building**, circles, networks are key
- **Funding is flexible and portable**

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## *Using Individualized Funding*

Individualized funding is a way for people to get the supports they need to become full citizens of their neighbourhoods and communities. It enables people to design and direct their own support - with the help of family and friends and an independent facilitator. One of the things this may result in is the hiring/contracting of support workers or paid companions that can enable:

- Connections to community leisure and recreation
- Opportunities to pursue own interests
- Having attendant care
- Volunteer roles; Employment opportunities
- Coordination of the day to day things to have a good life in the community
- Family sharing the support and care
- Development and nurturing of meaningful relationships
- Life-long learning opportunities
- Development of skills or hobbies such as cooking, finance, or woodworking
- Options for Living



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## *Options for Living – some examples*

- **Own apartment or secondary suite** – with supporters/family coming in
- **Supportive roommate(s)** – living with other members of the community who can offer support in exchange for rent, stipend, etc.
- **Live in coordinator** – someone paid to live with, give support, as well as coordinate supports for a person
- **Supportive neighbour(s)** – using technology to provide support from a distance. For example: intercom, monitor, video communication
- **Co-op Housing, intentional communities** with supportive neighbours
- **Living with a family**
- **Supportive Housing** – housing and supports together at one location
- **Own home, alone or shared with a roommate** - with supports

## Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

*Milestones to share with you. . . .*

*While leaders were working things were changing in Ontario!*

**1981** Order in Council for individualized funding for Judith Snow. Did you know that this led to the Direct Funding Project under the Ministry of Health for people with physical disabilities?

**1982** Special Services at Home funding for children with disabilities. Did you know that it led to adults receiving funding by 1991? It was expanded to support adults with developmental disabilities.

**1990's** Individualized funding arrangements with progressive agencies were being put in place in the 90's.

**1990's** Individualized budgets for people leaving institutions during various initiatives.

**1997** Direct Funding Pilot was now serving 102 consumers

**1998** Direct Funding Pilot became a full fledged program with a budget for 700 people.

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*More milestones to share with you. . . .*

*While leaders were working, things were changing in Ontario!*

**2006** Passport Program was put in place – direct funding for adults with developmental disabilities.

**2006** Individualized Residential Model Initiatives were funded for some people with innovative proposals. The opportunity lasted 2 years, and was then cancelled. Today people still put forward proposals for innovative housing options and support through the DSO in the hopes that it will get considered.

**2009** Last three institutions close.

**2015** Housing Task Force project included funds for innovative housing arrangements that were annualized for participants. The initiative ended in 2018.

**2015** Ontario Independent Facilitation Network Demonstration Project assisted 100's of people in Ontario to have a stronger say so in their lives. It included planning for a full life in their communities, and using individualized/direct funding to support their choices. The project ended in March of 2019.

## Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

# *Thank you!*

**Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario website**

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/>

**Programs and approaches in Ontario**

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/whats-in-ontario/>

**Relevant research, published in 2019**

Fleming, P., McGilloway, S., Hernon, M., Furlong, M., O'Doherty, S., Keogh, F., & Stainton, T. (2019). *Individualised funding interventions to improve health and social care outcomes for people with a disability: a mixed-methods systematic review*. Campbell Systematic Reviews, 3.

[\*Click here for the systematic review/article published by the Campbell Collaboration\*](#)

[\*Click here for the two-page Plain Language Summary\*](#)