

Ontario Works Program



Conseil des Services du District de
Manitoulin-Sudbury
District Services Board

Ontario Works

To be eligible for Ontario Works, an applicant must be:

- a resident of Ontario;
- in immediate financial need; and
- willing to participate in employment assistance activities.

The amount of money that someone receives from Ontario Works varies depending upon housing costs and family size. Clients may also be eligible for drug and dental coverage, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and community and employment start-up benefits.



Average Annual Ontario Works Caseload for Manitoulin-Sudbury District from 2000 - 2009

Average Annual Ontario Works Caseload from 2000 to 2009



Employment and Training Services

Ontario Works provides a number of services that assist participants to find employment. These services include:

- Workshops on various topics specific to job readiness;
- Referrals to job counseling, training or education;
- Access to telephones, faxes, computers and job banks;
- Information on who is hiring.



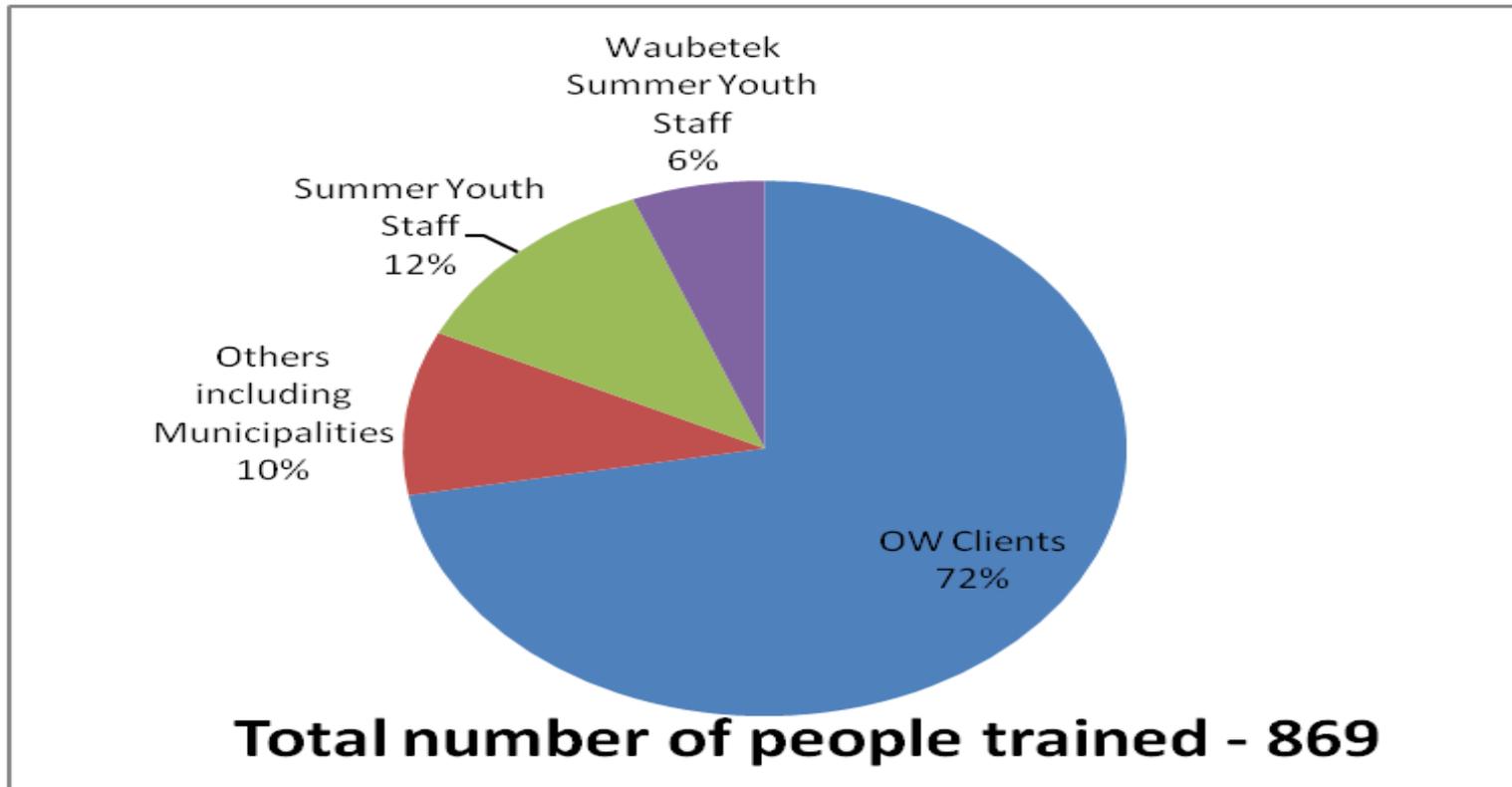
Job Specific Skills Training offered by DSSAB

- Emergency First Aid
- First Aid/CPR
- WHMIS
- Chainsaw Certification
- Smart Serve
- True Colors
- Boater Safety
- Team Excellence
- Service Excellence
- Automated External Defibrillation Course
- The Poverty Game
- Safe Food Handling
- Traffic Protection Training
- Communication Excellence
- Overcoming Negativity
- Ethical Excellence



Job Specific Skills Training

All job specific skills training workshops are available to municipalities and their staff.



Creativity

- Considering the vast geography that the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB covers, transportation is often difficult for Ontario Works clients in attending any training or upgrading/educational classes.
- The DSSAB currently has 7 vans that are being utilized to transport our clients from their homes to their classes overcoming that barrier.



