

Teens with an Intellectual Disability

You may also be able to use a simplified disability application process even if you don't receive benefits from one of the four programs listed if you:

- » Are 17 ½ to 19 years old, and
- » Have a confirmed intellectual disability

This means you can submit an existing psychological assessment and diagnosis rather than completing a full PWD application. Call 1 866 866-0800 to speak with a worker and begin this simplified application process.

Disability and Supplementary Assistance

On disability assistance you may be eligible for:

- » Monthly support and shelter assistance
- » Medical coverage, including:
 - Premium-free Medical Services Plan
 - No-deductible for PharmaCare
 - Other medical benefits, such as medical equipment and supplies, dental and optical coverage
- » An earnings exemption of \$9,600 per year
- » Transportation support, as cash or as a bus pass

Working while on Disability Assistance

If you get disability assistance, you can still work and earn money. You have an earnings exemption of \$9,600 per year. Money you earn, up to this total, does not change the amount of your monthly assistance cheque. You can earn money anytime during the year and there is no monthly limit to the exemption. You will need to tell the ministry the amount you earn each month.

For More Information

To learn about programs and services from Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, visit the ministry website at www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca

Access ministry services online at myselfserve.gov.bc.ca

Or call toll-free: 1 866 866-0800



Persons with Disabilities



Ministry of
Social Development
and Social Innovation

BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

The B.C. government is committed to improving programs for people with disabilities.

The British Columbia Employment and Assistance (BCEA) Program promotes independence for people with disabilities. This includes income security and medical assistance.

The BCEA Program recognizes that people with disabilities may need extra supports, such as:

- » A higher assistance rate
- » General and health supplements
- » Employment supports

These supports can help people with disabilities meet the challenges of daily living.

People who leave disability assistance keep their Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation. This includes leaving for:

- » Employment
- » Other income support programs

They may also keep their medical assistance. If they need disability assistance in the future, they won't have to apply for the PWD designation again.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible, you must:

- » Show that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance
- » Be 18 years old (you can start the application process when you are 17 ½)
- » Have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to continue for more than two years
- » Be significantly restricted in your ability to perform daily-living activities
- » Require assistance with daily living activities from
 - Another person
 - An assistive device, or
 - An assistance animal

PWD Application Process

The application process includes:

- » Showing that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance
- » Requesting a *Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Designation Application* as part of your application for financial assistance. (If you already receive income assistance you can call 1 866 866-0800 to speak with a worker and request a *PWD Designation Application*.)
- » Completing the *PWD Designation Application*. It has three sections:
 - You fill out the applicant portion
 - Your doctor or nurse practitioner fills out the medical report portion

- A prescribed professional fills out the assessor report portion. For example, this could be a doctor, registered nurse, nurse practitioner or social worker

Simplified PWD Application Process

If you're already eligible for certain programs, you may be able to use a simplified application process. You can access this simplified process if you receive benefits from:

- » Community Living BC (CLBC)
- » The Ministry of Children and Family Development At Home Program
- » BC PharmaCare Plan P – Palliative Care Benefits
- » Canada Pension Plan – Disability Benefits

This means you'll complete a shorter PWD application form. You won't need to have your health care provider complete a full PWD application.

If you receive benefits from one of the programs listed above, speak with a worker to request a *Persons with Disabilities Designation—Prescribed Class Application*. You'll still have to meet all other eligibility requirements to begin receiving disability assistance.