

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Autism Funding Program (MCFD):	- Provides direct funding to families of children with autism under age 18. Under age 6, families can receive up to \$22,000/year. Between ages 6–18, families can receive up to \$6,000/year.	- Families choose their own service providers. - Funding can be used for: - Therapies (ABA, SLP, OT) - Behavioural supports - Equipment - Parent training, - Other approved supports.	- Once you have an assessment and diagnosis, funding is approved within 2-4 weeks. Public assessments may have a waitlist of 1-3 years. Private assessments often have waitlists up to 6 months.
BC Children and Youth Disability Benefit:	- A newer needs based funding program for children and youth (0–19) with significant or complex disabilities. - Gradually replacing some older funding (including autism funding). - Base level funding is approximately \$6,500/year. Higher needs can receive up to \$17,000/year based on individualized support planning.	- Funding can be managed directly by families, through invoicing, or coordinated by an agency. - Families can use funding flexibly for disability related supports based on a personalized plan. - Includes: - Therapies, respite, and other services that support daily functioning.	N/A

Important Note

- This officially launches on **April 1, 2027**.
- While the benefit is not yet active, you can apply for the foundational **Canada Disability Tax Credit (DTC)** now, which typically takes **10 to 15 weeks** for the CRA to process.
- The province is transitioning existing programs (such as Autism Funding) to the new framework in stages:
 - April 2026 – March 2027:** Existing families transition to the new benefit in stages.
 - March 31, 2027:** Old **Autism Funding** programs end.
 - April 1, 2027:** The **Disability Benefit** becomes fully available to all eligible families.
 - July 2027:** New **Disability Supplement** payments (up to \$6,000 per year depending on income) begin, administered by the CRA.

	Funding	Services	Wait times
At Home Program:	Designed for children with severe disabilities or complex medical needs.	- Families may receive respite funding to arrange care in-home or in the community. - Provides funding for: - Medical equipment and supplies - Therapies - Respite care.	May take a few weeks to a few months for assignment of a case manager and assessment.
Early Childhood Intervention Programs:	Publicly funded early intervention services for infants and young children with developmental delays or disabilities.	- Services focus on building early skills and supporting families at home: - Infant Development Program (birth–3 years) - Early Intervention Therapy (SLP, OT, PT) - Family support and developmental guidance	- Varies by program. Early Intervention Therapy programs can take 6-18 months. Varies by region.
Infant Development Program (IDP):	Publicly funded, free early intervention program for infants and young children (birth to 3 years) who have or are at risk for developmental delays.	- Home based support provided by trained consultants who work with families to: - Build early developmental skills - Support parents with strategies and activities - Connect families to other services and supports	Infant Development Program typically takes 1-3 months. Varies by region.
Supported Child Development (SCD):	Free, community-based program funded by the province.	- Helps children (birth–12) with extra support needs participate in inclusive childcare settings. - Can help with supports such as: - Individual planning, extra staff support in childcare, parent coaching and resources, and referrals to therapy and specialized services.	- Vary by region and urgency of need. Consultant Support typically takes about 3-8 months. - Extra Staffing Support can take a minimum of 6 months, but may take up to 18 months.

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Children and Youth with Support Needs (CYSN) Services:	N/A	- Service coordination through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). - Provides social work support, referrals, and coordination across programs (autism funding, At Home Program, community services).	- Historically lengthy wait times, but this is changing due to restructuring. - Services have taken 3 months-2 years, varying by region and type of service.

Important Note

- B.C. is restructuring the CYSN framework, moving away from diagnostic-tied funding toward expanded, needs-based community services.
- Visit the official [BC Children and Youth with Support Needs](#) portal to review the ongoing transition timelines, service rollouts, and new financial supplement details.

To Do Before You Move

- Ensure you have a letter/official documentation of any diagnosis your child has from a qualified professional, and it must be in English or French.
- Request documentation like your medical records, any completed assessments, or diagnostic reports from professionals you have worked with, and physicians who oversee your child's care.
- Research MCFD offices, therapy providers, and early intervention programs in your destination region.

To Do After You Move

Week 1

- Apply for MSP (BC Medical Services Plan) as soon as possible.
- There is a waiting period equal to the rest of your arrival month plus two additional months before coverage begins.
- Keep your previous provincial coverage or arrange private insurance during this time.

First Month

- Apply for Autism Funding (if eligible).
- Register with MCFD (Children and Youth with Support Needs) services to access coordination and supports. Ask for referrals to early intervention programs, therapy services (SLP, OT, PT), and Supported Child Development (SCD).
- If applicable, apply for the At Home Program for additional supports and respite.
- Get on waitlists for therapy and specialized services.
- Find a new family doctor or pediatrician.

First Three Months

- Work with assigned MCFD or CYSN workers (if applicable) to coordinate services.
- Set up therapy providers and manage funding accounts.
- Follow up on waitlists and early intervention services.
- Connect with local disability organizations for community support and advocacy help.