

# Expanded Support for Children and Youth with Disabilities: Financial

## What You Need to Know About Changes in Support for Children and Youth with Autism\*

\* Many children have multiple co-occurring conditions (such as anxiety, ADHD and other developmental or mental health needs). The ministry uses person-first language (“children with autism”) to avoid presuming how any individual identifies.

### How the changes will AFFECT YOUR FAMILY

Families are asking how changes to support for children and youth with disabilities will affect autism funding.

#### Funding Increase \$200M-\$240M

Direct funding for children with autism is increasing from \$170M-\$190M to \$200M-\$240M per year in the new system.

#### NEW \$475M

This increase in direct funding for children with autism is part of the Province's new \$475M investment for all children and youth with disabilities.

#### 1/3 Will Receive More

One third of current autism funding recipients will receive more direct funding in the new system.

The structure of funding is changing but not decreasing.

Current funding recipients will continue to receive a level of direct funding, with some being augmented with community services.

A much smaller number of families will move into being supported through priority access for substantially expanded community-based services.

All families will be supported throughout this transition.

### Direct FUNDING

Financial support will flow through two programs:

#### Disability Benefit

For children and youth who need very significant, ongoing support to perform the functions of day-to-day living

#### Not income tested

\$6,500 per year (base) or \$17,000 per year (higher needs)

An estimated 9,000 children and youth with autism are expected to qualify based on current projections

#### Disability Supplement

Available to families eligible for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

#### Income tested

Up to \$6,000 per year (estimates show that approximately 50% of families who have children with autism receiving the DTC will receive the full supplement)

Paid directly to families in their bank accounts

To receive direct funding through the supplement, families must apply for and be eligible for the DTC. If their adjusted net income meets the necessary threshold, they will automatically receive this new B.C. Disability Supplement.

Eligibility for the Disability Supplement is based on adjusted net income. This is the amount remaining after common deductions like pensions, childcare, employment costs, as well as disability-related and other eligible expenses.

The average family adjusted net income in B.C. is \$80,000.

### Most of the 27,000 children and youth with autism in B.C. are expected to qualify for one or both programs.

The small number of families who may not qualify will have access to expanded community-based services, delivered in settings that best support the child or youth, including at home.

The DTC supports a broad range of children and youth, including those with invisible disabilities (such as ADHD, PDA and anxiety) and those awaiting an autism diagnosis.

### Expected Funding for DTC-Eligible Families with Children with Autism

Direct funding support levels for families are flexible, reflecting individual situations, unique needs and other criteria.

#### 75%

WILL RECEIVE

\$4,000-\$6,000 in direct funding

#### Most

WILL RECEIVE

some level of direct funding, with 1/3 receiving more than they do today

#### A Small Number

WILL SHIFT

to priority access for expanded community-based services

### What this means FOR FAMILIES

Support for children with autism is increasing:

Direct funding is **INCREASING** for children with autism

from \$170M-\$190M per year to

**\$200M-\$240M**

per year

**INCREASE** in mental health and other free community services through

**NEW \$80M**

in community service expansion

#### 27,000 children and youth with autism in B.C.

The updated model changes how funding is structured.

Most are expected to qualify for one or both direct funding programs.

Eligibility for financial support is based on assessed needs and/or adjusted net income criteria (more families will receive support).

### What's Coming Next

Please see Infographic 2: How Needs Are Assessed and Expanded Community-Based Services Access (to be published in the coming weeks).

### Have additional questions?

Please email us at: [mcf.childrenyouthsupportneeds@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mcf.childrenyouthsupportneeds@gov.bc.ca)



Children and Youth with Support Need Services