

The Registered Disability Savings Plan

A savings plans for long-term financial stability specific to folks living with disabilities where the government matches contributions.

The Registered Disability Savings Plan Application Process

Register for the Disability Tax Credit

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is needed to be able to get the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP). A pathway to accessing the DTC can be found on this website.

File Income Tax Returns

For the federal government to determine the grant amount available to you, you must file income tax returns.

Information on how to file income tax returns can be accessed through this [link](#).

You must file income tax returns every year to get the RDSP. If the RDSP is for a child, they must file income taxes every year (regardless of age) to get the RDSP.

Choose a Financial Institution

The next step is to choose a bank to open an RDSP account with. Most major banks offer this service. If your bank does not offer this service, you may have to work with the main RDSP office and send in your documentation to them.

It is strongly recommended you work with staff at the bank who have past experience in setting up RDSPs. This may mean switching banks, because many bank staff do not have experience in setting up or maintaining RDSPs. It is also recommended to monitor the RDSP account closely yourself or work with a financial planner.

Establish an Account Holder (Required for Children)

A 'holder' is the person who will manage the plan and decide investments. All children under the age of 18 years old will have their parent and/or guardian as their 'holder'. Once they become 18, they will take responsibility over the account unless they cannot manage their own financial affairs (determined by the bank teller). In that case, an adult guardian (holder) will be selected to manage the account.

More information on the requirements of holders can be found on page 16 of the [Plan Institute guide](#).



Open an RDSP Account

You are now prepared to open the RDSP account. When you go to open your account ensure to bring:

- (1) The Social Insurance Number of the child
- (2) One piece of Photo ID of the child



Invest Finances

After opening an account, the holder will deposit funds and decide how these funds should be invested. You should work with representatives at their financial institutions to decide between: (1) Low Risk Investments and (2) High Risk Investments.

More information on types of investments can be found on page 18 of the [Plan Institute guide](#). Investments should be revisited at a minimum once a year by the holder.



Other Financial Contributions to the RDSP

The RDSP is made up of RDSP is made up of 3 components:

- (1) **Individual contributions:** by the account owner or others as mentioned earlier;
- (2) **Matching RDSP grants:** where the government matches individual contributions of the RDSP varying in size from 3-1 to 1-1 depending on the [specific circumstances](#);
- (3) **The RDSP Savings Bond:** this is a bond of \$1000 a year for 20 years, [based on income](#) of individual (if over 18 years old), or family (if under 18 years old).





File Income Taxes Annually

To continue being eligible for the RDSP it is important that income taxes are submitted annually for the account holder. If you are managing the account for your child, you must file the income taxes on their behalf, even if they are not receiving any income.