



Ready, Set, Go (RSG) Program: FACT SHEET

On April 1st, 2023, The Ready, Set, Go (RSG) Program was introduced (replaces Continued Care and Support for Youth “CCSY” program) and its intent is to provide both financial and non-financial support to eligible youth aged 18 – 22 which will enhance their ability to meet goals and build on strengths during a time when the transition to adulthood is taking place.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR RSG?

You are eligible to enter a Ready, Set, Go (RSG) program agreement with a society if you are between 18 and 22 years old and:

- you were in extended society care immediately before you turned 18;
- you are a First Nations, Inuit or Métis youth, and were being cared for under a customary care agreement immediately before you turned 18, and your caregiver was receiving a subsidy from a society;
- you were a party to a Voluntary Youth Services Agreement with a society immediately before you turned 18;
- you received or were eligible to receive support from a society under the Renewed Youth Support program when you were 16 or 17 years old; or
- you were in interim society care immediately before you turned 18 and you turned 18 prior to April 1, 2023
- you were in extended care and a custody order was made on a status review that expired when you turned 18 (this is only the case if your caregiver does not receive a subsidy)

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR RSG SUPPORT?

If you're eligible for RSG and would like to receive RSG support, you must enter into an agreement with the Children's Aid Society (CAS). To do so, you and your CAS will sign a RSG Agreement, which describes the roles and responsibilities of you and of the CAS. The signed RSG Agreement is then in effect for 12 months. It will be reviewed and signed annually thereafter until your 23rd birthday when RSG support ends.

WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO ME UNDER RSG?

If you are between 18 and 22 and transitioning from care, the Ready, Set, Go (RSG) program may provide:

- financial support on a monthly basis which range from \$500 to \$1800 depending on your age and circumstance.

For youth who are employed and/or attending a post-secondary program, receiving training in skilled trades or an apprenticeship, there may be additional entitlements.

Provision of Support

The society will provide the youth with financial and/or other support as set out in the Regulation, the Youth's Plan and in accordance with the requirements set out in the Regulation.

A society cannot provide financial support to the youth under the following circumstances:

- a. Receiving financial assistance under the *Ontario Works Act, 1997*.
- b. Receiving income support under the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997*.
- c. Living with a caregiver who is receiving a targeted subsidy from a society.
- d. Living with a caregiver who is receiving financial assistance under the Stay Home for School Policy.
- e. Receiving employment income that is above the threshold established by the ministry.

In such circumstances the society must however offer non-financial support through the RSG program.

How will you help me reach my Goals?

Within thirty days of signing an RSG Agreement, you and your CAS worker will meet to develop a personalized Youth Plan. The Youth Plan is meant to document your strengths, needs, and goals in areas like health and well-being, relationships, housing, education/employment, identity, culture, financial literacy and personal development in areas of rights, responsibilities, self-advocacy and self-efficacy.

You and your CAS worker will review the Youth Plan together at least once every three months to discuss your progress towards meeting your goals and to address challenges that you identify. The Youth plan itself must be updated at minimum on an annual basis by you and your worker.

Your worker will also work with you to establish monthly meetings to check in and to offer support as you need it. You can also reach out at any time to meet more frequently and for additional support.

The Youth Plan process is meant to support you in developing goals and working towards them; however, your RSG financial support does not depend on you meeting those goals.

CAN A RSG AGREEMENT BE CANCELLED?

A RSG Agreement is a voluntary agreement between you and your CAS worker and can therefore be cancelled by you at anytime. A society may cease providing financial support if they have made reasonable efforts to contact you without success for a period of three months.

WHAT IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT MY INVOLVEMENT WITH RSG?

If you are unable to resolve an issue with your CAS worker, you can bring forward a complaint to your CAS, as set out in your CAS's complaints process @ <https://www.wecas.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/UPDATED-Complaint-Form-FINAL-1JAN2021.pdf>

If your complaint relates to the CAS's decision to cancel your RSG Agreement, you will continue to receive RSG support during the three months notice period and during the complaint process. When you sign your RSG Agreement, your CAS will also provide you with written information about their complaints and dispute resolution processes.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFO ON RSG?

Policy Directive can be reviewed @ <https://www.ontario.ca/document/child-protection-service-directives-forms-and-guidelines/policy-directive-cw-003-23-preparing-youth-successful-transition-care-childrens-aid>

You can also speak with your CAS Worker or their supervisor to get more information about RSG. The Windsor Essex Children's Aid Society's Phone Number is 519-252-1171.