



Deafblind and Sensory  
Support Network of Canada

Réseau canadien de soutien à la  
surdicécité et troubles sensoriels

# **Children's Intervenor Services Funding Program Guidelines and Application**

**Effective March 2023**

## Overview

Sensity believes in a world embracing human connections and diversity. This vision encompasses children in the province of Ontario who require Intervenor Services outside of the school setting. We are happy to be able to offer funding that promotes social activities and opportunities.

Sensity's Children's Intervenor Services program is designed to assist children who are deafblind to be involved in their communities with the support of Intervenor services. The funding is also intended to support family caregivers with training opportunities related to deafblindness, as well as with the costs associated with assessment or consultation related to the condition of deafblindness. The program is also designed to assist with costs that may be associated with the Intervenor.

The key **goals** of the program are to:

- Foster communication to support ongoing development, community participation and social activities.
- Promote social inclusion through the support of an Intervenor.
- Support families and caregivers with intervenor services so they can continue in a supportive role.
- Increase training opportunities for those supporting the individual with deafblindness.

## Eligibility

- Children who from the age of identification to 21 years of age and enrolled in an educational program are eligible for the program.
- The application must also be accompanied by a functional deafblind assessment that has been completed by a specialist specifically trained in deafblindness.
- The application must also be accompanied by reports, not older than 5 years, from an audiologist and an ophthalmologist.
- Children living in group homes or supported by other agencies are **ineligible** for this program.
- Family members are **ineligible** to be paid for the provision of Intervenor Services or Respite Services.

Individuals can download an application from: [www.sensity.ca](http://www.sensity.ca) or contact Sensity at 1-519-442-0463. *Applications received after the deadline will be ineligible for the program.*

## Expenses

### Allowable Expenses

- Intervenor Services
- Intervenor admissions to recreation, social, leisure, fitness or community events
- Program fees, camp fees
- Parent or caregiver training related to deafblindness
- Intervenor training
- Assessments related to the deafblindness
- Respite programs
- Sensory items that enhance gross motor skills and/or stimulate the sense of touch
- Computer/tablet **one time** (over lifetime of funding eligibility) allowable expense **\*this expense requires pre-approval\***

### Ineligible Expenses

- Equipment funding
- Mobility devices
- Respite provided by family members
- Travel expenses
- Daycare
- Indirect support (e.g., cleaning, meal preparation, care of other family members, snow removal)
- Post-secondary tuition and expenses

## Application Process

### Funding Period

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

- All Applications must be received by the Sensity office no later than April 14, 2023.
- Applications will be accepted by email or mail.
- Applications must not exceed \$1500 annually.
- All applicants will receive a response to their request by May 15, 2023.
- Funding approvals will be based on the number of applications and the amount of available resources.
- Incomplete applications that do not contain all of the required documentation cannot be processed.
- Expenses cannot be incurred before April 1, 2023.

### Deafblind Assessment

The deafblind functional assessment must be completed by the assessment team from W. Ross Macdonald School Deafblind Resource Services, Centre Jules Leger Deafblind Resource Services or a specialist in deafblindness.

### Vision Report

The vision report must be completed by a registered ophthalmologist or optometrist. The report must be less than 5 years old. If a vision report is not available because testing was inconclusive there must be documentation from the practitioner to support this.

### Audiologist Report

The audiology report must be completed by a registered audiologist. The report must be less than 5 years old. If an audiology report is not available because testing was inconclusive there must be documentation from the practitioner to support this.