

The Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) program provides a range of supports and services for children with disabilities and their families.

The program recognizes families as the primary source of care and support for children. The program also recognizes the importance of working with families to plan and coordinate supports and services.



For information about government programs, community supports, disability associations, advocacy and other disability-related resources, contact the Child Disability Resource Link at 1-866-346-4661 (toll-free).



For information about the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program, contact (780) 427-2551, (310-0000 toll-free) or visit [www.child.gov.ab.ca](http://www.child.gov.ab.ca).



# Family Support for Children with Disabilities



# The Program

In August 2004, the Alberta government introduced the *Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act*. This separate and distinct legislation for children with disabilities and their families is the first of its kind in Canada.

The program provides information about various government programs and community services as well as referrals to advocacy groups, disability associations and other disability-related resources. It also helps families coordinate supports and services and assists with some of the extraordinary costs of raising a child with a disability.



## Services

The FSCD program works with families to identify the supports and services that will best meet the unique needs of each child and family. In addition to providing information, referral and coordination services, the program provides two types of services based on individual needs: family support services and child-focused services.

Family support services are available to families caring for a child with a diagnosed disability and may also be available to families awaiting final confirmation of their child's diagnosis. These services include:

- counselling,
- assistance with extraordinary clothing needs,
- respite services, and
- costs associated with attending medical appointments, such as meals, accommodation and travel costs.

Child-focused services are based on the assessed needs of the child. These services include:

- assistance with a range of respite services,
  - specialized child care supports,
    - aide supports,
    - health-related supports,
      - specialized services for children with severe disabilities, and
        - out-of-home living arrangements.



## Eligibility

Children under the age of 18 with a disability may be eligible for the FSCD program. The following requirements must also be met:

- the child must have a letter from a medical professional indicating the child has a disability and identifying the diagnosis;
- the child's parent/guardian must maintain full guardianship responsibilities; and
- the child and the parent/guardian must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and reside in Alberta.

Eligibility is not based on the child having any particular diagnosis, but having a diagnosis resulting in a disability as defined in the *Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act*.