Summer Jobs for Youth Program 2009

Funded Youth Placements	40
Youth who Applied to Program	72
Employers Applying for Placements	36
Job Orders Received from Employers	103
Youth Actually Placed	55
F/T Placements	54
P/T Placements	1
Youth Completing Placements	51



Employment Ontario

- In August 2010, our DSSAB office in Chapleau will be considered a 'one stop shop' in the delivery of the new employment services.
- The new employment service model focuses on 5 components:
 - Client Service Planning and Coordination
 - Resource and Information
 - Job Search
 - Job Matching and Placement
 - Job/Training Retention



Integration

When walking through the doors of any of our Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB offices, whether it be in Chapleau or Espanola, the client can apply for Ontario Works, Child Care Subsidy or Subsidized Housing as our front line staff are all trained in providing various services.



Eligibility Review Officer and Family Support Worker

The Eligibility Review Officer ensures that an entitlement is being received in accordance with the Ontario Works legislation. Investigations are conducted when allegations of fraud are received by Manitoulin-Sudbury DSSAB.

The Family Support Worker assists the clients in their efforts to obtain child and spousal support, either by negotiating private agreements or by guiding them through the family court system; this represents a savings in the amount of Ontario Works paid out.



Our Kids Count Program

The Our Kids Count Program is a Social Assistance Reinvestment program that assists all low-income families by:

- Supporting parents on social assistance as they move into employment with improved access to essential benefits and services for their children;
- Providing much needed support to parents who are employed in low-income jobs to stay employed.

In the long term, child poverty will be reduced if parents on social assistance enter the workforce and remain in it.



Our Kids Count Program

The program is comprised of 3 separate components:

1. **Recreational Bursaries**
 - Maximum of \$500 per child/year
 - Children ages 0 to 12

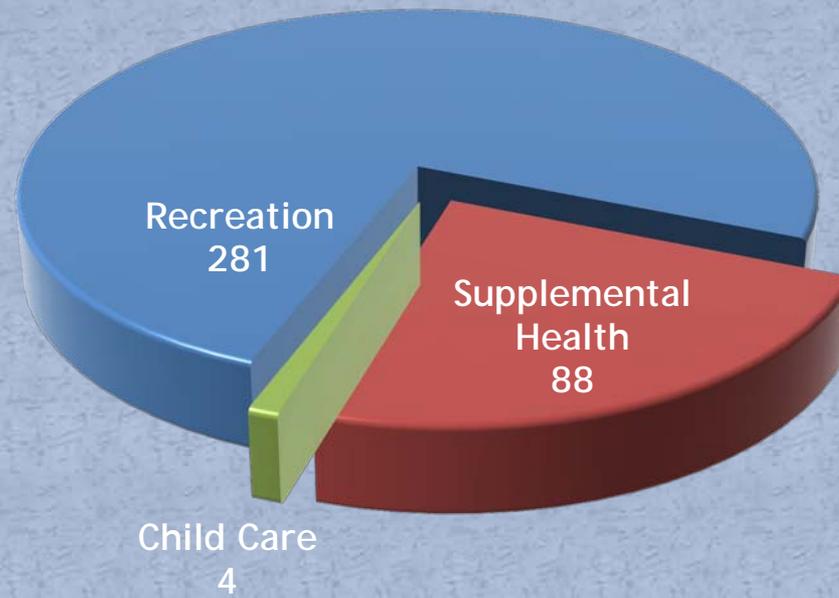
2. **Early Childhood services & Supplementary Health Benefits**
 - Maximum of \$500 per child/year
 - Children ages 0 to 12

3. **Informal Child Care Subsidies**
 - To support parents as they move from social assistance to employment in areas where licensed childcare is not available in our catchment area.



Our Kids Count

Total Number of Children who Received Benefits from Each Our Kids Count Program across the Manitoulin-Sudbury District 2009



Healthy Communities Fund

- The Healthy Communities Fund is intended to provide short-term one-time assistance.
- Eligibility for the program will be limited to one issuance within a 24-month period.
- Eligibility for these benefits will be based on the most recent Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) for the appropriate family size published by the Canadian Council on Social Development.
- Families in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program automatically qualify.



Healthy Communities Fund

The program is comprised of 3 separate components:

1. Homelessness Funding

- Transportation to shelter/family/friends
- Transportation for securing employment for non-OW clients
- Moving costs for non-OW clients
- Permanent Residence start-up for non-OW clients
- Emergency repairs to permanent housing

2. Rent Bank

- Payment of rental arrears
- Household income must be below income limits as set periodically by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

3. Emergency Energy Assistance

- Electricity Arrears (natural gas, oil, other forms of energy)
- Security deposits
- Reconnection fees



Direct Shelter Subsidy

The Direct Shelter Subsidy Program is available to households that are Social Housing Reform Act eligible, in that the applicants need to meet our financial Household Income Limit criteria.

This program is directed to active Ontario Works clients who are on the DSSAB Housing waiting list.

To be eligible for the Direct Shelter Subsidy Program, applicants cannot:

- Owe rental arrears money to this DSSAB
- Include a residence where the applicant is an owner of the property



Direct Shelter Subsidy

The DSS provided will be calculated by determining the difference between the Ontario Works shelter maximum and the total actual shelter costs paid by the applicant on a monthly basis.

The maximum benefit payable is \$200 per month per Ontario Works Benefit Unit.

With this program, we assisted a total of 77 families.



Questions?



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