

## REFERRALS

Referrals for children and youth under 18 years of age to Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre (SDRC) and other developmental service agencies in our region are facilitated by our intake team.

Referrals are accepted from clients and families (or those acting on their behalf).

Referral forms may be obtained by contacting the main office of SDRC at: 519 741-1121, or visiting our website at [www.sdrc.ca](http://www.sdrc.ca)

Upon receipt of your completed referral forms, an intake worker will arrange an appointment to discuss the referral request in more detail. At that time questions around eligibility can be answered.

For referrals for youth and adults 18 years and older, eligibility for developmental services must first be determined by Developmental Services Ontario. You can contact them at 519-894-1153. Once eligibility is determined a referral for services will be forwarded to SDRC on your behalf.

## INQUIRIES

Please direct inquiries, referrals, and requests for services to:



205 - 1120 Victoria St. N.  
Kitchener, Ontario N2B 3T2

Phone: 519-741-1121

Fax: 519-743-4730

Or email us at:

[sdrc@sunbeamcommunity.ca](mailto:sdrc@sunbeamcommunity.ca)

Website: [www.sdrc.ca](http://www.sdrc.ca)

### Satellite Offices

<b>Elmira:</b>	118 Barnswallow Dr. Elmira, ON N3B 2Y9
<b>Kingsway:</b>	2749 Kingsway Dr. Kitchener, ON N2C 1A7
<b>Cambridge:</b>	757 King St. E. Cambridge, ON N3H 3N8



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## Eligibility For Services

### A Guide to the Determination of Eligibility for Developmental Services in Waterloo Region



## WHO WE ARE

Sunbeam Developmental Resource Centre (SDRC) serves as the single point of access for clinical services, service coordination, children's residential services, children's respite, and service resolution.

These services are available to children and adults in Waterloo Region who have an intellectual disability and/or an autism spectrum disorder.

## WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Individuals receiving support must have a formal diagnosis of an intellectual disability or an autism spectrum disorder. The presence of other mental health issues or physical disabilities does not disqualify someone for developmental services.

SDRC uses the clinical definitions provided in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (DSM-5) in evaluating eligibility.

## LANGUAGE

The term "developmental disability" is used today for many reasons. Common use of the term "mental retardation" was often seen as stigmatizing and degrading to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

While we respect and support the use of inclusive and valuing language, ambiguity around the term "developmental disability" has made clarification of diagnosis important for access to service.



## HOW ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES IS DETERMINED

Eligibility and access to developmental services for children shall be based on diagnostic information covering intellectual as well as adaptive functioning.

The following diagnoses will be accepted:

**Intellectual disability** as defined by the DSM-5;

**Autism spectrum disorder**, with or without an intellectual disability.

In determining eligibility for an intellectual disability and/or an autism spectrum disorder, SDRC requires evidence of a diagnosis as provided within a psychological assessment or equivalent medical documentation. These reports must include commonly accepted instruments and assessments tools in determining the diagnosis.

The findings of the assessment will be used to determine eligibility for services. If a child is deemed ineligible an appeal can be made to the Director of SDRC.

Eligibility for services for adults with an intellectual disability and or an autism spectrum disorder will need to be determined by Developmental Services Ontario (DSO).