

How can I provide financial security for my family member with ASD to ensure that their needs are met now and in the future?

- You can take steps to ensure your child's future financial stability as soon as s/he is diagnosed by applying for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC). This is a non-refundable tax credit for individuals with disabilities. It can be transferred to the parent of a child under the age of 18 or of an adult child if the parent is providing him/her with financial assistance. Each year, file a tax return for your son or daughter (even if they do not have any taxable income) to ensure that Canada Revenue Agency has a record of them.
- Once a DTC is in place, a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) can be opened. This is a long-term savings plan for qualifying Canadians which provides tax deferred growth, sheltered savings exempt from Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), and deposits are matched from the government. For more information on the DTC and RDSP, refer to the Tip Sheet, "Guardianship, Financial Planning, and Wills."
- There are three primary funding sources for children and adults with disabilities: (a) Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), (b) Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), and (c) Assured Income for Severely Handicapped (AISH). FSCD is available for individuals under 18 years old and both PDD and AISH are available for individuals 18 years or older. Contact FSCD, PDD or AISH offices for further information about their programs and to determine your family member's eligibility. Get advocacy advice BEFORE contacting FSCD, PDD and AISH.
- Understand what kind of financial support is most required for your son/daughter: for example, respite worker, developmental aide, therapists, recreational needs, basic needs, etc.
- *Why should I apply for FSCD and PDD funding?* FSCD and PDD funding ensures that the child with a disability has the financial assistance to maximize their skill development and to be integrated into the community. These funds also pay for caregivers to give the parents a break from the day to day demands of caring for a child with a disability. It is important to advocate to keep your child's FSCD contract in place as your child approaches their 18th birthday because the initial PDD contract is often based on the FSCD contract.

RESOURCES

The Resource Centre (a Sinneave Family Foundation initiative) does not endorse or guarantee the exhaustive, complete, accurate or up-to-date nature of information provided and does not assume any risk for the outcome of information or referrals provided.

FSCD

Provides a wide range of services under the following programs: Family Support Services and Child Focused Services. To be eligible, the child with a disability must be under the age of 18 and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. FSCD defines a disability as "a chronic, developmental, physical, sensory, mental or neurological condition or impairment..."

Documentation from a professional (e.g. physician or allied health professional) must be provided confirming that the child has a disability or is awaiting a diagnosis.

Intake Line: 403.297.6022

Phone: 403.297.5011

Address: 600, 1520 - 4 Street SW, Calgary, AB T2R 1H5

Email: FSCDIntake.Calgary@gov.ab.ca

Website: myalbertasupports.ca

PDD

PDD funding covers programs and services for adults with disabilities so that they may live as independently as possible and participate in their communities. The program funds three kinds of staffing supports: Employment, Community Access, and Community Living. To be eligible for PDD, a person must be an adult (18 or older) and meet these criteria: (a) have significant limitation in intellectual capacity with an IQ score of 70 or below, (b) have a significant limitation in at least 6 of 24 adaptive skills, and (c) the onset of the disability must have occurred prior to the individual's 18th birthday. It is recommended that you apply well before your adolescents 18th birthday and as early as age 16.

There are three ways services can be provided:

1. Family Managed Services (FMS): A family member/guardian is responsible for hiring support, selecting programs and all administration related tasks.
2. PDD Funded Agencies: PDD provides money to these agencies to provide the services that the individual needs.
3. A combination of funded agency and FMS.

Intake: 403.297.6022
Phone: 1.877.644.9992
Website: albertasupports.ca

AISH

AISH provides financial assistance (a monthly living allowance), supplementary assistance, and health benefits (e.g. some prescription drugs, dental, optical, ambulance services, etc.) for adults with a disability. To be eligible, the individual must be a resident of Alberta (non-institutionalized) and have a severe permanent disability that limits his/her ability to earn a living. Start the application process 6 months before the applicants 18th birthday. The AISH application is a two-step process: (a) the application is reviewed to determine if the applicant meets the financial eligibility criteria, and (b) if the applicant is financially eligible for AISH, a medical report is sent to the applicant and is completed by a doctor. If both financial and medical eligibility criteria are met, an AISH worker will contact the applicant. To apply for AISH, complete both the AISH Application and the Consent to Communicate/Disclose Information between AISH and Canada Pension Plan - Disability (CPP-D). Mail or drop off these forms to your local AISH office. The applicant will need several types of documents such as picture identification, the most recent tax return, a bank statement, and a proof of residency.

Phone: 1.877.644.9992 (Alberta Supports Contact Centre - toll free)
Website: alberta.ca/aish.aspx
Forms: humanservices.alberta.ca/AWonline/AISH/7176.html

Autism Calgary

Family Support Workers at Autism Calgary can help with FSCD applications/reviews.

Phone: 403.250.5033
Address: 3639 – 26th Street NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 5E1
Email: info@autismcalgary.com
Website: autismcalgary.com

The Children's Link Society

A family-centred, community-based, central access point of information for families of children with special needs in Calgary and Area. They have a summary sheet on FSCD:

Phone: 403.230.9158
Address: 8855 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0M2
Website: childrenslink.ca/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=5&tabid=86&directoryId=144

In addition, their Transition Services can assist with the following application processes: Guardianship and Trusteeship, PDD, and AISH.

Contact: Lorna Selig, Transition Consultant
Phone: 403.230.9158
Address: #211, 8855 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0M2
Email: lorna.selig@childrenslink.ca
Website: childrenslink.ca

Vanderleek Law

Gordon and Annie Vanderleek are parents of children with disabilities. Gordon is a lawyer and Annie, a Disability Advocate. Along with individual legal services, the firm also offers community seminars for a nominal fee.

Phone: 403 457.4575
Address: Suite 200, 1940 - 9th Avenue SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0V2
Website: vanderleeklaw.ca/

Darrell Cook Family Managed Supports Resource Centre

An initiative of Inclusion Alberta, this centre assists families towards directly managing the services, supports and programs for their loved one with a disability.

Phone: 403.539.8192
Address: 211, 4014 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2R7
E-mail: DC-FMS@inclusionalbarta.org
Website: fms.inclusionalbarta.org

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