

## **Alberta Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)**

The Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD) Program gives a wide range of family-centred supports and services. [Services](#) are meant to help strengthen a families' ability to promote their child's healthy development and encourage their child's participation in activities at home and in the community.

The program is voluntary; parents remain the guardians for their child and are responsible for all decision-making and the usual expenses of raising a child until their child turns 18 years old.

For more detailed information, please follow [this link](#)

If you would like support in this application process, you can contact [Alberta Supports](#), who can assist you and refer you to other programs you might be eligible for.

### **Alberta Family Support for Children with Disabilities (FSCD)** *Application Process*



#### **Confirm Eligibility**

In order for a family to be eligible for the FSCD program:

- The child with a disability must be under age 18;
- The person applying for the program must be the child's parent or have guardianship of the child;
- The child must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- The child and the parent or guardian must reside in Alberta
- Medical documentation must be provided confirming that the child has a disability or is awaiting a diagnosis.

For the purposes of the FSCD program a disability is defined as a chronic, developmental, physical, sensory, mental or neurological condition or impairment that 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 that seriously limits a child's ability to function in normal daily living.



## Medical Documentation Confirming Child's Disability

In order to help determine eligibility, the FSCD program requires a letter or report from an appropriate health care professional identifying: the child's diagnosis and/or disability, OR that the child's condition or impairment may lead to a disability and that the child is awaiting a medical diagnosis.

The letter or report may be written by, or on behalf of, a physician or psychiatrist, physical or occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist or audiologist or a clinical social worker or psychologist.

The letter or report should include:

- Your child's name and date of birth;
- Your child's diagnosis, with some description of the condition, how the disability affects daily functioning and, where applicable, an explanation of whether the condition is expected to have long term or lifelong implications;
- The date when your child was diagnosed with the condition;
- The name of the physician or other health professional who diagnosed your child with the condition.

The information you provide should be as current as possible. If your child was diagnosed more than two years ago, you must include any documentation available from when the original diagnosis was made, and any recent information you have from the health professionals who are providing ongoing or follow-up care for your child.



## Complete the Application

Complete the [FSCD application](#) and print it. Attach copies of the medical documentation from above to your completed FSCD application form. Mail, fax or drop off the completed application form and medical documentation to your local FSCD office.



### Approved

If approved, you will receive a call from your local FSCD office.



### Rejected

Someone from your FSCD Office will call and go over other options with you. You can appeal the decision by calling the client services line at 780-427-4354 .

### **Meet with Your FSCD Worker**

If your child is eligible for the program, an FSCD worker will meet with you to discuss:

- The exceptional care needs of your child;
- The impact that your child's disability has on your family;
- Natural supports or community programs that may be helpful to your family.

You will then work with your FSCD worker to Complete :

- An [Assessment of Needs](#) form;
- Your [Individualized Family Support Plan](#), and;
- An [FSCD agreement](#), which can last up to a period of one year.



### **Continue to Meet with Your FSCD Worker**

To be eligible for the program you must meet with your FSCD Worker at least once a year. They will be your main point of contact, working with you individually to ensure you receive all the benefits of the program.