



Now is the Time

Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario

OASIS Pre Conference Day - April 26, 2023

“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.” ~Eddie Bartnik and Ralph Broad

(Now is the Time, p. 14)

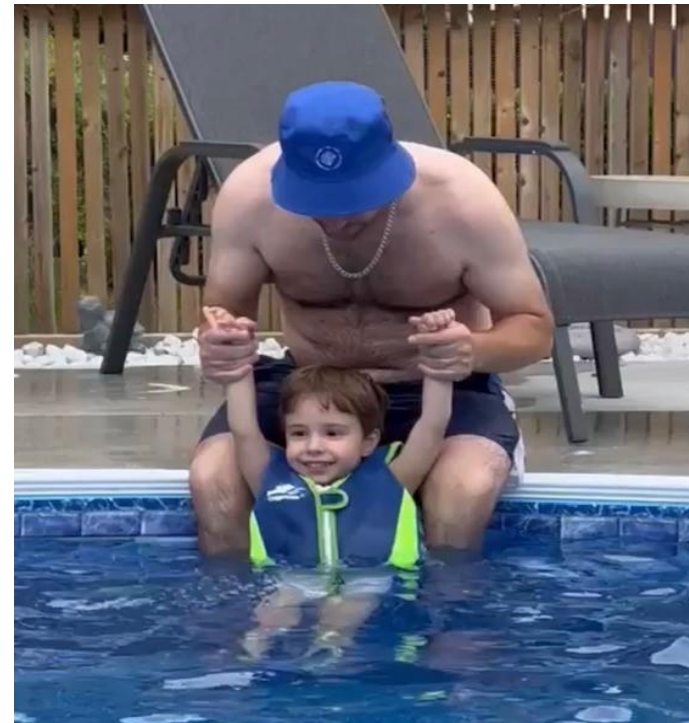
HIGHLIGHTS from the *Now is the Time* paper!

- ▶ Having as many TYPICAL opportunities as possible with home, work, leisure, and volunteering in the places and spaces where ALL citizens go.
- ▶ Having ways for people to be supported with their decisions.
- ▶ Having 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 of planning when a disability is first identified and continuing that planning throughout the individual's lifetime.***

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



Moving Forward - Can We Listen Differently

What the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO) is doing:

- *Listening to people, families, trusted others and allies* who want individualized funding, supportive infrastructures and who have the experience of what works and what doesn't.
- *Continuing with strategic planning and identification of priorities:* determining best use of time and energy; strengthening partnerships with those who hold similar values & vision; and most importantly holding gatherings with people, families, and allies.
- *Actively volunteering our time and working with others where it can make a difference.* Some examples: working with the Resources and Capabilities Committee of CLO on framework design, and engaging in mutual efforts with long-time allies.

What people, families and allies are saying (Note: those who want individualized funding, not everyone does)

- *Create an authentic and user-friendly individualized funding approach* with people and families/trusted others, and where those who want self-determination and individualized funding have the opportunity to live their lives like other typical citizens.
- *Make changes to the current functions that have been identified as barriers.* Consider the knowledge gained over the years in Ontario about what hasn't worked (through the eyes of people and families).
- *Use the knowledge and experience in Ontario about what has worked:* those individualized funding approaches and infrastructures spanning 3 decades that have broadly demonstrated good outcomes.
- *Leave the traditional system the way it is to develop and evolve over time. Commit to a parallel system with different features* for those who would choose individualized funding.
- *Start designing with those who have the lived experience - people, families/trusted others, and independent facilitators, agencies and grassroots orgs who have created processes together in the past.*
- *Separate the different functions in the system.* Recognizing there is value for each role/function in the system, and ensuring strong third party independent brokering / facilitation / planning is in place.
- *Make a commitment to investing in an entirely new framework with different features that is designed to truly serve people and families.* If using prototypes, ensure they are not designed as 'functions under-one-roof' models.



Quotes from *Now is the Time*
followed by links to the paper
and other information by IFCO.

International research and our Ontario experiences

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 (IFCO):

<https://individualizedfunding.ca/>

Now is the Time paper:

Use this link to download the IFCO paper Now is the Time

Learn more about individualized funding with this PowerPoint:

‘About Individualized Funding-Fall 2021’.pdf

A Walk Through Some History, PPT - May 2021

Click here to download ‘A Walk Through Some History’.

What 24 Years of Experience from Around the World is Telling Us, PPT - May 2021

Click here to download ‘What 24 Years of Experience...’

Legal Capacity and Supported Decision-Making:

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

