

### ***How can I provide financial security for myself, or an autistic loved one, to ensure that needs are met now as well as in the future?***

- 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 loved one is, eligible.
- Understand what kind of financial support is most required for you; 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 people with disabilities have the financial assistance to maximize their skill development and to be included in the community. These funds also enable parents/ guardians to hire caregivers (respite workers) for their loved one on the spectrum so that guardians 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.

## Funding

### **Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)**

AISH provides financial assistance, supplementary assistance, and health benefits 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Full details on how to apply can be found on their website linked below.

**Phone:** Calgary Office – 403.297.8511  
Main Toll-free TTY – 1.800.232.7215

**Website:** [alberta.ca/aish.aspx](http://alberta.ca/aish.aspx)

### 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  
**Office Phone:** 403.297.7971  
**Address:** Suite 300, 8500 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2H 2N1  
**Intake Email:** [HS.FSCDIntakeCalgary@gov.ab.ca](mailto:HS.FSCDIntakeCalgary@gov.ab.ca)  
**Website:** [alberta.ca/fscd.aspx](http://alberta.ca/fscd.aspx)

### Income Support – AlbertaWorks

Income Support is available for people who are not eligible for AISH or PDD funding. It offers a small monthly income support benefit intended as a last resort for supports. Information on eligibility and how to apply is on the website listed below.

**Phone:** 1.877.644.9992  
**Email:** [ccs.ascc@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ccs.ascc@gov.ab.ca)  
**Website:** [alberta.ca/income-support.aspx](http://alberta.ca/income-support.aspx)

### 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 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 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It is recommended that you apply well before your adolescents 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:HS.PDDCalgary@gov.ab.ca)  
**Website:** [alberta.ca/pdd-what-you-get.aspx](http://alberta.ca/pdd-what-you-get.aspx)

### Organizations that Offer Support Navigating Funding

#### 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](mailto:info@autismcalgary.com)  
**Website:** [autismcalgary.com](http://autismcalgary.com)

#### The Children's Link Society

A family-centred, community-based, central access point of information for families of children with disabilities in Calgary and Area. They have a summary sheet on FSCD supports. Their Transition Services can assist with applying for PDD and AISH as well as guardianship and trusteeship.

**Phone:** 403.230.9158  
**Address:** #211 8855 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0M2  
**Website:** [childrenslink.ca](http://childrenslink.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. They offer FMS workshops.

**Phone:** 403.717.0361  
**Address:** 211, 4014 Macleod Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 2R7  
**E-mail:** use the contact form on their website  
**Website:** [inclusionalbertainfo.org/what-we-do/darrell-cook-family-managed-supports-resource-centre/](http://inclusionalbertainfo.org/what-we-do/darrell-cook-family-managed-supports-resource-centre/)

#### 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](http://vanderleeklaw.ca)

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3