Call toll free at 310-0000 and ask to be connected to the FSCD office serving your community to request the application.

Or go online and find the application at humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services

Checklist for application

Ensure you meet all of the qualifications

• The child must have a medical diagnosis of a disability from a healthcare professional (while awaiting diagnosis a parent or guardian can apply to the program for up to two years)
• The child must be under the age of 18
• The child must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
• Both the parent or guardian and the child must live in Alberta
• Information provided by a healthcare professional about the child’s disability and how it affects the child must be included
• The person applying must be the parent or guardian of the child with the disability

Fill out the application form

• Attach medical documents to the application form. These must include one of the following:
  • Letter from a healthcare professional regarding the nature of the child’s diagnosed disability
  • Letter from a healthcare professional stating that the child may have or may develop a disability and is awaiting a diagnosis

Mail, fax, or drop off the completed application and medical documents at an FSCD Office.

Appeals

If during the process of applying and participating in the Family Support for Children with Disabilities program, your benefits have changed, been denied, or cancelled, you have the right to an Appeal. You also have the right to appeal if you do not agree with a decision made by your Family Support Worker. For more information on the Appeal Process contact the Appeals Secretariat toll free by dialing 310-0000, then 780-622-2275, or visit the website at appeals.gov.ab.ca.

If you have already gone through an Appeal and feel you have been treated unfairly, you can contact the Office of the Ombudsman toll free by dialing 310-0000, then 403-297-6180 (Calgary) or visit their website at www.ombudsman.ab.ca.

The Alberta Ombudsman responds to complaints of unfair treatment by the provincial government. The Ombudsman operates independently from any part of the Alberta government and reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The Ombudsman does not investigate complaints until all rights of appeal are exhausted.

Complaints to the Ombudsman must be made in writing to:

Alberta Ombudsman
10303 Jasper Avenue NW, Suite 2800
Edmonton, AB T5J 5C3

Important Contacts

Alberta Supports
Provides information about additional government programs, supports and services
1.877.644.9992
www.programs.alberta.ca/Living

Health Link Alberta
Toll free: 1.866.408.LINK (5465)
Calgary: 403.943.LINK (5465)
Edmonton: 780.428.LINK (5465)
myhealth.alberta.ca/Pages/default.aspx

Healthlink Alberta provides information, advice and referrals to Albertans for health-related questions.

Alberta AIDS to Daily Living
Can financially help those with long-term disabilities and chronic illnesses with equipment and supplies
780-627-0731 (310-0000)
www.health.alberta.ca/services/aids-to-daily-living.html

Early Childhood Services and Special Needs
Provides information on supports and services in schools
www.education.alberta.ca/admin/supportingstudents/schoolleaders/ecs.aspx

Alberta Association for Community Living
Advocates on behalf of children with developmental disabilities and their families
1.800.252.7556
www.aacl.org

Family Support for Children with Disabilities (Edmonton and Area)
4th Floor, Park Plaza, 10611 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7
Telephone: 780-427-4354
Application Line: 780-644-1636
Fax: 780-427-0256
Email: edm.fscd@gov.ab.ca
Web: humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services.html

Family Support for Children with Disabilities program
Edmonton and Area
10303 Jasper Avenue NW, Suite 2600
Edmonton, AB T5J 3C3

FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act is a Government of Alberta act that helps support children with diagnosed disabilities, their currently waiting or diagnosed, and their parents or guardians.

Definition of disability: A disability is defined as an impairment diagnosed by a qualified healthcare professional that significantly limits the child’s daily living in such a way that it includes sleeping, eating, or other daily functions. It also includes disabilities where significant delays in development of the child occur.

Who Qualifies?

To qualify, a child must have a medical diagnosis of disability from a qualified healthcare professional. A family can still apply to the program for up to two years if they are currently awaiting a diagnosis.

Additional requirements include:
• The child must be under the age of 18.
• The child must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
• Both child and guardian must live in Alberta.
• A diagnosis from a healthcare professional stating the specific effects of the disability on the child must be presented.
• The person applying for support must be the guardian of the disabled child.

Before you can qualify for this program, you must have exhausted all other available supports and services, and you will still be responsible for the day-to-day costs of raising a child.

If you need more information on specific health conditions and disabilities, please contact My Health Alberta hotline at 1-866-408-5465. Live telephone advice and health information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act program (FSCD) provides financial assistance to help families with the extraordinary costs for children with disabilities and their parents or guardians. Parents remain the child’s primary support network. The child must be under the age of 18 and their parents or guardians must live in Alberta.

To qualify, a child must have a medical diagnosis of disability from a qualified healthcare professional. A family can still apply to the program for up to two years if they are currently awaiting a diagnosis.

The FSCD program is not the same as Child Intervention or Child and Family Services Authority, although it is a part of Alberta Health Services. All the programs mentioned are part of Alberta Human Services, but are separate and distinct.

The FSCD program is a voluntary program offered through Alberta Human Services to help fund extraordinary costs for children with disabilities and their parents or guardians. Parents remain the guardians of their disabled child and are responsible for all decision-making even after they have accessed the FSCD program.

Before you can qualify for this program, you must have exhausted all other available supports and services, and you will still be responsible for the day-to-day costs of raising a child.

If you need more information on specific health conditions and disabilities, please contact My Health Alberta hotline at 1-866-408-5465. Live telephone advice and health information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

FAMILY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (FSCD) PROGRAM

Once they qualify, an FSCD Family Support Worker will work with the parent or guardian to ensure the child receives the best services available. The Family Support Worker will work with the parent or guardian to present their child’s specific needs during an Assessment (IFSP). During the process, the FSCD Family Support Worker will assist the parent or guardian in completing an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) that records the goals of the child and how these are met. The supports and services are tailored to meet the needs of each individual child.

The benefits of family focused services may include:
• Counselling for the parent or guardian and the child
• Special clothing and footwear needs
• Costs of attending medical appointments including travel, food, and accommodation
• The benefits of family focused services may include:
• Counselling for the parent or guardian and the child
• Special clothing and footwear needs
• Costs of attending medical appointments including travel, food, and accommodation
• Extraordinary . An additional assessment by a healthcare professional is needed to qualify for this stream.

The benefits of child focused services may include:
• Facilitated and supported and support
• Additional requirements include:
• The child must be under the age of 18.
• The child must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
• Both child and guardian must live in Alberta.
• A diagnosis from a healthcare professional stating the specific effects of the disability on the child must be presented.
• The person applying for support must be the guardian of the disabled child.

Before you can qualify for this program, you must have exhausted all other available supports and services, and you will still be responsible for the day-to-day costs of raising a child.

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