If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-866-247-0055



# Durham Region Transit (DRT) Specialized Services

### **Specialized Services Application and Information Package**

You are applying for a service that uses specialized and conventional transit services to deliver a trip from one accessible door to another.

## **Section A: Specialized Services Information**

**Section A** must be read and each page initialed by the applicant. By initialing the bottom of the page, the applicant acknowledges that the information outlined has been read and understood.

Applicant Information Page must be completed by the applicant or designate and contains
personal information and direction on which sections of the application are applicable.

**Section B** must be completed by the applicant or designate and contains questions about the applicant's everyday mobility and ability to use conventional bus services.

**Section C** must be completed by the applicant's registered health care professional. The health care professional completing the application must have the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgement to evaluate the specific abilities of the applicant (the health care professional must also complete Section D, Part 2 if applicable).

**Section D: Service Agreement for Day Programs** must be completed by the applicant, the applicant's health care professional and a day program representative, **only** when an applicant attends an approved day program within the Region of Durham and is requesting to waive the requirement for a Personal Care Attendant for these trips.

## **Completed Applications:**

Completed applications may be sent by mail or fax to:

Durham Region Transit ATTN: Eligibility Office

110 Westney Road South, Ajax, ON, L1S 2C8

Fax: 905-619-9693

All applicable sections of the application must be filled out completely. If the application is not complete, or further explanation is required, the application will be returned to the applicant.

Specialized Services will review your application within 14 days of receipt of a completed application. Durham Region Transit will confirm eligibility by mail.

Applicants are required to attend an in-person interview and/or assessment unless otherwise advised by Specialized Services. Interviews and assessments are conducted at the Eligibility Office located at 110 Westney Road South, Ajax, Ontario or 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario.

For further information or assistance with the application process, please call 1-866-247-0055 to speak with a representative from the eligibility office.

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## What is specialized transit?

- Provides door-to-door, shared-ride (multiple customers), accessible public transit service that
  uses specialized and conventional transit services to complete trips.
- Door-to-door trips provide transportation from the first accessible door at pick up to the first accessible door at final drop off. **Transfers between accessible vehicles may occur**.
- Door-to-door service is NOT a direct ride.

### How is a specialized transit trip delivered?

- **1.** A Specialized Services vehicle or contracted provider (accessible van or sedan) will pick up a customer at the door of their place of origin (e.g. at home).
- **2.** The customer will be taken to an accessible bus stop with a shelter, bench seating and a concrete pad. The waiting time at a bus shelter is **less than ten minutes**.
- **3.** The customer then transfers to a conventional bus that will take them to a bus shelter as close as possible to the intended destination. A maximum of **one** conventional vehicle will be used on a specialized transit trip.
- **4.** Another Specialized Services vehicle or contracted provider will pick up the customer at the bus shelter and bring them to the accessible building entrance at their destination.

All trips are planned by Specialized Services staff. Customers are not required to look at any schedules or route maps. Specialized Services staff will provide customers with clear instructions about what to expect while travelling.

# **Eligibility for Specialized Services:**

An applicant may be eligible for specialized transportation services if the person has a disability that prevents them from using conventional service for all or part of a trip. Disabilities may be short-term or long-term and may include physical, cognitive or sensory conditions. Disability alone does not create eligibility; the eligibility decision is based on the applicant's functional ability to use conventional transit.

An applicant may not be eligible for Specialized Services if they have the ability to access and use the accessible conventional services, or if they are required to travel with a Personal Care Attendant and are able to use conventional services with their attendant.

# Eligibility is NOT based on:

- A particular disability
- Income level
- Age
- Lack of public transit in an applicant's area
- Solely the recommendation of a health care provider
- Reluctance or unwillingness to use regular public transit
- Finding regular public transit more difficult to use

### **Eligibility categories:**

The Integrated Accessibility Standard (Ont Reg. 191/11) and *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, 2005 (AODA) specifies three categories of eligibility for specialized services:

### 1. Unconditional Eligibility:

A person with a disability that prevents them from using conventional transportation services.

### 2. Temporary Eligibility:

A person with a temporary disability that prevents them from using conventional transportation services.

### 3. Conditional Eligibility:

A person with a disability where environmental or physical barriers limit their ability to consistently use conventional transportation services.

