

What is FSCD?

FSCD stands for “Family Support for Children with Disabilities” and the program is based on the Family Support for Children with Disabilities Act. Eligible families with children with disabilities may be able to access a wide range of program and funding. This could include: respite support, funding for extraordinary costs related to a child’s disability, programs/supports that focus on improving a child development and participation in their home and community and more.

Who is eligible for FSCD funding?

Families who fit the following criteria are eligible:

- A parent or legal guardian of the child must be the person applying
- The child must live in Alberta
- The child must be under 18 and be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- You must have medical documentation for your child of a physical, developmental, mental, sensory and/or neurological disability OR a health condition that effects your child’s participation in daily activities such as interacting with others, playing, hygiene routines, eating, etc.

How do I access FSCD?

Once you have reviewed the eligibility criteria and meet the requirements, you will have to fill out an online application through FSCD. You can find this application [here](#). If you do not have an existing account, you will need to create an account to access the application.

You will need to ensure that you have medical documentation necessary. FSCD will want Get a letter or report from a health professional who has diagnosed your child’s disability. It may be written by, or on behalf of a: physician or psychiatrist, physical or occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist or audiologist, clinical social worker, or psychologist

You will be responsible for any fees the health professional charges to prepare the letter or report. It must include:

- your child’s name and date of birth
- the diagnosis as either an existing disability or a condition or impairment that may lead to a disability
- information about the disability, how it affects your child’s daily functioning and whether it will have long-term implications
- the date the diagnosis was made – it should be current within 2 years
- the name of the physician or health professional who made the diagnosis



Once you have all necessary medical documentation and application, make copies of your full application package for your own records. You will then be able to drop off, mail or e-mail this application to the nearest FSCD office. You can find the address to the nearest office [here](#).

Once submitted, you should hear back from FSCD two weeks from which they received your application with next steps.

1. Ask you to provide more information to determine your child's eligibility, or
2. Explain why your child is not eligible and give you information about other programs and resources that may be helpful, or
3. Say your child is eligible and discuss next steps to determine your needs, goals and the supports you may get.

How do I know if I should reach out to FSCD for support?

If you have a child with a disability or challenge as mentioned above, you should reach out. A caseworker will be able to explain the process and if you might be eligible. Once you have a caseworker, they will also complete a "needs assessment" that helps them determine which funding, programs and services your child and family may be eligible for at that time.

You can also contact us at Kids Uncomplicated if you have questions about the process of applying and we'd be happy to walk you through what to expect and some of the services we are familiar with.

Call 587-597-4433

What is Specialized Services?

There are a variety of programs within FSCD that your child may be able to access. Specialized Services is one of these programs. This program involves support from a team of professionals who work directly with your family. Services are focused on goals that support your child's development and functioning in their home and community. If your child qualifies, your child could receive support from the following professionals: a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist, a speech-language pathologist, a psychologist and/or behaviour specialist, and/or a program aide.

To be eligible for this service, your child needs to have a severe disability that significantly impacts their ability to function in day to day activities. Your child should also require consistent and ongoing support and supervision to ensure they are safe and/or able to fully participate in age appropriate activities. Your child would need to have severe or critical needs in at least 2 areas of the following: behaviour, communication and social skills, cognition, physical motor skills, and self-help/adaptive functioning

<https://www.alberta.ca/fscd-specialized-services.aspx>



What is a critical or severe need?

Here are some examples of what might be considered a critical need in some of the areas above:

Communication and Social skills:

- Your child has limited functional communication skills (e.g. they have trouble communicating with the world around them, they do not understand what is being spoken with them at a level that other children their age do)
- Your child often gets frustrated trying to communicate basic wants/needs
- For older children: communication is limited. For example, they do not engage in a variety of communication functions like making comments (e.g. “wow” “I see”...), asking and answering questions, protesting, and more.
- Your child has difficulty communicating and interacting with peers
- Your child has a limited play repertoire which is impacting his or her ability to interact with other children

Behaviour:

- Your child shows aggressive or destructive behaviour which is challenging to manage
- Your child experiences frequent tantrums or meltdowns at a level or frequency that is not typical for other children his or her age
- Your child has significant safety needs. You worry about bringing your child into the community as he/she has (tried to) bolt or wander off. You may have safety concerns in the home (E.g. your child has limited safety awareness, may climb on unsafe objects or touch hot objects)

Self-help and adaptive functioning:

- Your child is not yet toilet trained or has significant toileting needs that are not age appropriate
- Your child is not independently dressing themselves (if age appropriate)
- Your child is not able to tolerate basic hygiene routines (e.g. unable to tolerate toothbrushing, hair washing)



- Your child requires substantial support to complete and participate in hygiene and self-care routines (yet should be independently or mostly independent at their age)
- Your child has a limited food repertoire that significantly impacts their nutritional intake

Physical motor

- Your child is not able to participate in community or cultural activities due to physical or motor limitations
- Your child experiences safety issues due to limitations in their motor skills
- Your child does not consistently perform or participate in developmentally appropriate motor activities (e.g. walking, running, using stairs) and/or not does have enough endurance to participate in these activities

What is a Behaviour-Developmental Support Program?

Behaviour Developmental Support programs focus on 1-2 goals/developmental areas. For these programs, your child would need to qualify/show needs in the areas mentioned above. Behaviour Developmental Support programs are typically for children who only qualify in 1 or 2 critical areas and would receive support from 1-2 professionals only. These programs are usually smaller in scope, focusing on 1-2 top parent priorities or goals.