

# The alphabet soup of services: Supporting patients' access to services and supports in British Columbia

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**NOTE: Please check with the individual programs to ensure the information is correct and up to date**

## Provincial programs

### Infant Development Program (IDP) & Aboriginal IDP

**Purpose:** Home-based early intervention. Consultants provide developmental assessments, parenting education, playgroups, referrals, and support to address developmental challenges.

**Eligibility:** Children from birth to three years old who are experiencing or at risk of developmental delays. Some Aboriginal IDPs serve up to age 6. A diagnosis is not required.

**Funded by:** MCFD and BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

**Referral:** Families, clinicians, or other community professionals.

**Contact:** IDP programs vary by region. [Infant and Child Development Association of BC](#) and [Aboriginal Infant Development Programs](#)

## Early Intervention Therapy (EIT) & Public Health SLP

**Purpose:** EIT provides community-based occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology (SLP) and support services. Public Health SLP programs deliver intervention to children with a primary speech delay, who do not also require occupational therapy or physiotherapy services. Services are often coordinated with EIT.

**Eligibility:** Children who have or are at risk of developmental delay or disability, ages birth up to school entry. A diagnosis is not required.

**Funded by:** MCFD

**Referral:** Accepts referrals from all sources, including families and professionals

**Contact:** [EIT](#). [Vancouver's BC Centre for Ability](#)

## Supported Child Development (SCD) & Aboriginal SCD

**Purpose:** Inclusive support for children with extra needs in childcare settings.

**Eligibility:** 0–19 years (primarily up to age 12), must be attending a licensed or registered childcare program, including after school program. Children with a developmental delay or disability (cognitive, communication, social/emotional/behavioural or physical) who require additional support in a childcare setting. A diagnosis is not required.

**Funded by:** MCFD

**Referral:** Families, clinicians, or childcare staff.

**Contact:** SCD varies by city or region. (e.g., Vancouver's [BC Centre for Ability](#)). [Aboriginal SCD](#)

## Children & Youth with Support Needs (CYSN)

**Purpose:** Support through respite care, therapies, behaviour support, and equipment.

**Eligibility:** Youth under age 19, BC resident with MSP. CYSN pilot programs in 4 regions individually assess for functional needs. In other regions, CYSN serves children with autism (autism funding with diagnosis), intellectual developmental disorder/global developmental delay (diagnosis needed; respite, child/youth worker, behaviour supports, parent training, life skills activities, household management services), complex health needs (At Home Program, see next slide), and FASD (Key Worker program, for those with complex developmental conditions, no diagnosis needed)

**Funded by:** MCFD

**Referral:** Families, some programs require a diagnosis

**Contact:** [CYSN](#). Contact a local [Child & Family Service office](#) to find out what services are available and to talk about eligibility requirements.

## At Home Program (AHP)

**Purpose:** Supports families caring for children with complex needs at home. Medical benefits (e.g., equipment, diapers, hearing aids, therapies, medical transportation) & access to other CYSN benefits (e.g., respite, child/youth worker, behaviour supports).

**Eligibility:** Children and youth birth to age 17 who are residents of BC with MSP living with parent or guardian. Must be assessed as dependent in at least 3 of 4 activities of daily living (eating, dressing, toileting and washing) by an AHP assessment. Also available for those with a palliative condition, DMD/SMA, CP level 3-5 GMFCS\*, or who are eligible for direct nursing care.

**Funded by:** MCFD CYSN

**Referral:** Physician or nurse practitioner completes the [referral form](#), and AHP will provide their own assessment. In pilot areas, there is a [different](#) process.

**Contact:** [At Home Program](#)

\*DMD: Duchenne's muscular dystrophy; SMA: Spinal muscular atrophy; CP: Cerebral palsy; GMFCS: Gross motor function classification system

## Community Living BC (CLBC)

**Purpose:** Support for adults with developmental disabilities. Services are dependent on individual need and guided by available funding. There are supports for residential living, wellness, community participation including employment.

**Eligibility:** Age 19+, BC resident, diagnosis of IDD (onset prior to age 18) or Autism/FASD with significant adaptive challenges (3 SD below the mean)

**Funded by:** Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

**Referral:** Self-referral with diagnosis

**Contact:** [CLBC](#)

## Services to Adults with Developmental Disabilities (STADD)

**Purpose:** Offers Navigator services for transitioning youth and their families in 145 communities across B.C. Navigators act as the primary point of contact for individuals in coordinating transition planning and access to supports and services through the transition period.

**Eligibility:** Individuals ages 16-24 who are eligible for Community Living BC

**Funded by:** MCFD

**Referral:** Once eligible for CLBC services, request the services of a STADD Navigator by contacting 1-855-356-5609 to self-refer.

**Contact:** [STAAD](#) and [STAAD Info Sheet](#)

## Developmental Disabilities Mental Health Services (DDMHS)

**Purpose:** DDMHS provides specialized mental health community services for youth and adults who live with co-existing intellectual disabilities and a mental illness.

**Eligibility:** Individuals ages 12 and older with a diagnosis of IDD experiencing mental health concerns and/or complex, challenging behaviours and who live in the Fraser Health or Vancouver Coastal Health regions

**Funded by:** Youth team is funded by MCFD and adult services by the Ministry of Health.

**Referral:** For youth 12 to 18 years of age, the request must come through CYSN. For adults, self/family, CLBC, and health professional referrals are accepted. Referrals require a recent physical examination and approval by the individual's family doctor or nurse practitioner as well as a copy of the psychology report.

