

Nova Scotia:  
*Accessing Respite Funding*

Respite for families is offered by the Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC) program.

This is run through the government's Department of Community Services

Find your local office here:

<http://novascotia.ca/coms/department/contact/index.html>

Once you reach out to your local office you will be sent an application package containing forms to be completed that determine eligibility.

Eligibility is based on:  
Your child's diagnosis  
Family income  
Your family size.

See the policy here for more information on eligibility:  
[DFSC Policy](#)

To receive respite from DFSC your child will need to have documentation by an approved clinician indicating that your child has a severe and prolonged intellectual, developmental, or physical disability that has impacted their activities of daily living.

You must include a recent assessment - completed within the last two years - when completing your package.

After you are seen as eligible you will be assigned an DFSC worker. This worker will come to your home to complete a functional assessment, using a standardized Support Assessment Tool (SAT).

DFSC also completes a financial assessment. The financial assessment uses guidelines to decide how much respite funding families are allotted. See guideline here:  
<http://novascotia.ca/coms/disabilities/DFSCIncomeGuidelines.html>

After your worker completes their assessments they will have a better understanding of your families strengths and support needs.

After this process you will be informed if you are approved for respite, and how much you will be receiving. The regular respite program provides up to \$2200.00 per month.

If your child has complex care needs you may be eligible for the Enhanced Family Support for Children Program. This can offer up to \$3800.00 per month in respite support.

Families receive funding directly and are responsible for finding their own respite workers.

Nova Scotia has been divided into 4 regions (Northern, Western, Central, and Cape Breton). Each region has a designated Respite Coordinator.

These workers help families with the respite process and can help connect families with respite workers.

To find the Respite Coordinator in your region please visit this respite guide: [NS Respite Guide](#)