



Have Your Say *Now is the Time*

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

What you can expect today

- ▶ Sharing what brought each of us here
- ▶ Citizenship for ALL - An important video message
- ▶ What we are hearing . . .
- ▶ Highlights from Now is the Time: What people and families have said
- ▶ Features of an Effective Individualized Funding Framework (as voted on)
- ▶ Actions on the Go! What we have done collectively since March 2023
- ▶ What some folks have had the opportunity to do, actions they took. . .
- ▶ More opportunities to be a part of things:
 - ▶ Review of government's previous documents and information
 - ▶ Story sharing going forward
- ▶ What we have missed, other ideas . . .



Sharing what brought you here today . . .

- ❑ Not enough funding for the support workers I need
- ❑ Only have \$5,500 in Passport Funding
- ❑ No funding at all
- ❑ Face barriers to living life as a full citizen
- ❑ Want someone, like an independent facilitator, to assist with thinking about the future and support with taking actions
- ❑ Want to support people with individualized funding
- ❑ Want to support people with their decisions
- ❑ Want to partner with the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario
- ❑ **Wanted to come back a second time to help keep the momentum going!**

Citizenship for ALL - An important video message

<https://citizen-network.org/library/citizenship-for-all1.html>



What we are hearing . . .

- ▶ People, families, independent facilitators, partners and allies are telling us they are interested in being part of a positive future with individualized funding. Hope for the future keeps growing!
- ▶ Many who have experienced individualized funding approaches over the years have shared what works. The Now is the Time paper has captured that. IFCO continues to listen and learn!
- ▶ We have had a picture of what a good life as a citizen means with inclusion, participation and contribution. Let's share it!
- ▶ Having a good life and being a citizen is NOT just about funding! Yet, having funding to live one's own unique life helps people take up their full citizenship!

KEY MESSAGES

HIGHLIGHTS from *Now is the Time*

What folks are saying is important to them

- ▶ To have an everyday ordinary life full of purpose. To have as many TYPICAL opportunities as possible with home, work, leisure, and volunteering in the places and spaces where ALL citizens go.
- ▶ To have ways for people to be supported with their decisions.
- ▶ To have support for building and working on relationships from an EARLY AGE and THROUGH ADULT LIFE.*

**The key to providing seamless supports lies in the beginning . . . with planning when a disability is first identified and . . . continuing that planning throughout the individual's lifetime. Also important is not having to deal with so many different strangers in the system over the years – being able to develop a deep relationship over time with one person!*

“This necessitates access to unencumbered planners / facilitators to encourage the individuals / families / support networks to dream without previously constructed barriers hindering them. . . .Independent planning must be separate from service provision.”

*Transformation and Disability Supports,
The Role of Individualized Funding, IFCO, 2004.*



FEATURES of an Effective Individualized Funding Framework

TOP THREE FEATURES AS VOTED ON BY PARTICIPANTS . . .

- ▶ Having enough funding (80%)
- ▶ Someone (like an independent facilitator) that walks alongside over time, assists with planning and taking actions. (63%) *Note: this means someone working outside of direct service agencies AND central access places.*
- ▶ Support with finding, contracting and keeping workers (41%)

OTHERS IN ORDER OF VOTING PRIORITY. . . .

- ▶ Receiving some funds in advance to be able to pay workers
- ▶ Guidelines for using funding that make sense for a typical life
- ▶ Portability: being able to move your funding
- ▶ Simple ways to invoice and get the money back quickly



Actions on the go!

*The way to right wrongs is to turn
the light of truth upon them*

Ida B. Wells



What we have done collectively since March

- ▶ Made more changes to the IFCO website to make it easier to choose an action
- ▶ Different folks, groups and partnering allies have become IFCO members since the first Call to Action!
- ▶ Amazing volunteers came forward to help others write their stories
- ▶ Held a gathering for story writers with tips and ideas for supporting others with their experiences.
- ▶ Presented at the OASIS Conference. OASIS, Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs, is a provincial organization of transfer payment agencies that supports people with disabilities.
- ▶ Held a Story Sharing Gathering and assisted people and families to tell their stories.
- ▶ Developed a proposal to presenting at the Community Living Ontario (CLO) Annual Conference.
- ▶ Have had a requests for partnering and conversations about partnering with others.
- ▶ Will be presenting at the Inclusion Action in Ontario (IAO) Annual General Meeting on June 17, 2023. IAO focuses on inclusion and education issues in Ontario.
- ▶ Have provided information about supports for decision making and what we can do to avoid guardianship on our website.

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/actions/>

What some folks have had the opportunity to do, actions they took . . . Let's talk about it!