**Contact:** [DDMHS](#)

## Provincial Assessment Centre (PAC)

**Purpose:** 10-bed facility in Coquitlam which offers multidisciplinary mental health services for people with a developmental disability, and a concurrent mental health concern or behaviour issue.

**Eligibility:** Individuals ages 14 and older with developmental disabilities and concurrent mental health challenges.

**Funded by:** BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS), a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)

**Referral:** Health professionals must refer people to the program. Admissions can be voluntary or involuntary under the [Mental Health Act](#). All admissions are pre-planned and referred by CLBC or the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD). PAC does not offer emergency admissions.

**Contact:** [PAC](#)

## Disability assistance/Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

**Purpose:** Income & health benefits for adults with long-term disability. Total maximum for single individual = \$1,535.50 per month (assuming maximum shelter & transportation costs). Extra supplements may be available for specific needs. Some will also be able to access dental and optical coverage through PWD.

**Eligibility:** Individuals age 18+ (apply at 17.5) with significant long-term impairment & severe physical or mental impairment expected to last at least 2 years and require assistance with daily living activities; Assets must be below \$100,000 for a single person & there is a limit on annual income. If you receive PWD + CLBC you pay the CLBC provider a certain amount for housing out of your PWD income.

**Administered by:** Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

**Application:** Doctor, registered nurse, or social worker completes the assessor portion or there is a streamlined (no provider portion) process for those eligible for CLBC, AHP, CPP-Disability benefits, BC PharmaCare Plan P – Palliative Care Benefits. Teens with IDD can submit their psychology assessment confirming IDD instead of the full PWD application.

**Contact:** [PWD](#). Disability Alliance [handout](#) on applying for PWD; available in multiple languages.

## Federal Programs

### Disability Tax Credit

Non-refundable tax credit that helps people with disabilities, or their supporting family member, reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay. Certified by a practitioner (T2201 form), based on function.

**Administered by:** Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

[Digital application for medical professions](#) – applicant can give a code to professional to complete the form online, or professional can fill it out online, print and give to applicant. Note the year of onset of impairment (applicant will get credit back to that date). Various professionals can complete this application, depending on the area of impairment. For psychologists, complete for individuals with impairment in the "mental functions necessary for everyday life." Individuals with IDD will qualify as the diagnosis involves functional impairment. Impairment, not diagnosis is what is important. Disability Alliance [handout](#), available in multiple languages.

### Child Disability Benefit

**Administered by:** Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Monthly tax-free payment for families caring for a child under 18 who is eligible for the disability tax credit (DTC). Eligible families can get up to \$284.25 per child per month, dependent on family income. To get the child disability benefit, you must also be eligible for the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). If already getting the CCB for a child who is eligible for the DTC, there is no need to apply for the CDB, it will be given automatically.

### Canada Disability Benefit

**Administered by:** Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

Provides direct financial support to people with disabilities who are between 18 and 64 years old who are eligible for the disability tax credit. Benefit amounts are based on adjusted family net income. The current maximum amount from is \$200 per month. Individual must apply for this benefit.

### Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)

**Purpose:** RDSP is a long-term savings plan that helps Canadians with disabilities save for the future. With an RDSP, up to \$90,000 in government grants and bonds are available to help with long-term savings. Depending

on family income, for every \$1 saved, the government will match up to \$3, through a program called the Canada Savings Grant. The government will contribute up to \$1000 each year for 20 years through a program called the Canada Disability Savings Bond for those with low income.

**Eligibility:** Anyone who is eligible for the Disability Tax Credit

**Funded by:** Federal government

**Contact:** Open an RDSP at any participating financial institution once the DTC is approved. Disability Alliance handout, available in multiple languages

## Other agencies and services

**Autism Funding – Under Age 6:** CYSN program which provides families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder under age six with up to \$20,000 per year to assist with the cost of purchasing autism intervention services.

**Autism Funding – Ages 6-18:** CYSN program which provides families of children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ages six through eighteen, with up to \$6,000 per year to assist with the cost of purchasing out-of-school autism intervention services. This funding is in addition to the educational program and special education services provided through Boards of Education.

**Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Services:** MCFD program includes psychologists, clinical social workers, nurses, counsellors and psychiatrists who provide mental health treatment and support.

**Community Brain Injury Program:** Plans, coordinates and funds short-term acute rehabilitation services for individuals with acquired brain injuries when no other funding is available.

**Choices in Supports of Independent Living (CSIL):** CSIL clients receive funds directly from their local health authority to purchase their own home support services. Clients become employers who manage all aspects of their home support, from hiring and supervising staff to overseeing how CSIL funds are spent.

**Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention:** Provides up to 20 hours per week of intensive interdisciplinary intervention for children under age six diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), through five agencies in seven communities.

**Nursing Support Services:** Provides comprehensive nursing services to children and youth with special health care needs and their families in home, school, and child care settings. Services include assessment, care planning, consultation, and training of caregivers.

**Post-Adoption Assistance Program:** Offers financial assistance and/or access to other support services to some families who adopt or have adopted children with special service and/or placement needs.

**WorkBC:** Can help people with disabilities who are eligible for support with job options and services designed to support and build their career. WorkBC also provides pre-employment supports to students with developmental disabilities on their last year in high school.

## Support & Resources

**Disability Alliance** - Provides 1:1 assistance with provincial and federal disability service applications. They have a disability law clinic, tax support, handouts available in multiple languages, various workshops and accessibility projects.

**Prosper Canada Benefits Wayfinder** – Guide to government benefits