

At Home Program (BC)

The At Home Program (AHP) is intended to assist parents or guardians with some of the extra costs of caring for a child with severe disabilities at home. It gives help in two main areas:

- RESPITE BENEFITS - allow parents or guardians to access respite services that best meet their needs. See [page 8, About Respite Benefits](#), for more information.
- MEDICAL BENEFITS gives a range of basic, medically necessary items and services. See [page 9, About Medical Benefits](#), for more information.
- A child may be eligible for both Respite Benefits and Medical Benefits, or a choice of one benefit

Staff at the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) are available to answer questions you may have and can help with applying for the At Home Program. They have also prepared [this very helpful guide](#) which explains each of the available benefits in more detail.

Questions about MEDICAL Benefits:

TOLL-FREE: 1 888 613-3232 VICTORIA: 250 387-9649

Questions about RESPITE Benefits:

Contact your local MCFD Office

At Home Program (AHP) *Application Process*

Confirm Eligibility for the At Home Program

To be eligible for the AHP, your child must be:

- 17 years or younger for Medical Benefits, 18 years or younger for Respite Benefits
- A resident of British Columbia;
- Enrolled with British Columbia Medical Services Plan;
- Living at home with a parent or guardian or with an Extended Family Program caregiver. AND one of the following:
 - Assessed as dependent in at least three of four functional activities of daily living (eating, dressing, toileting and washing);
 - Considered to have a palliative condition;
 - Eligible for Nursing Support Services Direct Care; or,
 - Diagnosed with one of the following degenerative conditions: Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2.

For more information on who qualifies, you can consult this guide on the At Home Program [here](#)



Apply for the At Home Program

With help from a doctor, complete this [At Home Program Application](#) . Then mail or fax the application to your local Children and Youth Special Needs (CYSN) office. You can find locations of offices [here](#).



In-home Assessment

After your application is received, the program will contact you to arrange for an in-home assessment of your child's abilities in eating, dressing, toileting and washing. You will receive a copy of the assessment. The assessment is then reviewed by a regional committee who makes an eligibility recommendation to the At Home Program.



Approved

If approved, you will receive a letter informing you of the final decision.



Rejected

If you disagree with an At Home Program decision or feel that you have been treated unfairly, you can make a complaint or appeal.

- [Eligibility or Respite Benefits complaints and appeals](#);
- Medical Benefits complaints and appeals: 1 888 613-3232 (toll-free) or 250 387-9649 (Victoria).



Develop a Care Plan

Once accepted into the program, a children and youth with special needs (CYSN) social worker will follow up to discuss your family's needs and other available services.



If You Cannot Afford the Assessed Daily Rate

If your payment of your assessed daily rate would cause you or your family serious financial hardship, you may be eligible for a reduced rate.

For more information on eligibility and how to apply for a temporary reduction of your daily rate, please see [here](#).