

Inclusion Nova Scotia Messages – May 2025

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

School Leavers Project

- The School Leavers Project is a team effort between the Disability Support Program (DSP) and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).
- The program is to help students with disabilities prepare for life after high school, including joining their communities and becoming more independent as adults.
- This project will roll out alongside the new Local Area Coordinators (LACs) being introduced across Nova Scotia. LACs will work with students to help them connect with programs and resources in their communities that match their goals and transition plans.
- The program is meant to support, not replace, the transition planning already being done at schools through Individual Program Plans (IPPs).

When will the program begin?

- The School Leavers Program will begin in September 2025. More details will be shared closer to that time.
- More information can be found here:
<https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/05/07/new-program-supports-grade-12-students-disabilities#:~:text=The%20new%20School%20Leavers%20Program%20is%20part%20of%20the%20government's,to%20200%20in%202026%2D27.>

DSP Respite Funding Increase Roll Out

- At the Rebuilding Hope Conference on March 29, Minister Scott Armstrong announced a \$9.3 million investment in the Disability Support Program (DSP).
- This funding will be used to increase respite funding for Flex Individualized Funding, Alternative Family Support (AFS), and Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC).
- Families and participants affected by this change will get more information in the coming weeks.
- If you have questions in the meantime, you can contact your Care Coordinator.

Do I need to apply for the new funding?

- No, you do not need to apply. The funding increases will be available as retro-pay starting April 1, 2025.

Service Evolution Funding for Disability Support Program (DSP) Service Providers

- DSP started the Service Evolution Fund (SEF) for Service Providers to adapt their services to align with Remedy recommendations.
- Three rounds of SEF have happened, with approximately 22 organizations receiving over \$900,000.
- Organizations have been looking to fund lots of new ideas, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Creating plans to shift to community-based supports
 - Developing user-friendly websites and technology
 - Building new training opportunities for staff
 - Redesigning programs and resources for persons with disabilities
- More information can be found here: <https://dsp-transformation.ca/SEF>