
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Children and Family
Development

New funding option supports transitions to adulthood

VICTORIA – To support greater flexibility and choice, families with children aged 12 to 18 will be able to choose to receive their autism funding through either invoice payment or direct payment.

The direct payment option will be available as of Sept. 1, 2013 to families with children in the 12 to 18-year-old range who are eligible for or are receiving or autism funding. This option can give families greater ability to purchase eligible services – such as those focusing on community-based inclusion and recreational skills – to meet the needs of older children and youth and promote successful transitions to adulthood.

Families that choose this option will receive a maximum of \$6,000 at the start of their funding period. They will then be responsible for obtaining eligible autism intervention services and directly paying providers for those services.

Some families have more than one child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. To help simplify the administrative process, families that choose direct payment for a child aged 12-18 will also have the option to choose direct payment for any siblings over the age of six.

Since 2010, invoice payment has been in place as the only option for receiving autism funding. It will continue as an available alternative to the direct payment option.

Under the invoice payment system, funding is set aside in an account held by government in the child's name. Parents choose the eligible intervention service and provider that suits their child's need. Once the eligible service has been provided, an invoice is sent to government, which then pays the provider directly.

Current research provides clear guidelines with regard to what services are considered best practice for children under the age of six. Invoice payment provides safeguards to ensure these best practice services are being accessed. Compared to direct payment, invoice payment imposes less of a financial management responsibility on families. This is of particular importance to families with children under the age of six who have access to up to \$22,000 of funding per year.

All families must be on the invoice payment system for two years before they are eligible for the direct payment option.

Quick Facts:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects about one in every 88 children and youth in B.C. and is one of the most prevalent developmental disorders in the world.
- B.C. is committed to an integrated, coordinated range of services and supports for children and youth with ASD and their families.
- Government provides more than \$165 million annually for programs and services that support approximately 8,400 children and youth with ASD and their families – including assessments, funding for early intervention, and education funding for students.
- More than 3,800 B.C. children and youth with ASD between the ages of 12 and 18 currently access autism funding.
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development's autism budget has increased this year by \$4.6 million to \$49.3 million. This is more than ten times the 2001 budget level of \$4.1 million.
- For children under age six, families receive access to funding of up to \$22,000 per year to assist with the cost of autism intervention services.
- For children and youth aged six to 18, families are eligible for up to \$6,000 per year to assist with the cost of out-of-school intervention services. This is in addition to the \$18,300 in per-pupil funding school districts receive to provide in-school interventions and services for every student diagnosed with ASD.

Learn more:

Ministry of Children and Family Development autism funding programs:

http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/autism/funding_programs.htm

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