### The operator of a Specialized Service vehicle will NOT:

- Unlock or go through the door at the origin or destination (such as customer's home).
- Wait for someone to receive or arrive to open the door when dropping off the customer at their destination.
- Provide attendant support or supervision to customers (see Personal Care Attendant).
- Provide assistance that may jeopardize the health and safety of the operator.

### The customer using Specialized Services is required to:

- Use and wear seatbelts when available on the vehicle.
- Be ready within the 20 minute pick-up window provided by dispatch staff.
- Have the ability to travel on a vehicle for 1.5 hours or longer.
- Travel with several other passengers on a shared-ride trip.

#### **Conventional service:**

Durham Region Transit (DRT) provides conventional transit services through a combination of scheduled fixed-route and On Demand transit services. The network uses AODA compliant transit buses supported by accessible infrastructure, enabling passengers the flexibility and independence to travel throughout the Region. Conventional transit buses are equipped with these five accessible features:

- 1. "Kneel" feature lowers the bus level with curb for easy boarding/exiting.
- 2. Front door access ramps for easy boarding and exiting (there are no steps).
- **3.** Two designated mobility aid (e.g. wheelchair) securement areas.
- **4.** Auditory and visual next stop announcements inside the vehicle, and external announcements.
- **5.** Priority seating at the front of the bus for passengers who require a seat.

#### **Personal Care Attendant:**

If an applicant does not have the ability to use public transit independently, then a Personal Care Attendant must accompany them on all trips when using Specialized Services.

The Personal Care Attendant is provided by the applicant and must be an adult capable of meeting the applicant's care needs to ensure safety throughout an entire trip, regardless of the origin or destination.

### In order to travel unaccompanied, the applicant must have the ability to independently:

- Provide valid fare
- Recognize their destination
- Inform the operator if they are about to be dropped off at the wrong location
- Communicate name, address and phone number
- Get help if they are dropped off at the wrong location
- Maneuver their mobility aid/walk unassisted
- Address personal/medical issues/situations
- Be safely left unattended
- Follow instructions to safely complete transit trip (such as recognizing/boarding the correct vehicle and transferring between vehicles)

# In order to travel unaccompanied, the applicant is NOT likely to engage in any of the following behaviours:

- · Exiting the vehicle and wandering
- · Causing harm to self or others
- Making verbal or physical threats
- Being disruptive to other passengers or the vehicle operator

The Support Person Assistance Card allows a Personal Care Attendant to travel with the customer on conventional and/or Specialized Services vehicles free of charge.

# **Mobility aids:**

The maximum size for a mobility aid (wheelchair or scooter) that can be accommodated on a DRT conventional or Specialized Service vehicle is as follows.

- 76 centimeters (30 inches) wide.
- 123 centimeters (48 inches) long.
- Maximum combined weight of mobility aid and occupant is 272 kilograms (600 pounds).

All wheelchairs and scooters must be in good working condition in order to be transported. Scooters must have a lap belt. Wheelchairs must have a lap belt and footrests.

# **Section A: Applicant Information Page**

This page must be completed by	the applicant or	designate.	
Date Prepared	□New Application □Renewal Application		
Personal information			
Please print clearly			
First Name:	Last Name:		
Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year): _		Gender:	
Address:		Apt/Unit#:	
City:	Province: _	Postal Code:	
Telephone: Home:	Cell:	Work:	
Email address			
Mailing address			
Please provide the mailing address from the personal information pro	=	e all Specialized Services mail sent to if it is different	
Name:			
Address:		Apt/Unit#:	
City:	Province: _	Postal Code:	
Emergency contact inform	ation		
Name (Primary Contact):		Name (Secondary Contact):	
Relationship to Applicant:		Relationship to Applicant:	
Phone:		Phone:	
Authorize a representative			
Please provide the contact details communicate with regarding the	•	erson that you authorize Specialized Services to in the application.	
Name:		Relationship:	
Telephone: Home:	Cell:	Work:	
Email Address:			

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# Section A: Application Information and Direction Page

**Section D: Service Agreement for Day Programs** must **only** be completed by an applicant who attends an approved day program within the boundaries of Durham Region and is requesting to waive the requirement of a Personal Care Attendant for trips to and from their approved day program only.

An approved day program is a non-medical adult day service which provides care to individuals with cognitive impairments.

