

Inclusion Nova Scotia Messages – February 2025

Welcome to the first round of monthly messages from Nova Scotia's Disability Support Program (DSP) about our work on the Human Rights Remedy.

New Roles to Support Persons with Disabilities

- The Disability Support Program (DSP) is creating a new system of support to better meet the unique needs of the people we serve. Communities will also play an important role in supporting people with disabilities.
- DSP has created three new roles:
 - **Local Area Coordinators (LACs)** – Connecting people with supports in their communities.
 - **Intensive Planning and Support Coordinators (IPSCs)** – Intensive and transition planning.
 - **Eligibility, Funding, and Assessment Coordinators (EFACs)** – Determining eligibility and funding levels.

Have these new roles been hired yet?

- DSP has hired staff in all three roles, training is almost complete. Additional hiring will take place.
- Some of the first people they will be working with are those living in institutions who want to move to community.

Closure & Transition Strategy for Institutions

- DSP has developed a closure strategy for institutions in the province. This includes any Adult Residential Centre (ARC), Regional Rehabilitation Centre (RCC) and Residential Care Facility (RCF).
- In the Spring of 2024, DSP visited all ARCs, RRCs, and RCFs to talk about closure with the people living and working there.

When will these institutions start to close?

- All institutions must close by the end of the 5-year Remedy timeline - by March 2028.
- Each ARC, RRC, and RCF have their own timeline for closure, which is based on the number of people living there.

- For more information, please go to the Q&A section of the Remedy Website at <https://www.dsp-transformation.ca/questions-and-answers>

Individualized Funding (IF)

- Individualized Funding (IF) provides an individual with a personalized funding amount based on their disability related support needs as identified through an assessment.
- How the funding is spent and managed is determined by the individual.
- Funding can be managed on your own, with the support of a service provider, or a combination of both.
- In the coming months, Local Area Coordinators (LACs) and Intensive Planning and Support Coordinators (IPSCs) will start to work with people living in institutions who want to transition to community.
- This will include having conversations about what a good life in community looks like, receiving an assessment, and deciding which supports and services a person's individualized funding can support.

Is IF available to everyone yet?

- Not yet. Everyone eligible for DSP will eventually receive a personalized budget. This process will happen in stages.
- The Remedy requires that access to the new system of supports (IPSCs, LACs, new assessment, IF, etc.) should prioritize people with disabilities who are on the Service Request List (SRL) and currently not receiving DSP support, and those currently living in institutional settings.
- Should your family member not fall into one of the prioritized groups, it does not mean they will not receive IF. Over the next three years, all participants will gradually have access to these supports as DSP expands the capacity of the new system.