

Disability Assistance is a program administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI) designed to cover basic living costs for person 18 or older with a designation of Person With Disability (PWD). Individuals who qualify receive monthly monetary payments, in addition to medical and dental coverage. Individuals may also receive employment income with a yearly cap. Once an individual qualifies for PWD, benefits may always be accessed he/she meets the financial need criteria.

Once your child turns six, autism funding from the BC government is significantly reduced from \$22,000 to \$6000. Once your child turns nineteen, autism funding is no longer available. It is important to think proactively about alternative ways to receive funding and support. PWD isn't a continuation of autism funding, meaning that if you received autism funding from the BC government as a child, there is no guarantee you will receive PWD funding.

This program may be an option if your child (over 18 years) faces challenges with finding and maintaining employment.

Criteria for Eligibility (from Government of BC website)

- Establish that you meet financial eligibility to receive assistance, or are likely to, within six months of the date the application is requested
- 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 and require assistance with daily living activities from another person, an assistive device or assistance animal
- You might be able to use a simplified PWD application if you are already taking part in certain government programs including:

You might be able to use a simplified PWD application if you are already taking part in certain government programs including:

- 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

Contact your worker to find out more details.

Applying For PWD Benefits

- Complete the “[Self-Serve Assessment and Application – Part 1](#)”.
- Wait to be contacted by a ministry representative. It should take anywhere between two and four weeks after completing the application.
- You will be instructed to visit a Ministry office in order to sign the application for disability assistance and to pick up the PWD Designation Application.
- Complete the PWD Designation Application. There are three sections: Application Information (to be completed by the applicant), Physician Report (to be completed by the applicant’s physician) and Assessor Report (to be completed by a prescribed professional). Mail application to the Health Assistance Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation. Click [here](#) to view an example application.
- Wait to be contacted by a ministry representative to receive approval.

Applicants Under 18 Years of Age

Applicants can apply for PWD designation six months before their 18th birthday, unless they are: part of the At Home program, or eligible for Community Living BC, in which case they can submit assessment and diagnostic documentation directly to the Ministry at anytime while they are under 18.

Additional Resources

Click [here](#) to view the Government of BC’s disability assistance page for more information.

Click [here](#) for a help sheet that describes available benefits.

Talk To Us

Have a question? Looking for further information? Our friendly and knowledgeable Information Officers provide personalized support through email, phone, and in-person.

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