

What is Community Living Chatham-Kent?

Community Living Chatham-Kent is a non-profit charitable organization that provides supports and services to more than 550 people who have an intellectual disability and their families in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. Community Living Chatham-Kent employs 270 people and has been in existence for 63 years.

An intellectual disability is a prominent learning impairment that may cause a person to have difficulty adapting to the demands of everyday life. With appropriate support and services based on individual desires and needs, people who have an intellectual disability can live and contribute in the community.

Our goal is that all persons live in a state of dignity, share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively. Community Living's mandate is to promote inclusion of all people in the community.

How Did Community Living Chatham-Kent Begin?

In 1955, there were limited options for people who had intellectual disabilities. Parents who wanted their sons and daughters to have a valued and contributing life within their community recognized the need for services. In 1955, they came together as the true visionaries of Community Living and created the organization.

Over the years, the name and the supports have changed but the original goal of full participation in the community has remained.

What Services Do We Offer?

- **Planning** – Assists people who have an intellectual disability and their families to coordinate services and develop short and long-term plans to meet their needs and goals.
- **Respite Services** – Provides out-of-home respite for people who live at home with their family. Services are provided in two home-like settings, one for children and one for adults.
- **Community Supports** – Provides support for people living on their own or with their family. Services are based on individual needs and are designed to enhance independence and quality of life.
- **People Make A Community** – An activity-based program that operates in Ridgetown and Tilbury, to build each community's capacity to support people within their own community. A volunteer committee coordinates activities in each centre.
- **Making It Happen** – Provides outcome-based supports to young adults in transition from school to life in the community. People must be between the ages of 18-28. Individualized supports are developed based on intensive goal-setting and planning designed to build connections to natural support networks.

➤ *Supported Accommodation*

- Provides 24-hour support to assist people to live successfully in their own home. Supports for daily living are designed to enhance independence and make connections to community resources. Assists people to develop social capital with supports based on their needs and preferences.
- Supports are offered in an apartment complex based on people's needs and preferences.

Employment Supports and Day Programs

- **JOBWORX** – Provides training, job development, and coaching to assist people to obtain and maintain competitive employment. We are an approved service provider for ODSP-Employment Services.
- **Library Café** – Provides supported employment operating a café at the main branch of the Chatham-Kent Public Library.
- **School-to-Work Transitions** – Provides pre-employment coaching and training including assisted cooperative placements and summer job placements for secondary school students.
- **Park Ave. Day Program** – This is a voluntary program that provides the opportunity for people to develop social capital, to participate in activities of daily living, and hone their personal development, in an environment that supports the acquisition of employable aptitudes and traits.
- **Day Programs** – Leisure-based programs offering personal care, support and activities daily (Monday to Friday)
- **Host Family** – Provides accommodation within a family structure, enhancing natural supports care, and ensuring welfare, safety and security.

Other Services

- **Volunteer Services** – Provides connections and resources to people and the agency by recruiting and nurturing volunteers. Our focus is to create opportunities which encourage a culture of volunteerism. We match volunteer talents and interests with the needs of the people we provide services for. The volunteers bring many resources and experiences enriching the lives of people who have an intellectual disability.

How Are We Funded?

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services provides approximately 90% of our funding. The remaining revenue is generated through donations, fundraising, fees, and grants.

We benefit from strong partnerships with the public, businesses, volunteers, social service agencies, health services, and all levels of government.