

**PURPOSE**

Day services are part of the range of support services in the community for individuals with a mental disability and are delivered by non-profit community-based agencies. An individual may be eligible for Day Services as of July 2nd of the calendar year in which the individual turns age 21.

The goal of day services is to support individuals in daily activities which increase independence, productivity and community integration, including access to competitive employment, training and support. Day services promote the development and maintenance of functional, community-referenced skills that are appropriate to the individual's age and disability which assist the individual in participating more fully in the day-to-day activities of their community. Individual areas of emphasis and the type of day services training and support required are based on the goals and objectives established with individuals through the individual planning process.

Support is available to individuals through the Community Service Worker. Support includes but is not limited to: the provision of funding to purchase the services and supports required by the individual; information, counselling, and crisis intervention; and assistance with assessment, planning, referral and service coordination.

**OBJECTIVES**

Objectives are operationalized through the individual planning process which identifies the preferred and/or appropriate Day Services option to be provided.

The common objectives of all Day Services options include:

1. **Services and supports should provide opportunities for individuals to lead a satisfying and secure life in the community through the provision of:**
  - training opportunities in the least restrictive age appropriate environment; and
  - a comprehensive range of service options that address the evolving needs of the individual. This would involve evaluation and modification of individualized training programs that provide for the development, training, retraining, education and supports, when required, to assist the individual to realize their potential through community-based services.
  
2. **Services and supports should provide individuals with the opportunity to lead a productive life in the community through the provision of:**
  - work options that provide access to competitive employment with support, if required
  - opportunities to spend most of the working day engaged in meaningful activities
  - participate in the province's work force.

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3. **Services and supports should provide individuals with the opportunity to direct his/her life through:**
- the provision of training in the community
  - support of the individual’s right to make decisions and to direct his/her life in the least restrictive manner possible
  - affording the individual with the flexibility to choose the agency providing the day services which best meets his/her needs, within available resources.
4. **Services and supports should provide individuals with the opportunity to lead a life as part of the community through the provision of:**
- opportunities, within the broader community, to participate in leisure, social and vocational endeavour that are typical for the age group and interests of the individual and involve people who are not paid staff.

**DESCRIPTION OF OPTIONS**

Agencies providing day services offer a range of service options to an individual with a mental disability. Flexibility in providing a range of services enhances an agency’s ability to deliver services which are responsive to an individual’s needs and which take the least restrictive and least intrusive approach possible. The following options provide opportunities which support individuals:

**SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT AND FOLLOW-UP SERVICES**

This service option is aimed at supporting an individual in jobs in community settings. Individual support and training are provided at employment settings within the community. Once a job is secured and training is complete, follow-up services which include those activities that need to occur for the worker to maintain the job, are provided.

Follow-up services are generally provided at the employment site and relate primarily to providing assistance to the individual for work-related issues. This may include the maintenance and development of work-related behaviours or skills expected of all employees in the employment setting and assisting the worker in overall interpersonal relationships at the workplace.

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**SERVICES WITH A VOCATIONAL FOCUS**

This service option is aimed at developing, maintaining, and maximizing an individual's vocational and social skills. Individualized services will focus on increasing skills needed to access competitive employment in the community. Services, support and training are delivered largely in-house through facility-based activities, although a portion of the services may be delivered outside the facility, i.e., mobile work crews, enclaves, and entrepreneurial business.

**INDIVIDUALIZED DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

This service option is aimed at developing, maintaining and maximizing an individual's personal care skills, emotional growth, physical development, socialization opportunities and communication skills through community-based activities or in their own home. In-house activities may be delivered in a day services facility or in the individual's home. Individualized Development Services may also include activities with a vocational focus wherever possible. An individual with more complex and challenging needs generally benefits from these types of services.

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