

How can I provide financial security for myself, or a family member with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), to ensure that needs are met now as well as in the future?

- As soon as an ASD diagnosis is received, you can apply for the Federal 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 to the parent of an adult child if the parent is providing him/her with financial assistance. Each year, file a tax return for yourself, or your son or daughter, (even if there has been no taxable income) to ensure that Canada Revenue Agency has a record.
- 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). Deposits are matched by 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: (1) Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), (2) Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD), and (3) 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 if you are, or if your family member is, eligible.
- Understand what kind of financial support is most required for your son/daughter; for example, respite worker, developmental aide, specialized therapist, recreational needs, and basic needs.
- ***Why should I apply for FSCD and PDD funding?*** FSCD and PDD funding ensures that an individual with a disability has the financial assistance to maximize their skill development and to be included in the community. These funds also enable parents to hire caregivers (respite workers) for their child with ASD so that parents can take self-care break from the day to day demands of caring for a child with a disability. For parents of young children, once your child becomes a teenager, begin having conversations with your FSCD case worker about the transition to adulthood and the possible transition from FSCD to PDD funded supports.

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.

Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (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: 403.297.7971
Address: Suite 300, 8500 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2N1
Email: Intake email: HS.FSCDIntakeCalgary@gov.ab.ca
Website: humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services/14855.html

Persons with Developmental Disabilities (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: (1) Employment, (2) Community Access, and (3) Community Living. To be eligible for PDD, a person must be an adult (18 years 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 (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.

Phone: 403.297.5011

Address: Suite 300, 8500 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2N1

Email: HS.PDDCalgary@gov.ab.ca

Website: humanservices.alberta.ca/disability-services/16700.html

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)

AISH provides financial assistance (a monthly living allowance), supplementary assistance, and health benefits (e.g. some prescription drugs, dental, optical, ambulance services) 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. It is recommended that the initial application process be started at least 6 months before the applicants 18th birthday. The AISH application is a two-step process: (1) the application is reviewed to determine if the applicant meets the financial eligibility criteria, and (2) if the applicant is financially eligible for AISH, a medical report is sent to the applicant and is completed by a physician. 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: Toll free: 310.0000 and ask for AISH

Website: alberta.ca/aish.aspx

How to Apply: alberta.ca/aish-how-to-apply.aspx

Autism Calgary

Family Support Workers at Autism Calgary can help with FSCD, PDD, and AISH 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 supports:

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, The Children's Link Society's 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/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabIndex=1&tabid=86&directoryId=88

Vanderleek Law

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

Phone: 403 457.4575
Address: Suite 210, 1319 Edmonton Trail NE
Website: vanderleeklaw.ca

Darrell Cook Family Managed Supports Resource Centre

An initiative of Inclusion Alberta, this centre assists families with 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@inclusionAlberta.org
Website: fms.inclusionAlberta.org/main/about-us/

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