

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES (ACSD)

*Formerly known as Handicapped Children's Benefits (HCB)

It provides help to parents to assist with some of the extra costs of caring for a child who has a disability.

What funding and/or service(s) are provided under the program?

Financial assistance ranges from \$25.00 to \$400.00 per month depending on the family's gross annual income and the number of other children in the family.

A child is eligible for the dental card.

The program may help parents with extraordinary costs related to a child's condition. Examples include travel to doctors and hospitals, special shoes and clothing, parental relief, wheelchair repairs, hearing aid batteries, and financial assistance for basic dental care, drugs, eyeglasses, and hearing aides.

Who is eligible for this program?

The child must be under 18 years of age and live at home with a parent or a legal guardian.

The income of a family will be evaluated to determine qualification.

The child must have a severe disability that results in a functional loss.

Extraordinary costs must be present which are incurred directly as a result of the disability.

How do I apply for this program?

Parents applying for ACSD benefits can get an application form the nearest Ministry of Children and Youth Services or downloaded from the web site.

Web site: www.children.gov.on.ca Click on children with special needs on the left hand side of the page. Once in Children with special needs scroll down to Assistance for children with Severe Disabilities. Once there you can get the phone number and address for your area.

Special Services At Home (SSAH)

Special Services at Home program helps children with developmental or physical disabilities and adults with a developmental disability to live at home with their families by providing funding on a time-limited basis to address individual needs. With this funding, families can purchase supports and services which they could not normally provide themselves and are not available elsewhere in the community

What funding and/or service (s) are provided under SSAH?

Each family has a unique set of circumstances. You will need to describe your family's needs, establish your own goals and indicate the type of assistance you need. Funds may be provided for the following:

Personal development and Growth –This could include helping a person acquire new skills and abilities, such as improving communications skills or supporting a person as he or she undertakes more and more of the activities associated with daily living.

(Setting goals for your child and writing tasks to be carried out by a worker as taught by P.O.P. staff)

Family Relief and Support- Families may have additional responsibilities in caring for a family member with a disability. SSAH provides funding for respite or parent relief and related supports. While the person with a disability will likely benefit directly, the overall goal is to help the family meet their identified needs.

Who is eligible for this program?

Children with a developmental or physical disability and adults with a developmental disability are eligible for SSAH if they:

Are residents of Ontario.

Have an ongoing functional limitation as a result of a disability.

Require support beyond that which is a normal family responsibility and

Are living at home with their families.

How do I apply for this program?

You will need to complete an Application form, which can be printed off the web site. P.O.P. staff can print out the forms for their families. Go to www.children.on.ca, then click on Programs at the top of the page in the header. Then click Social & Community Services, then Developmental services and in the text it says click here for SSAH application form.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

Persons with disabilities who are 18 years of age and older may be eligible for income support under the ODSP Act. The program provides income support and employment supports for people with disabilities and is funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

To assist with the transition to independence, a person can apply to the ODSP up to six months prior to their 18th birthday. ***(This is highly recommended as it takes forever for the doctor to fill out the forms and the ODSP program to process the forms).***

Applicants should go to the local Ontario Works or ODSP office, and request an application to determine financial eligibility. Applicants who are financially eligible are given a Disability Determination Package. The package must be completed by an approved health professional and submitted to the Disability Adjudication Unit at the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The ODSP also offers a range of employment supports to assist people with disabilities to find and keep jobs in the competitive work force. Employment supports include employment counseling, pre-employment preparation and skills based training, and on-the-job supports.

In addition, the ODSP provides an extensive array of health-related benefits including basic dental care. Drug coverage, eyeglasses and hearing aids. Special diet allowances, guide dog benefit, diabetic supplies, surgical supplies and medical transportation may also be provided depending on individual need. The ODSP also covers 25 per cent of the co-payment required on items covered under the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's assistive Devices Program and assists with the cost of wheelchair/mobility device repairs and batteries.

(The Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities program is an example of an ODSP program this applicable to special needs children.)

P.O.P. staff can go to the web site and find the appropriate office for their families. Go to www.children.gov.on.ca, Click on the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, then on the left hand side click on children with special needs, scroll down to Ontario Disability Support Program and click on it. This gives the general information about the program then click on the red Ontario Disability Support Program and it will bring you to information about the program and where the offices are and their phone numbers.

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities (RRAP-disabilities)

The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) for Persons with disabilities offers financial assistance to homeowners and landlords to undertake accessibility work to modify dwellings occupied or intended for occupancy by low-income persons with disabilities.