Whic	n sections require completion?
	Are you attending an approved day program <b>(as described above)</b> ? □ Yes □ No
	If no, complete Section B and C only
	Are you planning on using Specialized Services for trips to an approved day program <b>only</b> ? □ Yes □ No
	If yes, skip to Section D and complete
	Are you planning on using Specialized Services for trips to an approved day program <b>and</b> for trips to other destinations?
	□ Yes □ No
	If yes, complete Section B, C and D

Personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended, and in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Personal Health Protection Act, 2004, and will be used solely to determine eligibility for specialized transit services offered by the Region of Durham, and may also be used by DRT to contact you in the event of a general emergency, health or otherwise or declaration of a State of Emergency where it may become necessary to contact you directly to provide information to assist you. Any questions concerning this collection can be directed to the eligibility office, DRT Specialized Services.

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## **Section B: For Completion by Applicant or Designate**

### **Information About Your Mobility and Assistive Devices**

4. Do you travel with a guide dog or other service animal?

☐ Yes ☐ No

1. Please identify any disability conditions (listed below) that affect your ability to travel on conventional transit. Explain in detail how and why this disability condition affects your ability to use conventional transit. □ Physical: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Sensory: ☐ Mental Health: □ Cognitive: □ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When was the last time you travelled on Durham Region Transit conventional service? \_\_\_\_\_ (please enter as month/year) 3. Which of the following assistive devices would you need to use when traveling on **Specialized Services?** ☐ Cane ☐ Prosthesis ☐ Manual Wheelchair ☐ Portable Oxygen ☐ Walker ☐ White/Red Cane ☐ Power Wheelchair □ Crutches ☐ Power Scooter ☐ Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_ If you use a mobility aid, provide its outside dimensions (in inches or centimeters): Width: Length Combined weight of applicant and mobility aid: ☐ Less than 600lbs ☐ More than 600lbs If you use a mobility aid, does your home have a ramp or lift? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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# Information about your abilities

Answers should be based on how you feel most of the time, under normal circumstances, and whether you can perform the activity by yourself, without assistance. For each question, provide one answer only unless otherwise noted.

<ul> <li>□ I am able to independently walk or roll up to half a city block.</li> <li>□ I am able to independently walk or roll up to one city block.</li> </ul>
$\square$ I am able to independently walk or roll <b>up to two</b> city blocks.
$\square$ I am able to independently walk or roll <b>more than two</b> city blocks.
$\square$ I am only able to travel outdoors with an attendant or support person.
☐ I am not able to travel outdoors ( <b>please explain</b> )
6. Can you independently cross the street at an intersection (using your mobility aid if applicable)?
□ Yes □ No
If no, please explain:
7. When connecting between public transit vehicles, are you able to wait for up to ten minutes at a location with a shelter and seating?
□ Yes □ No
If no, please explain:
8. Can you safely get on and off a wheelchair accessible conventional bus (there are no stairs)?
□ Yes □ No
If no, please explain:

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9. I am able to independent	y: (check all that apply)		
a) ☐ Recognize my destina	ation.		
,	, , ,	with an augmentative device, in writing am about to be dropped off at the wrong	
c) □ Get help if I was dropp	ped off at the wrong location		
is away from the vehicle	<ul> <li>d) □ Be safely left unattended on the vehicle with other customers when the vehicle operator is away from the vehicle (e.g. I am not at risk of exiting the vehicle and wandering).</li> <li>e) □ Maneuver my mobility aid (if I currently have one) to travel to and from the vehicle.</li> </ul>		
	l or medical issues/ situations		
<b>g)</b> □ Provide a valid fare (d media).	lepositing cash fare/ validatir	ng through PRESTO or other DRT fare	
Signature of applicant			
be required to determine eligibility	on of facts will be cause for or diditional information relating r. I hereby consent to the tran		
Applicant's Signature:	Date:		
If someone other than the application	cant is preparing this form	, please provide the following:	
Name:	Relations	ship:	
Address:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Telephone Home:	Work:	Cell:	
Preparer's Signature:	Date:		
Application Checklist			
Before submitting your application  ☐ Read and understood S  ☐ Initialed each page in S	Section A		
☐ Fully completed the Ap	plicant Information Page in S	Section A	
☐ Checked that your heal D, Part 2 if applicable)	lth care professional has con	npleted Section C in full (and Section	
		quired individuals (if applicable)	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	he entire application for your		
applicant. This will delay the rev	• •	cessed and will be returned to the	

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## **Section C: For Completion by Health Care Professional**

**Section C** is to be completed by a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse (RN/RPN), physiotherapist, occupational therapist or kinesiologist. The health care professional completing the application must have the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment to evaluate the specific abilities of the applicant.

