

COMMUNICATION REMEDIATION for COMMUNITY LIVING (CRCL)

CRCL is an Ottawa-based initiative that is creating a new communication remediation program for adults (18+ yrs) with significant disabilities.

Target Client Group:

Verbal and non-verbal adults with moderate to severe communication deficits (verbal &/or written) who require communication remediation for everyday living - including language, early literacy and numeracy, or augmentative & alternative communication (AAC). These persons would typically be diagnosed with (but not limited to) DD, ASD or FAS.

Mission Statement:

To create an effective communication remediation program for verbal and non-verbal adults that have moderate to severe communication deficits (verbal & written)

Vision Statement:

Verbal and non-verbal adults that have maximized their communication skills to better realize their full potential and participate in the community

Program Model:

- Designed to serve the practical communication remediation needs of a wide range of learners while balancing effectiveness and affordability
- A community & centre-based program, largely person-focused, that uses Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) modified to reduce costs - with a 1:3 staff to client ratio and 45 minutes per session of intensive 1-on-1 Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI)
- Committed to effectiveness - including direct & frequent measurements of learner skills and adjustments of teaching techniques to ensure that the learner is progressing
- Part-time (3-hour sessions), such that participants continue their regular activities (e.g. work, school, day programs), with an optional number of weekly sessions (3, 4 or 5 sessions per week per learner) to suit different budgets & circumstances
- Optional training for family members, workers or agency staff who support the learner

The Program will:

- Address a major gap in service - there is no similar program in Ottawa
- Be of particular benefit to those transitioning from high school
- Be a fee for service program that is consistent, in whole or in part, with the supports funded by MCSS (i.e. eligible for self-directed funding such as Passport and SSAH)
- Aim to make the program as affordable as possible by seeking funding from the Ontario government (MTCU, MCSS or MOHLTC) &/or community foundations
- Be of particular interest to many families and all funders given the commitment to effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, and the built-in accountability provided by the ongoing tracking of specific outcomes concerning each learner's progress
- Support the mandate of other service providers involved with a CRCL learner by helping him/her to improve his/her communication skills with service provider staff
- Support new research concerning ABA for adult learners
- Preferably be delivered by or in partnership with an existing service provider

To obtain additional information, please write to icommunicate@rogers.com.