

## OKANAGAN INCLUSION

### SCOPE OF SERVICES

**Main Site:** Okanagan Inclusion, 527 Main Street, Penticton, BC

Services provided here: 1:1 Community Inclusion, Employment, Supported Living, Home share and respite applications/meetings.

**Keremeos Community Options:** 427 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Keremeos, BC

Services provided: 1:1 and group Community Inclusion

#### **Community Inclusion Services**

Okanagan Inclusion provides community inclusion services to the Penticton area. This program gives participants the opportunity to learn through life experiences while providing needed supports.

Our Community Inclusion program provides individuals with volunteer, recreational, and social opportunities. Individuals make choices about what they want to participate in so that they may achieve their personal goals.

We take time to discover the strengths, preferences and skills of the individuals we serve. This helps us tailor our services to create unique programs that meet the needs of each individual.

Individuals who participate in our Community Inclusion program:

- Life skills development promoting independence
- join in recreational activities and educational classes
- develop friendships
- get involved in their communities
- utilizing generic community resources, programs and services

Support services are typically provided during the week Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 – 5:00 pm. The service is designed to be flexible and some individuals, based on individual need may include support services after 5:00 pm and on weekends. Supports may be provided at the OI program sites, in the community and/or the individual's home.

The number of support hours allocated and frequency of service may vary from once a week to five times a week dependent of individual needs for support and contract funding levels from Community Living BC. The program does not charge

#### **Participation criteria**

Individuals may participate if they:

- are 18 years or older

- reside in the South Okanagan
- have a developmental disability
- want to participate in community activities e.g., recreation, volunteer, social and life skills
- require support to participate in community activities
- are eligible for various types of [Community Living BC](#) funding

### **Referral process**

People may be referred by [Community Living BC](#) or they may request to participate themselves.

### **Employment Services**

Okanagan Inclusion Employment Services responds to the desire of individuals living with a developmental disability to pursue employment as a means to full inclusion in our community. At the same time, the program also addresses employers' growing demand for qualified, reliable employees by providing creative employment solutions, candidate screening and one-to-one support through the hiring and training process.

Employers who choose to hire an individual with a developmental disability demonstrate their commitment to our community and to diversity in the workplace. They benefit by hiring an enthusiastic individual who is capable and dependable. OI Employment Services helps employers identify opportunities for improved efficiency and employee retention and matches specific needs with individuals who are willing and able to work.

Individuals who wish to become employed identify the types of work that they find of interest, and OI's Job Developer surveys the local labour market for suitable employment opportunities. OI staff also look for possibilities to "job carve" specific responsibilities from an existing position or multiple positions in order to create a suitable employment opportunity for the individual. Once an employment opportunity is found, OI's job developer supports the individual through the application, interview, orientation and training process. OI staff continue to liaise with the employee, the employer and his/her business to ensure long-term success.

Support services are typically provided during the week Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 – 5:00 pm. The service is designed to be flexible and some individuals, based on individual need may include support services after 5:00 pm and on weekends. Supports will be provided both at the OI program sites and at the employment sites.

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Individuals may participate if they:

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- have a developmental disability
- want to participate in community activities e.g., recreation, volunteer, social and life skills
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### **Referral process**

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### **Supported Living**

Supported living is an independent living options for people who want to live independently in their own home, but still need some help with daily living. Support staff assist individuals in their home and in the community with things like banking, medical appointments and cooking healthy meals, etc. Supported Living is possible for a wide range of individuals with different support requirements, as long as the person has the desire to live more independently and make choices for themselves.

Support services are typically provided during the week Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 – 5:00 pm. The service is designed to be flexible and some individuals, based on individual need may include support services after 5:00 pm and on weekends. Supports will be provided both at the OI program sites and at the individual's home as required.

### **Participation criteria**

Individuals may participate if they:

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- reside in the South Okanagan
- have a developmental disability
- want to participate in community activities e.g., recreation, volunteer, social and life skills
- require support to participate in community activities
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### **Referral process**

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### **Shared Living Services**

Shared Living (Home Share) is a residential service which provides individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose a living arrangement that is specifically designed to meet their needs and lifestyle preferences. Homes may be owned, rented or leased by the Shared Living provider or by the individual receiving support. In some situations, the Home Share provider's family lives in the home. In others, the Home Share provider and the supported individual live together as roommates in a cooperative relationship.

The individuals within the home share not only their living space, but also their lives. In some homes the members of the household spend significant amounts of time together and are actively involved in one another's daily activities. In other situations, the home sharing arrangement is characterized by more independent relationships.

People are happiest when they feel valued and are a contributing member of their household. Home Sharing increases opportunities for people to establish natural relationships and social connections within their community.

Individuals tend to choose this option because it provides an ideal balance of support and independence. The program is person-centered in that it allows individuals to select a Home Share provider and home environment that meet their unique goals and preferences. Support is flexible and evolves according to the changing needs of the individual. For some, Home Share is a stepping stone to even greater independence. For others, it is an arrangement that will last for many years.

Home share contractors complete a lengthy application and screening process prior to being approved as an OI provider. Ongoing monitoring and screening is completed throughout the duration of the contract.

Support services are provided 24 hours per day/ 7 days per week with an additional 24 hour emergency on-call system.

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- require support to participate in community activities
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### **Referral process**

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### **Respite Services**

Respite Services provides short-term relief and support services to primary caregivers of adults with intellectual disabilities and families of children with intellectual and/or physical disabilities residing in the South & Central Okanagan. Respite can be provided for a few hours, a day, a weekend or a week. It may be provided on an occasional or on a regular basis. Services may be provided in the individual's home or the respite provider's home.

Contracted respite providers go through a screening process similar to that of our home share providers.

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Individuals may participate if they:

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- require support to participate in community activities
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### **Referral process**

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### **For all program areas (with the exception of Home share & Respite)**

If individuals are self-referred and choose to pay themselves, rates will be based on the per hour rate paid by CLBC.

**All agency services are voluntary and participants may refuse service at any time.**