### Please read Section A before completing this section.

You are being asked by the applicant named in Section A to provide information regarding their ability to use conventional transit service. If you have any questions regarding this application or Durham Region Transit (DRT) conventional services, please call 1-866-247-0055 to speak with a representative of the eligibility office.

The information you provide will allow DRT to determine the relevant category of eligibility for specialized services and to provide the appropriate public transit service based on the applicant's abilities.

Health care professional information			
Please print clearly			
Name:	Designation:		
Address:			
	Extension:		
Applicant's Disability Information	1		
Please base your evaluation solely on the of their trip.	e applicant's ability to use conventional transit for all or part		
1. I have read and understood Sec	tion A in its entirety. □ Yes □ No		
2. Which, if any, of the following disability(ies) does the applicant have? Check all that apply and explain/provide specifics.			
☐ Physical (specify):			
☐ Cognitive (specify):			
☐ Sensory (specify):			
☐ Mental Health (specify):			
☐ Other (specify):			

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Is the applicant currently using any assistive devices? (see page 7 for list)  ☐ Yes ☐ No  If yes, please specify		
What is the furthest distance the applicant can travel on a sidewalk (using an assistive		
device if applicable)? An average urban block is 175 meters.  ☐ Up to half a level block ☐ Up to one level block		
☐ Up to two level blocks ☐ More than two level blocks		
☐ Applicant is unable to travel on outdoor terrain (please explain):		
What is the expected duration of the disability / limitations?		
□ Permanent		
☐ Permanent disability, however, the applicant's condition/abilities are <b>expected to improv</b>		
(e.g. participating in rehabilitation or physical therapy). Please provide details / time frame		
☐ Temporary, please indicate length of time:		
☐ Seasonal (limitation impacted by weather):		
☐ During the winter (November 1 to April 30), explain:		
□ During the summer (May 1 to October 31), explain:		

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9. In	your professional opinion, does this applicant have the ability to:		
a)	Independently recognize their destination?	□Yes	□No
b)	Inform the vehicle operator (verbally and/or in writing and/or with an	_	
	augmentative device) if they are about to be dropped off at a wrong location?	□Yes	□No
c)	Be safe and independently get help if dropped off at a wrong location?	□Yes	□No
d)	Remain seated on the vehicle throughout the duration of the trip?	□Yes	□No
<b>e</b> )	Independently address expected personal or medical issues during travel?	□Yes	□No
f)	Be safely left unattended on a vehicle with other passengers?	□Yes	□No
g	Independently mobilize (using a mobility aid if applicable)?	□Yes	□No
h)	Follow verbal instructions provided by DRT to safely and independently complete a transit trip (such as recognizing and boarding the correct vehicle or transferring between vehicles)?	□Yes	□No
i)	Comprehend safety risks in the community?	□Yes	□No
j)	Communicate their name, address of origin, destination, and emergency contact phone number to the vehicle operator (verbally and/or in writing and/or with an augmentative device)?	□Yes	□No
10. ls	s the applicant likely to engage in any of the following behaviors?		
a)	Exiting the vehicle and wandering when the operator exits the vehicle to escort other passengers?	□Yes	□No
b	Causing harm to themselves?	□Yes	□No
c)	Causing harm to others?	□Yes	□No
<b>d</b> )	Making a verbal or physical threat of violence or harm?	□Yes	□No
e)	Being disruptive to other passengers or the vehicle operator?	□Yes	□No
f)	Other (please explain):		
Cortific	cation by a health care professional		
I hereby knowled	certify that the information I have provided is accurate and complete to the bes ge. I understand that misinformation or misrepresentation of facts will be cause cation or rejection of the applicant's eligibility.	•	
·	are Professional's Signature:		
Date:			

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# **Section D (Part 1): Service Agreement for Day Programs**

**Section D** must **only** be completed by an applicant who attends an approved day program within the boundaries of Durham Region and is requesting to waive the requirement for a Personal Care Attendant solely while travelling by bus to and from their approved day program.

