

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 voluntary program assists families raising children with disabilities with the extraordinary care and supports necessary to enhance their existing strengths. The focus of the program is to service unmet needs and to advocate for access to resources to support family well-being and community inclusion.

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 eligibility criteria considers the child and family's **unmet needs** as a result of the child's disability.

For the purpose of the Family Supports for Children with Disabilities program, a disability is defined as a lifelong physical, sensory, cognitive or neurological condition or impairment which in interaction with various barriers, significantly limits a child's ability to function in daily living. It does not include a condition for which the primary need is for medical care or health services to treat or manage the condition, unless it is a chronic condition.

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

- has a disability that significantly limits their ability to participate in activities of daily living;
- are under the age of 19;
- are 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 may involve a family contribution towards services for families who have the financial means to contribute. The contribution amount is determined during the application.

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 collaboratively with a Family Supports for Children with Disabilities social worker to develop a Family Support Plan.

In developing a plan, the family and the social worker will explore potential service options to address the unmet needs identified. Service options are unique to each family admitted to the program.

Some examples of service options may include:

- Social worker support services
- Information and referrals
- Relief care
- Child care services (children 12-18 years)
- Therapeutically based recreational programs
- Family counselling
- Coaching
- 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 any other relevant 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

It is recognized that the family system has the most knowledge and expertise to develop a plan that will best meet the child and family's needs. A family-centered meeting is organized by the social worker and provides an opportunity for family members and service providers working with the family to come together to clearly identify support, plan goals 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 or call the Social Development office in your region.

1-833-SDDStel (1-833-733-7835)