

Programs, funding, and support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families vary greatly from province to province, and even greater from country to country. If you are moving to British Columbia, it is essential to familiarize yourself with the province's programs and to begin the necessary application processes.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) is a department of the B.C. government that provides funding and support to children with ASD. [The autism funding program](#) provides funding to families for the purchase of autism intervention services. Families decide which autism intervention services for their child based on their individual needs. Children under six receive \$22,000 per year. From their sixth birthday to their 19th birthday (Autism funding ends in the month before they turn 19) children receive \$6000.

Click [here](#) to view MCFD's "[A Parent's Handbook: Your Guide to Autism Programs](#)" for more information about autism funding and programs.

Applying for MCFD Programs for New Residents

If your child received an ASD diagnosis in another province or country, you will need:

- A [Confirmation of Diagnosis form](#) to be completed by a qualified B.C. specialist (pediatrician, psychiatrist or registered psychologist).
- B.C. medical coverage for your child.
- Child's birth certificate.

New families moving to B.C. may apply for medical benefits after 3 months residency. You need to have B.C. medical before you can apply for autism funding.

MCFD Application Process

MCFD provides funding and services for children with ASD through their Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN) branch.

You will need to contact your local Children and Youth with Special Needs MCFD office in order to apply for funding. You can do that [here](#).

- Call your local MCFD office as soon as possible. Funding will start as soon as CYSN receives your signed application along with the required supporting documents.
- Ask to talk with a CYSN Intake Worker to apply for autism funding for your child.

Note re: Ministry of Education:

Depending on the school district, children who are school aged coming from out of province or out of country may be required to have an assessment completed through BCAAN (BC Autism Assessment Network) to confirm the diagnosis. The Ministry of Education guidelines require that the assessment is done by a BCAAN trained specialist with experience in completing the autism assessment.

Adult Funding

PWD (Persons with Disabilities) is a program administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI) that adults with autism may be eligible for. PWD is designed to cover basic living costs while also providing medical and dental coverage. Click [here](#) for more information on eligibility and criteria.

Community Living BC (CLBC) is a provincial crown agency that provides supports to individuals with Developmental Disabilities as well as individuals who do not have a developmental disability but have a diagnosis of FASD or Autism and significant delays in adaptive functioning. Click [here](#) for more information.

Finding Service Providers

The Registry of Autism Service Providers (RASP) is a listing of MFCD approved autism professionals. If your child is under six and is receiving funding from MFCD, you must hire behavior consultants, occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech pathologists from the RASP list in order to have the cost covered. Behavior interventionists do not need to be from RASP. If they are over six and receiving funding from MCFD, you are not required to hire autism professionals from RASP, although it is a great place to start. Click [here](#) to search RASP.

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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