

Enhanced Out-of-Care Support Agreements Eligibility Information

Summary

Children and youth who have to leave their parent's care often have needs that are distinct from other children and youth. Out-of-care/kinship care providers are integral to supporting these children and youth to thrive in safe and loving homes.

Some children and youth living in out-of-care arrangements have additional needs that are complex enough to impact their day-to-day lives in a profound way. Out-of-care (also called kinship) care providers may require more robust supports to meet the needs of these children/youth.

Enhanced Out-of-Care Support Agreements will provide comprehensive, wrap around supports for these children and youth. These supports can be used to help promote mental health and wellness or to meet the child or youth's disability-related needs in the home. The supports are identified by the care provider and other members of the child's circle and are tailored to the needs of the child/youth.

Your Eligibility Questions Answered

Is the child/youth I am caring for eligible for an Enhanced Out-of-Care Support Agreement?

The information provided here is only a guide. Answering 'yes' to the questions does not guarantee eligibility for an Enhanced Out-of-Care Support Agreement. Additional assessment and planning will be necessary.

- A child/youth's need for enhanced supports is determined by a social worker, in collaboration with other members of the child/youth's circle
- Children and youth with significant, complex needs are prioritized for an Enhanced Out-of-Care Support Agreement

The social worker will consider factors such as:

- ✓ Does the child or youth in your care participate in a modified school schedule that is formalized through an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?
- ✓ Is the child or youth in your care receiving substance use, [Child and Youth Mental Health*](#), and/or [Children and Youth with Support Needs**](#) services?
- ✓ Does the child/youth need additional supports that are not available from other sources?

This program is limited to those who meet the eligibility criteria related to the child/youth's needs **and** are in an arrangement under the *Child, Family, and Community Services Act* through The Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) or an Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency (ICFSA). These arrangements are:

- Extended Family Program Agreement
- Interim or temporary custody order to a person other than a parent
- Permanent transfer of custody

You can confirm whether the child or youth is in one of these arrangements by reviewing your current agreement for financial support with MCFD or an ICFSA or contacting your social worker.

I think the child/youth I am caring for might be eligible. What do I do now?

If you answered yes to the considerations identified above, gather any information that may help to determine eligibility and necessary supports. This may include:

- Any assessments that have been completed for the child/youth
- The child/youth's Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- A list of supports and services the child/youth is accessing, has, or has tried to access in the past
- Consider the child/youth's needs in the home environment. What challenges are they experiencing? What additional supports are needed and how will they benefit the child/youth?

When all this information is collected, reach out to MCFD's Client Relations Branch staff who are available to answer questions and help determine eligibility for EOOO funding.

- Call 1-877-387-7027
- Press 1 for a pre-screening assessment before connecting with staff
- Staff are available from 8:30am to 4:00pm PST on business days
- The office is closed daily from 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- You can also e-mail: MCF.Info@gov.bc.ca. Please include EOOO in the subject line

I don't think the child/youth in my care is eligible, but I still need more supports. What can I do?

Community and other supports can include:

- [Child and Youth Mental Health](#)*
- [Children and Youth with Support Needs](#)**
- Cultural connections from the child/youth's Indigenous community
- [StrongStart](#) (Google: strong start)
- [Early Childhood Intervention Programs](#) (Google: early childhood intervention programs)
- Kinship Care Help Line: 1-877-345-9777

If you still need additional supports, contact your social worker or the Client Relations Branch.

*For information about Child and Youth Mental Health, visit www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health. Click "Managing your health", then "Mental Health & Substance Use", then click on "Child & Youth Mental Health", which appears in the bottom of the list in the far left of the page.

**For information about Children and Youth with Support Needs, visit www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health. Click "Managing your health", then "Child Behaviour & Development", then click on "Children and youth with support needs", which appears in the bottom of the list in the far left of the page.