

## **At Home Program Transition to Disability Assistance Information Sheet**

### **What is At Home Program Transition to Disability Assistance?**

For youth in receipt of Ministry of Children and Family Development's (CFD) At Home Program, **transition** refers to the process of applying for disability assistance and the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (SDSI) prior to the applicant's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **What disability programs and services are provided by SDSI?**

SDSI's BC Employment and Assistance program for Persons with Disabilities provides financial assistance to help with ongoing monthly support and shelter costs. SDSI also provides various health supplements to clients such as ongoing medical supplies and medical equipment. For more information, please visit: <http://www.sdsi.gov.bc.ca/pwd.htm>

### **Who can apply?**

The application process is designed for youth with disabilities from CFD's At Home Program who are planning to apply for disability assistance with SDSI.

### **What steps are involved with transitioning to disability assistance?**

**Step 1:** Go online to apply

**Step 2:** A ministry worker will call you

**Step 3:** You will be asked to submit documents

**Step 4:** The ministry will review your application and documents

**Step 5:** A decision will be made and communicated to you

Start applying as early as six months before your son/daughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Apply online on the **Self Serve Assessment and Application** at [www.iaselfserve.gov.bc.ca](http://www.iaselfserve.gov.bc.ca). If you do not have Internet access, please call **toll-free at 1-866-866-0800**. The online application will provide information on the process of assessing eligibility and applying for disability assistance. During the online application, you will be asked if you are eligible for the At Home Program, please select the application option. At the end of the online application, there will be an opportunity to indicate the name of an advocate, family member or friend that assisted with the application.

Once the application has been completed and submitted, an SDSI worker will review the application and contact you to request financial documents to confirm your son/daughter's income or assets. Once the application has been processed, you will be sent written notification confirming the decision.

## **Does a PWD designation application form need to be completed?**

A PWD designation application form will not be required in nearly all cases. If you already take part in the Ministry of Children and Family Development At Home Program, you may be able to use a simplified PWD designation application process.

This means you will complete a shorter application form and you won't have to complete a full application and get a new diagnosis. Speak with a SDSI worker to request a *Persons with Disabilities Designation – Prescribed Class Application*. You will still have to meet all other eligibility requirements to begin receiving disability assistance.

The information provided to SDSI by the At Home Program will be sufficient to confirm that the criteria for the PWD designation have been met. In rare cases where the At Home Program information is not sufficient, a SDSI worker may request additional medical information.

## **What documents should be prepared in advance?**

- ✓ Government Photo ID card such as BC Services Card, BCID or passport
- ✓ Social Insurance number
- ✓ Recent Bank Profile Information
  - Financial records such as bank statements, RESPs, Bonds, RRSPs, GICs, Trust Funds and RDSPs

## **When should transition planning begin?**

We encourage you to start the process early to ensure a seamless transition of services and ongoing financial support. You can start applying as early as six months before your son/daughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This allows SDSI time to receive your application, obtain supporting documents and review the information.

## **For more information:**

For further questions, please call toll-free at 1-866-866-0800, press "2", enter phone number, confirm phone number by pressing "1," press "2" for Provincial Programs, then press "5" Specialized Intake

Or visit SDSI's **BC Employment and Assistance Policy & Procedure Manual** at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/policies-for-government/bcea-policy-and-procedure-manual>