

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD):	• Alberta's main disability program for children under 18. • Provides individualized funding based on your child's needs (not income-tested). • FSCD does not back-pay for out-of-pocket therapies. • Funding only begins once contracts are officially signed by both you and the agency.	• Families work with a caseworker to create a service plan and can choose their own service providers. • Funding Includes: • Therapy (SLP, OT, behavioural supports/ABA) • Respite care • Child care supports, aides • Counselling • Specialized services	• No official waitlist information has been published since 2021. • Estimates are 2-6 months for case worker assignment. • Access to full services may take 1-3 years (services such as respite and therapies). • Individual providers typically have waitlists 2-6 months long.
Autism and Therapy Services (Accessed through FSCD and community providers):	• Many autism-related services (e.g., ABA, behavioural therapy) are funded through FSCD and delivered by approved providers.	• Individualized therapy plans • Behavioural supports • Parent coaching • Community-based services tailored to the child's needs	• Individual providers typically have waitlists 2-6 months long.
Respite and Family Supports:	• Typically provided through FSCD agreements based on assessed need.	• In-home or out-of-home respite care • Community aides • Caregiver supports to give families a break and support participation in daily life	• Roughly 3 weeks for out of home group respite. • Roughly 8 weeks for in home respite.
Program Unit Funding (PUF) – Early Childhood Education Supports:	• Education-based funding provided through preschools and kindergarten programs (families do not apply directly).	• Supports children (approx. ages 2.8–6) with developmental delays or disabilities in early learning settings. • May include access to: • Speech therapy • Occupational therapy • Classroom supports. • Regionally operated, local programs available across the province.	• N/A

	Funding	Services	Wait times
Early Childhood Services (ECS) Programming:	- Publicly funded early childhood education programming (often combined with PUF). - Not applied for by parents.	Helps children build early developmental and school-readiness skills through structured and play-based programs, often with multidisciplinary therapy supports.	N/A
PEAK (Prevention, Early Assessment & Knowledge Program)	Public early autism intervention (replacing older models)	- Early identification and intervention - Coaching and therapy supports - Family-centred programming	Still evolving; typically months to 1+ year

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 FSCD service providers and early childhood programs (PUF/ECS) in your destination community.

To Do After You Move

Week 1

- Apply for the **Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan** (AHCIP) as soon as possible.
- If moving from another province, coverage usually begins on the first day of the third month after arrival (your previous province may cover you during this time).

First Month

- Apply for FSCD funding as early as possible (intake and service coordination can take time).
- Explore:
 - Early childhood programs (PUF/ECS)
 - Therapy providers (SLP, OT, behavioural services)
 - Respite supports
- Get on waitlists for therapy and specialized services if needed.
- Find a new family doctor or pediatrician.

First Three Months

- Work with your FSCD worker (if approved) to develop your child's service plan.
- Select and coordinate service providers that meet your family's needs.
- Follow up on therapy, school supports, and respite arrangements.
- Connect with local disability organizations for community support and advocacy help.