

# Family Supports for Children with Disabilities



**Family Supports for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)** is a family-centred, strength based program, founded on a rights based approach to disability.

This is a voluntary program that assists families raising children with disabilities with the extraordinary care and supports necessary to enhance their existing strengths.

Family Supports for Children with Disabilities recognizes that each family is unique: that the family is the constant in the child's life; and that they are the experts on the child's abilities and needs.

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility looks beyond the child's disability to examine all relevant factors that affect the child's ability to participate in society. The current supports available cannot address all the unmet needs of the child and family.

The Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program is available to families raising a child who:

- has a disability, a lifelong physical, sensory, cognitive or neurological condition or impairment which in interaction with various barriers significantly limits their ability to participate in activities of daily living.
- is under the age of 19.
- is a resident of New Brunswick.
- has a valid New Brunswick Medicare card or evidence that application for this card has been made.
- has at least one written letter of support/assessment from a professional indicating the nature of their disability.

Professionals may include:

- Physician/Surgeon/Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatrist
- Optometrist
- Occupational therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Psychologist
- Speech Language Pathologist
- Social Worker

While involved with the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program, parents maintain responsibility for their child's overall care.

Participation in the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program involves a family contribution towards services for families who have the financial means to contribute.

Eligibility for the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program is not based on family income or the child having a specific diagnosis.



## FAMILY SUPPORT PLAN

Families eligible for the program work together with a Family Supports for Children with Disabilities social worker to develop a Family Support Plan.

Service options will be explored to address identified unmet needs. Service options are unique to each family admitted to the program.

Examples of service options may include:

- Social worker support services
- Relief Care
- Child Care Services (children 12-18 years)
- Therapeutically based recreational programs
- Family Counselling
- Assistance to access medical services
- Health Card
- Medical equipment
- Special dietary foods

Families are responsible for all of the costs typically associated with raising a child. Families must access all other supports, services and resources available to them before Family Supports for Children with Disabilities will fund a similar service.

This includes insurance coverage, health benefits plans and other government or community programs.



## SERVICE DELIVERY

The Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program offers two levels of service delivery:

### Family-Managed Support Option

A designated family member accepts responsibility for coordinating, managing and directing services in their Family Support Plan. Social work support is available, if needed.

### Social Worker Case Managed Option

The Family Supports for Children with Disabilities social worker is available for ongoing support and will coordinate, manage and direct services identified in the Family Support Plan.

## FAMILY-CENTRED MEETINGS

The family centred meeting recognizes that a plan developed by the family will best meet the needs of the child and family. This meeting is organized by the social worker and allows family members and service providers to identify support plan objectives and address issues.

## HOW TO APPLY

Call the Social Development office in your region. If you meet preliminary eligibility, a social worker will meet you and your family to complete the application.



For more information about the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program, please visit [www.gnb.ca/socialdevelopment](http://www.gnb.ca/socialdevelopment) or call the Social Development office in your region.

Moncton	1 (866) 426-5191
Saint John	1 (866) 441-4340
Fredericton	1 (866) 444-8838
Edmundston	1 (866) 441-4249
Restigouche	1 (866) 441-4245
Chaleur	1 (866) 441-4341
Acadian Peninsula	1 (866) 441-4149
Miramichi	1 (866) 441-4246