**Part 1** must be completed by the applicant and/or designate who is requesting to waive the requirement of a Personal Care Attendant when travelling to/from an approved day program.

Part 2 must be completed by the applicant's registered health care professional.

**Part 3** must be completed by a representative of the approved day program attended by the applicant.

The applicant,	, if approved for the Service
Agreement for Day Programs, will travel to/from approved o	lay programs without a mandatory
Personal Care Attendant for these trips <b>only</b> .	

There are specific requirements a customer must meet to qualify for the Service Agreement for Day Programs. Where a customer demonstrates that they are unable to meet these conditions, the Service Agreement and trips will be immediately suspended until:

- a) The Service Agreement is reviewed between the designated Specialized Services representative and the customer and/or parent/guardian; and
- b) DRT agrees to continue with the Service Agreement

Please note, although the Service Agreement for Day Programs determines eligibility, DRT accommodates rides based on vehicle capacity at the requested time of travel.

## **DRT Specialized Services will provide the following:**

- Escort the customer door-to-door.
- Wait until the customer crosses the threshold of the first accessible door.
- Wait five minutes past the confirmed pick-up time for the customer to show.

## **DRT Specialized Services does NOT provide the following:**

- Unlock or go through the door of the customer's residence.
- Wait for a family member to arrive to open the door of the customer's residence.
- Wait for a representative of the day program to arrive to open the door of the facility / building.
- Enter the day program facility/building

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# **Section D (Part 1): For Completion by Applicant or Designate**

# **Information About Your Disability Condition and Assistive Devices**

•	. Please identify your disability condition(s)				
2.					
	Do you use a mobility device when travelling with public transit? (see pg. 7 for list)  ☐ Yes ☐ No				
	If yes, please specify:				
	If you use a mobility aid, provide its outside dimensions (in inches or centimeters):				
	Width:Length				
	Combined weight of applicant and mobility aid: $\square$ Less than 600lbs $\square$ More than 600lbs				
Day	program name, address and telephone number:				
Nan	ne:				
	\ddress:				
	elenhone.				

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# **Contingency Plan:**

If circumstances arise that require assistance for the customer, please provide the necessary contingency plan details below. The contact information provided must be of a family member/friend that lives in Durham Region, **in a separate residence from the customer**, and is able to accept the customer as part of the contingency plan. If none of the contacts below can be reached as part of the contingency plan, future rides will be suspended until the parent/guardian is contacted and reminded of this agreement.

Contingency contacts if parent / guardian is not available:

1)	Name:	_Relationship:	
	Address:		
	Available days/hours as contingency conta	ct:	
	Home/mobile/business:		
2)	Name:	Relationship:	
	Address:		
	Available days/hours as contingency conta	ct:	
	Home/mobile/business:		
3)	Name:	Relationship:	
	Address:		
	Available days/hours as contingency contact:		
	Home/mobile/business:		
Sign	ature of Applicant or Designate		
I certit misinf eligibi be rec	fy that all information provided in this application or misrepresentation of facts will be lity. I also understand that additional information.	e cause for disqualification or rejection of my ation relating to my disability or health condition may ant to DRT and their assessment agency to contact	
repres	sentative from the day program will be prese	rrives at the location for drop-offs and pick-ups.	
Applic	cant or Designate Signature:	Date:	

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## Section D (Part 2): For Completion by Health Care Professional

**Section D (Part 2)** is to be completed by a physician, nurse practitioner, registered nurse (RN/RPN), or occupational therapist. The health care professional completing the application must have the appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment to evaluate the specific abilities of the applicant.

You are being asked by the applicant named in the Section A to provide information regarding their ability to use Durham Region Transit without a Personal Care Attendant when travelling to and from an approved day program. If you have any questions regarding this application, please call 1-866-247-0055 to speak with a representative of the eligibility office.

The information you provide will allow DRT to determine eligibility for the Service Agreement based on the applicant's abilities.

