

What Services Are Provided by the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program?

The FSCD program provides information and referrals, and funding for family support services and child-focused services to families of children with disabilities.

Information and Referral Supports are available to all families who have a child with a disability, regardless of type of disability or eligibility for the FSCD program, including:

- Information about federal and provincial government programs and services, community supports and local resources;
- Referral to community support and advocacy resources, such as parent support groups, disability associations or advocacy organizations; and
- Information and support to empower parents to advocate for their child.

Family Support Services may be provided based on the family's needs and circumstances, including:

- Individual and family counselling;
- Assistance with the cost of clothing and footwear related to the child's disability;
- Assistance with the cost of attending medical appointment or when the child is in hospital, such as parking, mileage, meals and accommodation; and
- Respite services.

Child-Focused Services are provided when a child's disability significantly limits his or her ability to function in normal daily living activities, and are based on the child's and family's individually assessed needs. Child-focused services include:

- Respite services;
- Child care support;
- Aide supports;
- Health-related supports, such as assistance with some of the extraordinary cost of prescription drugs, formulas and diets; and
- Specialized services, such as support and consultation from occupational or physical therapists, speech language pathologists or psychologists.

Who is Eligible for the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program?

- ◆ For a guardian and their child to be eligible for the FSCD Program, the following criteria must be met:
 - **Age:** The child must be under the age of 18 years;
 - **Citizenship:** The child must be a Canadian Citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
 - **Residency:** The child must ordinarily live in Alberta;
 - **Guardian:** The guardian must have full guardianship responsibilities for the child; and
 - **Disability:** The child must have a confirmed diagnosis that indicates that they have a disability.

“Disability” for the purposes of the FSCD Program is defined in legislation as “a chronic developmental, physical, sensory, mental or neurological condition or impairment that does not include a condition for which the primary need is for medical care or health services to treat or manage the condition, unless it is a chronic condition that significantly limits a child's ability to function in normal daily living”;

- ◆ Eligibility for the FSCD Program must be determined prior to meeting with the guardian to initiate the FSCD assessment of needs process.

What Impact Will Changes to Eligibility Determination Processes Have on Families Currently Receiving FSCD Services?

- ◆ No impact will occur for families currently served by the FSCD program.

Why has the Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program Introduced a Mail-In Application Form?

- ◆ The application form is intended to clarify eligibility for the FSCD program and streamline the application process by providing the required medical documentation upfront.
- ◆ The one-page application form will be available online at www.child.alberta.ca/disabilities and upon request from your local FSCD regional office.
- ◆ Families may choose to complete the Application Form on their own, or obtain assistance from a friend or community member. Families can also contact their local FSCD office to obtain assistance with completing the application form if necessary.