HOW TO MANAGE AUTISM FUNDING OPTIONS IN ONTARIO essential CHECKLIST

Step 1: Secure Your Provincial OAP Registration (AccessOAP)

Because funding invitations are issued in the order families complete registration, securing your place in line as early as possible is key.

- ☐ **Gather Diagnostic Documentation**
  Obtain a formal diagnostic letter from a qualified medical professional (pediatrician, psychologist, or physician). Ensure it clearly states that your child meets the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder and includes your child's full name, date of birth, assessment date, and practitioner credentials.
- ☐ **Create Your AccessOAP Account**
  Head to accessoap.ca or call **1-833-425-2445** to establish your family account on the province's official intake portal.
- ☐ **Upload Required Intake Documents**
  Submit your child with autism's written diagnostic letter along with proof of Ontario residency.
- ☐ **Confirm File Transfer (If Previously Registered)**
  If your family registered directly with the ministry prior to AccessOAP's launch, log in to grant consent for your child's file to be transferred.
- ☐ **Access Immediate No-Waitlist Support**
  While waiting for your core funding invitation, sign up immediately for free **Foundational Family Services** (caregiver workshops and clinical consultations) or explore **Caregiver-Mediated Early Years Programs** (for ages 12–48 months).

Step 2: Prepare for Core Clinical Services Funding

When your invitation arrives, direct funding becomes available to purchase clinical therapies tailored to your child with autism.

- ☐ **Complete the Determination of Needs Interview**
  Participate in the standardized interview led by your AccessOAP Care Coordinator to discuss your child's strengths, communication profile, daily living skills, and behavioural needs.
- ☐ **Select Your Therapy Providers & Allocations**
  Identify regulated clinical providers (such as the team at Monarch House) to deliver eligible funded services:
  - **Speech-Language Pathology (SLP):** Verbal, non-verbal, and augmentative communication.
  - **Occupational Therapy (OT):** Sensory processing, fine motor skills, and daily living activities.
  - **Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA):** Skill acquisition, emotional regulation, and social communication.
  - **Mental Health Services:** Psychotherapy and counselling for children and youth facing anxiety or mood challenges.
  - **Therapy Equipment & Technology:** Specialized tools recommended in writing by a regulated clinician.

Step 3: Apply for Complementary Ontario Support Programs

Applying for additional provincial programs provides vital relief for respite care, daily living costs, and equipment without affecting your place on the OAP waitlist.

- ☐ **Apply for Special Services at Home (SSAH)**
  Submit an application through the Ontario government website to access funding for respite care support workers, allowing caregivers a rest while helping your child with autism gain personal growth and independence skills at home or in the community.
- ☐ **Apply for Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)**
  If eligible based on family income, apply for monthly support (ranging from $25 to $678) to offset extraordinary living expenses, such as travel for medical appointments, sensory items, or specialized clothing.
- ☐ **Access the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)**
  If your child requires custom positioning seats or high-tech speech communication devices, apply for ADP funding to cover up to 75% of approved equipment costs before spending your OAP funds.

Step 4: Unlock Federal Tax Credits and Long-Term Savings

Federal tax incentives offer financial relief and help build long-term security for your family.

- ☐ **Complete Form T2201 for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)**
  Work with your child's medical doctor or psychologist to complete Form T2201 assessing marked restrictions in mental functions necessary for everyday life.
- ☐ **Claim Retroactive DTC Tax Relief**
  Once approved by the CRA, claim non-refundable tax relief backdated up to 10 years to receive potential retroactive tax refunds.
- ☐ **Receive the Child Disability Benefit (CDB)**
  Enjoy the automatic, tax-free monthly supplement added to your Canada Child Benefit (CCB) once your child is approved for the DTC.
- ☐ **Open a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)**
  Establish a long-term tax-deferred savings account to leverage federal matching grants (up to 300%) and bonds designed for low- and modest-income families.