

Newfoundland (Eastern):
***Accessing Respite
Services***

Respite is run by the Special Child Welfare Allowance
(SCWA)

This program is run by the provincial department of Health and
Community Services

Find general information here:
<http://www.easternhealth.ca/WebInWeb.aspx?>

To get services your child will need to have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability (IQ
below 70) or a long term physical disability.

Documentation needs to be provided. If the child is too young to have a psychologist
assessment proving low IQ, other documentation from assessments and/or an
individualized education plan showing ongoing difficulties can be provided until they
are older.

At this time Children with neurodevelopment disabilities that do not have a low IQ do
not receive respite services (for example, children with Autism Spectrum Disorder)

Your first step is the contact the SCWA central intake line (if you live in
St. John's or the surrounding communities) or your local community
support office if you live in other areas.

Find contact information here:
<http://www.easternhealth.ca/WebInWeb.aspx?d=3&id=996&p=993>

Respite services are dependant on financial need.

Single parent families with more than \$10,000, and two-parent homes with
more than \$20,000 in liquid assets are ineligible for respite services.

After initial intake you will be assigned a social worker who will come and do a home visit.

This worker will complete several assessments to learn more about your child, your family and your support needs.

They will complete the financial assessment, as well as a Special Needs Assessment (a standardized tool they use to assess disability related support needs for children under 17).

Respite can be hard to get for if your child is under 12 years old, since the program sees it as normal for parents to organize childcare for developmentally typical children under 12.

There needs to be a clear indication that due to the extent of the child's disability, behavioural tendencies, and/or family stressors respite is necessary.

Once the Social Worker approves you for respite you can choose two different ways to set up this service.

Families can have their approved funding amount directly given to them each month.

- Families hire a worker privately and pay them with these funds.
- Families are responsible for finding workers and managing their hours.
- SCWA will set up a bookkeeper to assist families with payroll.

Families can have their approved funding amount go directly to a home support agency.

- The agency will hire workers, manage their payments and their hours.
- Families will be matched with workers.
- Families will organize their hours of support with the agency.