

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Disability Support Program (DSP):	Nova Scotia's main disability program for children, youth, and adults.	- Provides a range of supports including: - Community living options - Day programs and skill-building supports - Service coordination and case management - Programs are needs-based and voluntary - Supporting children with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities	- Varies based on your preferred support option, location, level of assessed need, and availability. - Can be months to years. - System overhaul is ongoing to make services more accessible.
Autism Services (Provincial Programs):	Delivered through a mix of health, education, and community programs (not a single funding model).	- Provincial Preschool Autism Service (PPAS) - Early Intensive Behavioural Intervention (EIBI) (early years) - School-based supports and social skills programs - Community clinics and transition supports [novascotia.ca]	Public assessments can take 1-2 years to access. - Public services can take years to access post assessment.
Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services (NSECDIS):	Free, province-wide early intervention program for children from birth to school entry.	- Home-based support for families - Developmental coaching and strategies - Service coordination and referrals - Support with transition to school	Typically 6-12 months for in home services. Intensive services may take 18-24 months to access.
Respite and Family Support Services (Autism NS & Community Agencies):	Combination of funded programs and community-based supports.	- Respite provider matching and navigation (RespiteNS database) - Community-based respite programs and recreation - Parent support and caregiver resources - Respite funding may also be accessed through DFSC/EFSC.	Can vary from several months to a couple years.

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Enhanced Home Support	Additional supports layered onto DSP/DFSC	- Increased in-home supports - Complex needs family stabilization	Still stabilizing; varies widely
Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC) & Enhanced Family Support (EFSC):	- Provides financial support to families caring for a child with a disability at home (income-tested). - Direct Family Support for Children offers up to \$2,200 per month, contingent on your family size and net income guidelines. - Enhanced funding (EFSC) is available for children with higher or more complex needs. - Additional funding (up to an extra \$1,600 for a maximum of \$3,800 per month) - If your child's care needs are assessed as exceptionally challenging and require specialized, highly structured support.	- Funding is mainly used for: - Respite care - Caregiver relief - Community participation supports	Application and assessment can take 1-3 months. Full services can take years to come through. - Funding comes through faster than services.

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 services in your destination area—availability can vary across Nova Scotia communities.
- Look into waitlists for early intervention and autism services.

To Do After You Move

Week 1

- Apply for **MSI (Nova Scotia Health Insurance)** as soon as possible.
- If moving from another province, coverage typically begins on the **first day of the third month after arrival**.
- Your previous province will usually cover you during this waiting period.
- Update your address with CRA and Service Canada (for continued access to Disability Tax Credit, RDSP, Child Disability Benefit, etc.).

First Month

- Apply for **Disability Support Program (DSP) and Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC/EFSC)** if eligible.
- Contact early intervention services (**NSECDIS**) for a referral or self-referral.
- Ask about autism services through health providers or schools.
- Register with respite programs and explore local supports (Autism Nova Scotia, RespiteNS).
- Find a new family doctor or pediatrician.

First Three Months

- Follow up on funding applications and service referrals.
- Work with assigned caseworkers (if applicable) to develop your child's support plan.
- Get connected to school-based supports if applicable.
- Connect with community organizations for support and advocacy.