

FAQ: Support Worker (Youth Programs)

Q: Who is a Support Worker?

A: A Support Worker is an individual who supports a youth on a 1:1 level at any youth program. Support workers are chosen by the family. If a family does not have a support worker, they can register on www.supportyourway.ca to be connected with support workers in their area. The Empower Simcoe youth programs provide supports at 1:4 or 1:5 ratios at our Youth In Action and Youth Retreat Programs.

Q: Does my son/daughter need a Support Worker?

A: Support Workers are put in place when a youth needs support outside of a 1:4 or 1:5 ratio provided by Empower Simcoe. We reserve the right to determine 1:1 support needs for a youth participating in programs.

Q: Who is a Support Worker hired by?

A: A Support Worker is hired by the youth's family/guardian to provide 1:1 support to the youth.

Q: What are the Support Worker requirements?

A: In order for a family-employed Support Worker to accompany your youth to an event, that Support Worker must either:

1. Submit a Criminal Reference Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening that has been completed within the last 90 days from the time of submission, OR
2. Must be registered and active with the Simcoe CHAP program on www.supportyourway.ca

Q: What is the CHAP program?

A: The CHAP (Community Helper for Active Participation) is a program where support workers can advertise their services to families. The CHAP must complete a registration process through supportyourway.ca. For more information on CHAP please contact:

Carolyn Harris,
Respite Coordinator
705-726-9082 extension 2259
charris@empowersimcoe.ca

Q: Will my son/daughter be able to attend without a Support Worker?

A: If your son/daughter's support needs fall outside of the 1:4 or 1:5 ratios offered by Empower Simcoe then the family will be required to hire a Support Worker in order for your youth to attend.

Q: If my son/daughter needs a Support Worker but I am unable to find a suitable worker or do not have the requirements in on time will he/she be able to attend?

A: No, any youth who requires a Support Worker must ensure that the Support Worker fulfills the requirements prior to or on the first day of the program.

Q: Will my son/daughter be supported by another youth's Support Worker?

A: No, Support Workers attend only to the youth they are hired to support. All youth who do not attend with a Support Worker will be supported by the hired Empower Simcoe staff.

Q: Will my son/daughter's Support Worker be supporting any other youth?

A: No, Support Workers hired by families are only supporting the youth they were hired to support.

Q: Who do I contact if I need more information about Support Worker requirements?

A: Please contact one of the Youth Workers for more information:

Graham Neville
Youth Program Leader, Orillia
705-327-5391 extension 3266
gneville@empowersimcoe.ca

Rebecca McManee
Youth Program Leader, Barrie
705-726-9082 extension 2911
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