

## Teens with an Intellectual Disability

You may also be able to use a simplified disability application process if you:

- » Are 17½ to 19 years old
- » Have a confirmed intellectual disability

This means you can submit an existing psychological assessment and diagnosis.

To begin the simplified application process:

- » Speak with a worker to request a PWD designation—prescribed class application
- » Call 1-866-866-0800 to speak with a worker

You'll still have to meet all other eligibility requirements to begin receiving disability assistance.

## Disability and Supplementary Assistance

On disability assistance you may be eligible for:

- » Monthly support and shelter assistance
- » Health benefits, including:
  - Medical Services Plan
  - No-deductible for PharmaCare
- » Other health benefits, such as:
  - Dental coverage
  - Diet and nutritional supplements
  - Hearing aids
  - Medical equipment
  - Medical supplies
  - Medical therapies
  - Medical transportation
  - Optical services
  - Orthotics and bracing

- » An annual earnings exemption of \$16,200 per year
- » Other general supplements for transportation, a guide dog and co-op share purchasing

## Working While on Disability Assistance

You can still work and earn money. You have an annual earnings exemption of \$16,200.

This means:

- » Money you earn up to this amount does not change your monthly assistance
- » You can earn money anytime during the year
- » There is no monthly limit to the exemption
- » You'll need to tell us the amount you earn each month

## For More Information

- » Visit our website at [gov.bc.ca/sdpr](https://gov.bc.ca/sdpr)
- » Call us at 1-866-866-0800
- » Access income and disability assistance services online at [myselfserve.gov.bc.ca](https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca)
- » Visit your local employment and assistance office

# Persons with Disabilities



Ministry of  
Social Development  
and Poverty Reduction

# BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

We're committed to improving services for people with disabilities. BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) promotes independence for people with disabilities. Examples of BCEA supports include:

- » Income support with a higher assistance rate
- » Health benefits
- » General supplements
- » Employment supports

## Eligibility

To be eligible for disability assistance, you must have the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation. For this designation, you must:

- » Show that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance
- » Be 18 years old, but you can start the application process when you are 17½
- » 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
  - An assistance animal

If you leave disability assistance, you can keep your PWD designation. This includes leaving disability assistance for:

- » Employment
- » Other income support programs

In some cases, you might be able to keep your health benefits. If you need disability assistance in the future, you won't have to apply for PWD designation again.

## Overview of the Application Process

The application process has three steps:

1. Show that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance
2. Request a PWD designation application:
  - » You can do this as part of your application for financial assistance
3. Complete the PWD designation application

## How to Complete the PWD Application

Complete all three parts of the PWD application:

- » 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. This could be a:
  - Doctor
  - Registered nurse
  - Nurse practitioner
  - Social worker

If you already receive income assistance, call 1-866-866-0800 to speak with a worker and request a PWD designation application.

## PWD Moving Off Reserve

If you receive disability assistance from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), you can apply to transfer your PWD application to the BCEA program when you move off reserve.

1. Complete a Consent to Release of Information Form:
  - » The BCEA program will use your original PWD application to determine if you are eligible
2. Show that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance

## Simplified Application Process

If you're already eligible for certain programs, you may be able to use a simplified application process. This means you'll complete a shorter application form that gives us permission to confirm your eligibility from another program.

You can access the simplified process if you receive benefits from:

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