Who is Eligible?

Homeowners may apply if:

The value of their house is below a specified figure,
Their household income is at or below established ceilings (limits) based on household size and area.

Landlords may apply for modifications to units if:

The rents are at or below established levels, and
The units are occupied by tenants with incomes at or below the income ceilings.

Assistance is also available to landlords owning rooming houses with rents below established levels. Properties must meet minimum health and safety standards.

What assistance is available?

Assistance is in the form of a forgivable loan.

For home owners, assistance is provided for one hundred per cent (100%) of the total cost of the modifications up to the maximum loan amount for the area. Homeowners must agree to continue to own and occupy the home for the term of the loan.

Landlords, 100 per cent forgiveness is available for accessibility modifications with incomes at or below established income ceilings.

P.O.P. staff can go to the website at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca, then go to programs and financial assistance on the left side of the page, then click on RRAP. Office information for your area, along with phone numbers can be found here and printed out.

TAX CREDITS

Disability Tax Credit (DTC)

The Government of Canada manages eligibility for the Disability Tax Credit. The Disability Tax Credit is limited to people who are blind or have a severe and prolonged mental or physical impairment, which causes them to be markedly restricted in their ability to perform a basic activity of daily living, all or almost all of the time, even with therapy and the use of devices and medication.

Eligibility

A child is eligible for the DTC depending on the effect of the person's impairment on the ability to perform the basic activities of daily living.

If a parent has a dependent child who meets the eligibility requirements for the DTC, the parent may transfer and claim the unused portion of the child's DTC.

Application Process:

Determine whether the eligibility criteria for the credit are met.
The application can be obtained through your local tax services office or at the Canada Customs and Revenue web site.

The Disability Tax Credit is for eligible children under the age of 18 years old.

P.O.P. staff can go to the web site www.cra-arc.gc.ca to get the forms and other information as required for the family.

Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)

The Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. Included within the CCTB is the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS), a monthly benefit for low-income families with children. The NCBS is the Government of Canada's contribution to the National Child Benefit, a joint initiative of federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

Eligibility;

To get the CCTB, you must meet all the following conditions:

You must live with the child, and the child must be under the age of 18,

You must be the person who is primarily responsible for the care and upbringing of the child

You must be a resident of Canada, and

You or your spouse or common-law partner must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, a protected person, or a temporary resident.

P.O.P. staff can download the forms on the CCTB web site. The site is www.cra-arc.gc.ca and go to the Child Tax Benefit. This benefit is for all children.

Tax Credits for Adults with a Disability

There are several tax credits and transfer of tax credits for adults with disability. An adult is anyone over the age of 18 years.

P.O.P. staff can go to the web site at www.cra-arc.gc.ca, then in the first column click on More topics for Individuals then click on Life Events. Then click on What to do when someone becomes disabled. There is a lot of information there for various disabilities. It also gives phone numbers and address.

PRIVATE FUNDING

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE CHILDREN'S CHARITY

The President's Choice Children's Charity is dedicated to helping children who are physically or developmentally challenged. Families who have children born with disabilities like Spina Bifida, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, to name a few, can go to PCCC for help.

They provide financial assistance in the purchase of expensive equipment, environmental modifications, physical therapy and more. (POP info. I know of a family who received funds to buy a cheap car to drive her twins to various appointments.)

The charity is for children to age 18 years.

The web site is www.presidentschoice.ca/childrenscharity. This web site has to application form to download.

CANADIAN TIRE JUMP START

Canadian Tire Jump Start program is delivered by a nationwide network of local Charities.

Decisions to fund a child's participation are based primarily on financial need, and Chapter representatives rely on the help of their community leaders to identify children who would benefit from the program

The charity funds a child's participation in a community based sports activity. The funding is provided for the cost of the equipment needed to play the game.

This charity is for all children, not just special needs.

The web site is www.canadiantire.ca. Click on Canadian Tire Jumpstart program on the left had side index.

Jennifer Ashleigh Foundation
RR#1,
Uxbridge, Ontario
905-640-5758, ext 341

This foundation provides financial assistance to help individuals pay for the costs of medical, mobility, or communication devices. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and depend on the availability of funding. They prefer to be seen as a funding resource of last resort. ADP and Easter Seals must be contacted first. A letter from a physician or other professional, on letterhead, is required to substantiate the request.

(I have not found a web site for this organization as yet.) January