Health c	are professional information		
Name:	D	esignation:	
Address:			
Telephone:Extension:			
Capabili	ties of Applicant		
accepted	<b>litial on the line</b> next to each statement that is form of documentation to indicate the applicant's I <b>not</b> be accepted, and the application will be ref	s abilities. (Please note, tick marks or check	
initialing	ng for services to/from day programs without a F I where applicable) that, in your professional opi tement does not apply to the applicant, leave	·	
a)	Able to recognize own residence.		
b)	Able to communicate (verbally, with an augment with an appropriate alternative method of command phone number to the vehicle driver.	_	
c)	Able to be left unattended in a vehicle if the driving customers.	ver leaves to escort other	
d)	Consents to wear a vehicle seatbelt.		
e)	Able to remain seated for the duration of the trip	D	
f)	Able to be transported in a Specialized Service	•	
۵۱)	disruptive or posing risks to other passengers of		
9)	Able to enter and exit own residence without as vehicle driver.	sistance/intervention from the	
h)	Able to safely remain in own residence once dro Services.	opped off by Specialized	
	Gel vices.		
Certifica	tion by a Health Care Professional		
I understa	·	curate and complete to the best of my knowledge. Facts will be cause for disqualification or rejection	
Signature	:	Date:	

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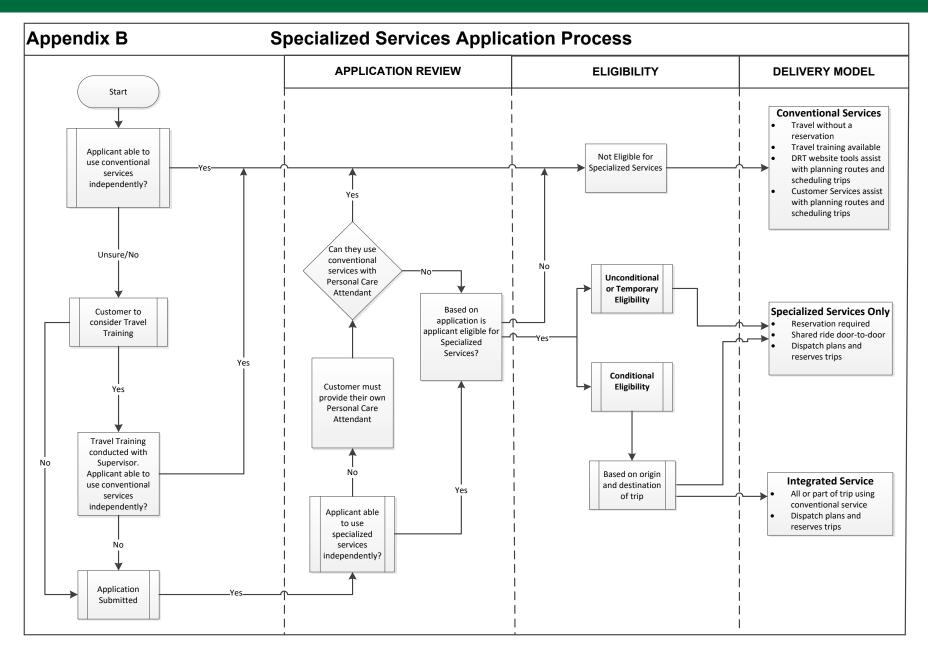
# Section D (Part 3): Completed by the Day Program Representative

This document is to be completed by a representative from the day program attended by the applicant.

Applicant and Day Program Information:				
Na	me of Applic	cant:		
Name of Day Program:Address of Day Program:				
City:		Province:		Postal Code:
Ρl	ease indic	cate when app	icant will be in attendan	ce:
	Monday	Start time:	End time:	
	Tuesday	Start time:	End time:	
	Wednesda	yStart time:	End time:	
	Thursday	Start time:	End time:	
	Friday	Start time:	End time:	
	Saturday	Start time:	End time:	
	Sunday	Start time:	End time:	
Re	presenta	tive from Day	Program:	
sta sch en	ted above w neduled drop d times liste	vill be present at tl o-off and pick-up t	ne threshold of the first access ime(s). Drop-off and pick-up til icant or their parent / guardian	a representative from the day program ible door to meet the applicant at the mes may be different than the start and is responsible to coordinate all times
Na	me (please	print):		
Sig	gnature:			
	1			

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# **Appendix B: Specialized Services Application Process Flowchart**



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