- ▶ Became a member of IFCO using the link on the IFCO website!
 - ❖ *It was easy, thanks for showing us the link. / Some helped others become members.*
- ▶ Listened to a person's story and wrote it down for them.
 - ❖ *It was such an honour. I appreciated the chance to do this!*
 - ❖ *We learned that people could use more conversations about how they would use their funding.*
- ▶ Some people and families shared their story with a volunteer
 - ❖ *I liked having someone help me with my story. / It helped get my thoughts together.*
- ▶ Educated others about individualized funding and *Now is the Time*
 - ❖ *We shared the PowerPoint from March with our local group.*

More opportunities to be a part of things

- ▶ Consider being part of a review group looking over previous government documents and findings, some examples:
 - ▶ Select Committee on Developmental Services, Final Report (2014), Nowhere to Turn (2016), Housing Task Force Final Report (2018) Auditor General Reports, etc.
- ▶ What IFCO has learned about what feels safest for people and families in sharing their experiences/story telling in these times. The on-line link has been taken down and website info changed.
 - ▶ Being supported to share experiences and doing that anonymously with no identifying information is preferred.
 - ▶ Having the help of a volunteer (someone who will listen and write things down for you) is also a preferred path.

What we missed, other ideas

Below are some of the ideas shared on June 13, 2023:

- ▶ The importance of putting forward an individualized proposal to the DSO if you would like individualized funding for a whole life and when Passport is not enough.
- ▶ The importance of tracking the people asking for individualized funding on their applications and/or who are putting in individualized proposals. IFCO could talk to MCCSS about this.
- ▶ About the stories: Leave it up to the person sharing their story to decide if they would like their story kept anonymous - continue to give the option.
- ▶ Maybe we could consider using a different term other than 'story/stories'. It is not really a story as much as someone's experiences and it might be better to capture what it really is.

Other Ideas continued . . .

- ▶ Lots of suggestions for other words or phrases than ‘story/stories’
 - Presentations / Narrative is a synonym
 - My good life - expressed by the person and the support around them
 - Reality / Reality is good
 - Truth-telling; Personal accounts; My narrative
 - What do journalists use? They have real influence by ‘reporting’ (REPORT)
 - Using a ‘type of motto’ like “This is My Life” yesterday, today, and tomorrow
 - Agree with “This is My Life”
 - Someone suggested the word “reality” as in my reality, I like that plus “this is my life”, maybe not as an alternative to using story/stories but to supplement
- ▶ Concerns were shared about the future.
- ▶ Some folks shared their interest areas.

The chat and/or other information will be summarized and provided to participants.



Things to take with you after
this gathering . . .

Quotes from *Now is the Time*
and links for the journey

Building the conditions for people to stay strong

From the 2022, report *Power and Connection: The International Development of Local Area Coordination*, authors Eddie Bartnik and Ralph Broad identified that:



“Now more than ever, it is time to look at how, together with local people, communities and services, we can build the conditions for people to stay strong, safe, connected and valued as active, contributing citizens and to rebalance our limited resources towards a greater focus on individual, family and community, capacity building and mutual support.”

(Now is the Time, p. 14)

International research and our Ontario experience - What a match!

We have known for a long time by listening to people sharing their historical experiences in Ontario, that positive outcomes do come from effective individualized funding approaches! Recent international research (2019) has validated this!

“People experience:

- *greater flexibility in their lives,*
- *improved self-image and self-belief;*
- *more value for money;*
- *community integration;*
- *freedom to choose ‘who supports you’;*
- *‘social opportunities’; and needs-led support”.*

(pg. 12 in the report/Fleming et al., 2019, p. 2)



Support with relationship building, shifting the power dynamics, having a voice

“People are much more likely to maximize their use of individualized funding when given support (facilitation and planning) with relationship and network building, shifting the power dynamics in their life, strengthening their willingness to become known by others and have a voice in their life and in key decisions.”

Now is the Time, Pg.14

Supports for decision-making

One of our most talked about topics

“Ontario needs legislation that honours supported-decision making.”

Ontario needs a way to ensure:

“Support for decision-making and that each person has the capacity to express their will and their preferences in some way. (That they) can be involved in directing their life and taking charge of key decisions with the support of others”.

(OIFN, 2022, What We Believe section, para.3)

Now is the Time, Pg.13



Thank You for your valuable time!

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/>

Now is the Time: [Use this link to download the IFCO report, Now is the Time](#)

ACTIONS page: <https://individualizedfunding.ca/actions/>

Membership Links:

- On-line Membership Form:
https://clw.formstack.com/forms/ifco_membership
- Brochure: [IFCO Information & Membership Brochure, 2023](#)

More Actions and Ideas (a work in progress, check regularly for updates):

<http://individualizedfunding.ca/more-actions/>

Legal Capacity and Supported Decision-Making

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/action-needed-for-ontario-citizens/>

Learn more with this PowerPoint: ['About Individualized Funding-Fall 2021'.pdf](#)

