

British Columbia:
Accessing Respite Funding

Contact your local Ministry of Children's and Family Development (MCFD) office

Find your local office here:
[http://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/dmf-viewer/?](http://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/dmf-viewer/)

To be eligible for respite funding a child under the age of 19 must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Has a developmental disability, i.e., has a confirmed diagnosis of Mental Retardation (DSM IV-TR) or Intellectual Disability (DSM-5)
- has a confirmed diagnoses of Global Developmental Delay (DSM-5)
- has been assessed as eligible for the At Home Program
- has a confirmed diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder
- has a confirmed diagnosis of Unspecified Intellectual Disability and eligibility has been approved by Director of CYNS Policy

If you believe your child is eligible contact your local MCFD office you will begin initial intake. MCFD will send you a package with forms you must complete and send back to them.

Once the package has been returned to MCFD you will get assigned a Social Worker from a special unit, Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSN)

See this website for more information about CYSN Supports:
[BC CYSN](#)

Your CYSN Social Worker will complete several assessments to find out more about you, your child and the support needs of your family.

During these meetings with your Social Worker you can request services, including respite.

When your Social Worker confirms you are approved for respite (it may take some time and some advocacy efforts to reach this point) you can choose between three different respite programs:

Basic Respite Program - Agency

- Respite funding sent directly to an agency.
- Amount of respite depends on the CYSN Social Workers assessments but 28 days of respite per year is the average.
- Agency screens respite workers, manages their employment (taxes, wages, payment, hours, criminal record check, etc.).
- Agency works with families to schedule respite hours.
- Agency matches caregivers to families with respite funding to complete their approved respite

Basic Respite Program - Direct

- Respite funding sent directly to families.
- Amount depends on the CYSN Social Workers assessments.
- Family is responsible for finding, hiring/firing respite workers.
- Families usually hire workers as contractors and organizes payment, hours, criminal record checks, tax information, etc.
- Families keep records of workers hours and payments made, and send records to MCFD.
- Families can be audited.
- Funding can only be used to

At Home Respite Program

- Meant for families supporting a child with complex care needs.
- Families work with their CYSN Social Worker to create a funding agreement.
- Maximum of \$2,800 per year.
- Families can get funding directly on a monthly basis, or get reimbursed after they pay respite workers.
- More information here: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/children-teens-with-special-needs/>